

The Minutes of the **Conference Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 11, 2017** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 108.

THIS MEETING IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE "OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT" AS ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY MAILING THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS TO THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD, BY POSTING SUCH ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE ON A BULLETIN BOARD IN THE TOWN HALL RESERVED FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE FILING OF SAID NOTICE WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK OF CRANFORD. FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

Present: Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.  
Deputy Mayor Patrick F. Giblin  
Commissioner Ann Dooley  
Commissioner Andis Kalnins  
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Hannen opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Hannen closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

### **Late Starter-2017 Capital Budget**

Township Administrator Wall discussed the revised 2017 Capital Budget and informed the Township Committee that the total budget has been reduced to \$3,843,500.

Commissioner Kalnins discussed possible reductions that would provide for a total budget of approximately \$3.5 million.

Discussion was held as to a potential reduction in the amount requested for playground improvements and reallocating those funds to road resurfacing.

Commissioner O'Connor stated that she would prefer to reduce the total budget amount rather than reallocating reductions toward road resurfacing.

Discussion was held regarding the Police Department's request for a Zodiac boat.

The Township Committee was agreeable to reducing park improvements by \$100,000 for a total capital budget of \$3,743,500.

Introduction of a bond ordinance for capital budget projects tentatively scheduled for April 25, 2017.

### **Late Starter – School Resource Officer**

Police Chief Wozniak discussed the reassignment of certain positions within the Police Department due to the retirement of a sergeant that occurred in December of 2016. Also discussed a request to the Township Committee to fill the vacant sergeant's position and a request to hire a new patrolman. Explained that these personnel requests were not included in the 2017 proposed budget as per the direction of Township Administrator Wall and the Township Committee. Also explained that the reassignment of personnel due to the vacant sergeant's position has impacted the staffing of School Resource Officers.

Mayor Hannen discussed assignment scenarios within the Police Department that would have allowed the staffing of School Resource Officers to remain until the end of the school year.

Police Chief Wozniak stated that he is not certain that officers possess the training required for the assignments as outlined by Mayor Hannen.

Commissioner O'Connor discussed the assignment of one (1) School Resource Officer until the end of the school year and asked if another officer, rather than a Sergeant, could be assigned to assist the remaining School Resource Officer.

Police Chief Wozniak confirmed that an officer has been assigned to assist the School Resource Officer, and assured the Township Committee that the decision to reduce the number of School Resource Officers was not taken lightly.

Commissioner Dooley discussed the recent absence of an officer for an extended period of time, which resulted in no overtime. Requested clarification as to why reassignments were necessary if the absence of an officer could be absorbed without overtime.

Police Chief Wozniak discussed the shortfall in certain responsibilities that occurs during an officer's absence. Explained that this can be absorbed short-term, but reassignments were necessary to realize the long-term vision of the Police Department.

Discussion was held as to the Board of Education's financial contribution toward the School Resource Officer's program.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Hannen opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Hannen closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

The Township Committee moved to Council Chambers at 8:10 PM to conduct the Official Meeting.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Kalnins and passed, the Township Committee returned to the Conference meeting at 8:46 PM.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

On motion of Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

##### **Resolution No. 2017-91.14:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee will go into closed session to discuss the following, the minutes of which will be released at some time in the future at the discretion of the Township Committee:

##### **Personnel Matter**

- Police Department

##### **Contractual Matter**

- Birchwood Avenue property

##### **Recorded vote:**

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:00 PM.

On motion of Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Commissioners O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

Dated: April 11, 2017