

**The following notice appeared on the Township Committee's May 12, 2020 Conference and Official Meeting Agendas**

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD  
SUNSHINE NOTICE  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 12, 2020**

Due to the ongoing public health emergency, and the Governor's Executive Orders related to the same, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford will conduct all meetings remotely and by electronic means for the foreseeable future. The Township Committee will continue to meet on their regularly scheduled meeting dates and times.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") and consistent with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services guidelines, the Township Committee Meetings will be open to the public by electronic means. Residents can view the meetings on TV-35, and via livestream on [TV-35's Facebook Page](#).

Residents who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in any scheduled public hearing should follow the instructions and complete the registration form available at the Township of Cranford's website at <https://www.cranfordnj.org/minutes-and-agendas>.

The Minutes of the **Conference Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** remotely and by electronic means.

THIS MEETING IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE "OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT" AS ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY E-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 Patrick Giblin  
Deputy Mayor Prunty  
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.  
Commissioner Jean-Albert Maisonneuve  
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

**Absent:** None

The Township Committee held the Conference Meeting by video/telephone conference (as per the public notice, remotely and by electronic means.)

Administrator Jamie Cryan, Township Attorneys Ryan Cooper and Francine Kaplan and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Giblin opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that no emails had been received from members of the public. Hearing no comments, Mayor Giblin closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

### **Review Official Meeting Agenda**

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that the January 11, 2020 Workshop Meeting minutes had been taken off the evening's Official Meeting agenda and would be considered at the next Official Meeting.

### **Late Starter – COVID-19 Public Health Crisis Effect on Municipal Budget**

Mayor Giblin stated that he participated in a Union County teleconference earlier in the day. He noted that the County representatives reviewed the Federal CARES Act funding and COVID-19 reimbursement guidelines for municipalities. Discussion ensued.

### **Closed Session – Contractual: Affordable Housing - Iron Ore Properties – 201 Chestnut Street and 100-126 South Avenue properties**

Township Attorney Cooper stated that a Closed Session to discuss Affordable Housing and Iron Ore Properties as it pertained to 201 Chestnut Street and 100-126 South Avenue was no longer

necessary as the proposed matter for discussion had been handled earlier in the day. Members of the Township Committee agreed with Mr. Cooper's assessment.

**Small Business Recovery - Downtown, Centennial Village, Raritan Road and throughout Cranford**

Commissioner O'Connor spoke about her work pertaining to the formation of a committee which would address small business recovery in Cranford in light of the public health crisis of COVID-19. Commissioner Maisonneuve responded that he had reservations about the formation of another committee and elaborated about awaiting guidance from the State and the already-formed Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) and the Cranford Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner O'Connor spoke about the importance of having a Zoning person on a business recovery committee. She stated that Ordinance processes take time. Commissioner O'Connor stated that some of the new committee members were people who thought "outside of the box." Commissioner Maisonneuve state that there was a scheduled DMC meeting on the upcoming Friday and all were welcome. Commissioner Maisonneuve stated that the DMC had already formed a sub-committee to address the expected reopening of businesses. Commissioner O'Connor stated that businesses in town had approached her and inquired "what is the Town doing?" Mayor Giblin encouraged business owners to reach out to Administrator Jamie Cryan or him as the State's business restrictions begin to lift. Mayor Giblin stated that the goal was not to get in the way of business, but rather to be helpful. Commissioner Maisonneuve elaborated about various ways the Township was communicating with businesses.

Pertaining to the formation of a business recovery committee, Commissioner Hannen stated "the more, the merrier." Commissioner Hannen noted that some businesses are not members of the Chamber or the DMC. He stated that he was "okay" with the formation of such committee.

Deputy Mayor Prunty spoke about the importance of moving forward in an organized fashion. She suggested that business recovery work start with the DMC so that "we are not tripping over" each other. Mayor Giblin requested that Commissioner O'Connor bring the names on the suggested committee list to the DMC's attention. He stated that the goal was for Cranford to "bounce back." Commissioner O'Connor stated that she wanted to be involved in the business recovery work. Commissioner Maisonneuve stated he would bring the names on the suggested committee list to the DMC.

The Township Committee moved to conduct the Official Meeting at 7:30 p.m. (as per the public notice, remotely and by electronic means.)

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue  
Township Clerk

Dated: May 12, 2020