

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **March 31, 2020** at 7:41 p.m. remotely and by electronic means.

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 and YouTube pages. Public comments can be submitted by emailing, after the start of the meeting, **j-cryan@cranfordnj.org**. Public comments must include the resident's name and address, and will be read during the two public comment portions of the meeting.

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 will be taken at this meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Patrick F. Giblin
Deputy Mayor Kathleen Prunty
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.
Commissioner Jean-Albert Maisonneuve
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Deputy Mayor Prunty, followed by the flag salute.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner Maisonneuve and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meetings of March 9, 2020 and the Conference and Official Meetings of March 10, 2020, were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Giblin, Deputy Mayor Prunty, Commissioners Hannen, Maisonneuve and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Deputy Mayor Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the Bill List dated March 31, 2020, totaling \$431,945.39 was approved for payment by indicated vote of the Township Committee and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Giblin, Deputy Mayor Prunty, Commissioners Hannen, Maisonneuve and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENT

COVID-19 Update by Health Officer Michael Fitzpatrick

Health Officer Fitzpatrick provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Explained that besides the Coronavirus, there are still many cases of influenza and other illnesses going around. Approximately 63% of the people being tested for the Coronavirus are testing negative. Stated that updates he is receiving from the Governor's office indicate that the number of cases of the Coronavirus will peak within the next two weeks and then start to decline.

Commissioner O'Connor asked for clarification regarding the 14-day period.

Health Officer Fitzpatrick explained that the incubation period is 4 days and that is when the virus is most contagious.

Deputy Mayor Prunty asked for an explanation of the contact tracking once someone is diagnosed.

Health Officer Fitzpatrick explained the process involved after a person has tested positive.

Mayor Giblin asked Health Officer Fitzpatrick if he could expand on demographic information and the current status of Cranford residents.

Health Officer Fitzpatrick provided general information due to HIPAA laws.

Commissioner Maisonneuve questioned if there is a correlation between those infected or is it randomly happening throughout the community.

Health Officer Fitzpatrick explained that the virus is more prevalent in areas where people were exposed to those who travel overseas or frequent Manhattan. Also provided an update on the testing sites.

Discussion held regarding testing sites throughout New Jersey.

Health Officer Fitzpatrick explained the difference between an allergy cough and a COVID-19 cough.

Commissioner Hannen asked Health Officer Fitzpatrick four (4) questions that he received from the public regarding symptoms, liability of the test, factors for being tested and quarantining.

Mayor Giblin thanked Health Officer Fitzpatrick for providing an update.

INFORMAL MEETING

Mayor Giblin opened the informal meeting portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments (emails received,) Mayor Giblin closed the informal meeting portion of the meeting.

ORDINANCES – Final Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2020-05:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2020-05 entitled, “CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)”

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Deputy Mayor Prunty opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Deputy Mayor Prunty closed the public hearing. On motion of Deputy Mayor Prunty seconded by Commissioner O’Connor and passed, said ordinance was adopted by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Giblin, Deputy Mayor Prunty, Commissioners Hannen, Maisonneuve and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Maisonneuve, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2020-175:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 31st day of March 2020 that Shawn Burns be and hereby is appointed to the position of Laborer/Driver within the Department of Public Works effective April 9, 2020.

Resolution No. 2020-176:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford and hereby authorizes the closure of Eastman Street from North Avenue West to Miln Street, and the closure of Miln Street from North Avenue West to Eastman Street from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for events on the following dates:

July 16, 2020 – Lego Night

July 23, 2020 – Lego Night (rain date)
 August 14, 2020 – Rock Yoga
 August 28, 2020 – Rock Yoga (rain date)

Resolution No. 2020-177:

WHEREAS, there were 562 motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2019; and
WHEREAS, a large percentage of the motor vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt; and
WHEREAS, use of a seat belt remains the most effective way to avoid death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash; and
WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 14,955 lives were saved by safety belt usage nationally in 2017; From 2013 to 2017, seat belts saved nearly 69,000 lives; and
WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization from May 18th to May 31, 2020 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seat belt usage through a combination of high visibility enforcement and public education; and
WHEREAS, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety has set a goal of increasing the seat belt usage rate in the State from the current level of almost 90 % (per cent) to 95 % (per cent); and
WHEREAS, a further increase in seat belt usage in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways;
THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford declares its support for the *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization both locally and nationally from May 18th to May 31, 2020 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of seat belt use.

Resolution No. 2020-178:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Christopher Quigley, 5 Normandie Place, Cranford, New Jersey, for a limousine/livery service vehicle license for Quigley Transportation Corp; and
WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, and the fees have been paid, and
WHEREAS, the applicant has complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-13 et seq. with respect to proof of insurance.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, retroactive to January 1, 2020, the issuance of a limousine/livery service vehicle license to Christopher Quigley (dba Quigley Transportation Corp/Clover Coaches Quigley Transportation Corp.) for a license term ending December 31, 2020.

Resolution No. 2020-179:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Gregory Ryan, 205 North Avenue West, Cranford, New Jersey, for a limousine/livery service vehicle license for Ryan and Riley Limousine Incorporated; and
WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, and the fees have been paid, and
WHEREAS, the applicant has complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-13 et seq. with respect to proof of insurance.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, retroactive to January 1, 2020, the issuance of a limousine/livery service vehicle license to Gregory Ryan (dba Ryan and Riley Limousine Incorporated) for a license term ending December 31, 2020.

Resolution No. 2020-180:

WHEREAS, there exists a need to provide Custodial Services for the Municipal Buildings of the Township of Cranford; and
WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised for a Solicitation of Bids for Custodial Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq., and
WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent of the Township of Cranford has deemed that **AAA Facility Solutions, LLC of 111 Kinderkamack Road River Edge, New Jersey, 07661** is the apparent lowest respondent who satisfies the criteria set forth in the specification.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey, as follows:

1. **AAA Facility Solutions, LLC of 111 Kinderkamack Road River Edge, New Jersey, 07661** be and hereby is awarded a contract to provide Custodial Services at a cost not to exceed \$75,600.00.
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with **AAA Facility Solutions LLC**; and
3. This contract is awarded pursuant to the “fair and open” process (N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.5 et seq.).

Resolution No. 2020-181:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 31st day of March, 2020 that the Tax Collector has been authorized to refund tax overpayments for the reason noted:

Duplicate Payment by Resident

Block 522 Lot 4, 314 Elm Street
Corelogic Recovery Dept
PO Box 9205
Coppell, TX 75019

Refund \$ 2,482.49
(0-01-55-000-010-025)

Exempt Vet Refund

Block 460 Lot 2, 121 Wilshire Drive
Saftlas, Joyce & Elliott
121 Wilshire Drive
Cranford, NJ 07016

Refund \$ 2,381.63
(0-01-55-000-010-025)

Resolution No. 2020-182:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 31st day of March that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate# 19-00012

Block 571 Lot 5 – 214 Dietz Street
Carlos Turner
2048 Ostwood Terrace
Union, NJ 07083

Refund: \$ 217.51
(0-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$1,000.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Redemption of Certificate# 18-00003

Block 219 Lot 3 – 6 Franklin Ave
David Coughlin
3 Central Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016

Refund: \$ 28,519.83
(0-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 32,000.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Redemption of Certificate# 18-00004

Block 225 Lot 4 – 401 Central Avenue
Christiana T C/F CE1/Firsttrust
PO Box 5021
Philadelphia, PA 19111-5021

Refund: \$ 35,046.53
(0-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 34,000.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Redemption of Certificate# 18-00011

Block 516 Lot 8 – 122 Thomas Street
Christiana T C/F CE1/Firsttrust
PO Box 5021
Philadelphia, PA 19111-5021

Refund: \$ 21,280.62
(0-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 19,000.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2020-183:**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES FOR PUBLIC USE ON AN ONLINE AUCTION WEBSITE**

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford has determined to move forward with the EMEX Reverse Auction in order to procure electricity for the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit Technology Pilot Program and Study Act (P.L. 2001, c. 30) (the “Act”) authorizes the purchase of electricity supply service for public use through the use of an online auction service; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford will utilize the online auction services of EMEX, LLC, an approved vendor pursuant to the Act, waiver number EMEX LLC-1, located at www.energymarketexchange.com; and

WHEREAS, EMEX, LLC is compensated for all services rendered through the participating supplier that a contract is awarded to; and

WHEREAS, the auction will be conducted pursuant to the aforementioned Act;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Administrator of the Township of Cranford be and he hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Township of Cranford any electricity contract proffered by the participating supplier that submits the winning bid in the EMEX Reverse Auction.

Resolution No. 2020-184:**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX ASSESSOR AND THE TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY TO FILE APPEAL REGARDING BLOCK 176, LOT 9, 20 WEST HOLLY STREET**

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor is of the opinion that property known and designated as Block 176, Lot 9, on the tax map of the Township of Cranford, commonly known as 20 West Holly Street is underassessed and that the assessed value of said properties should be increased; and

WHEREAS, a method exists in the Tax Law for the Municipality to appeal from the current assessment to seek an increase in the assessed value;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Tax Assessor, Peter Barnett, and Tax Appeal Attorneys, Renaud DeAppolonio, LLC, be and are hereby authorized and directed to file such appeals and/or take such other actions as are appropriate to increase the assessed value of said property to the value which the Tax Assessor deems to more properly reflects the value of said property for the year 2020.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Giblin, Deputy Mayor Prunty, Commissioners Hannen, Maisonneuve and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2020-185:

**RESOLUTION PLACING A MORATORIUM ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF ORDINANCE
2019-10 BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has adopted Ordinance 2019-10, amending the Code of the Township of Cranford to prohibit retail establishments from providing customers with certain single-use plastics; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2019-10 is effective January 1, 2020, and includes a transition period until July 1, 2020, during which retail establishments can provide single-use plastics only upon a customer's request; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2019-10 effectuates a full ban effective July 1, 2020, on retail establishments provision of certain single-use plastics; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Legislature is currently considering legislation that will also ban certain single-use plastics, among other things; and

WHEREAS, the uncertainty over the scope and content of the state legislation, and the need to reconcile any such legislation with the Code of the Township of Cranford, is causing unnecessary expense and confusion for the Township's businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to delay the enforcement of Ordinance 2019-10 for six months until there is clarity as to whether and to what extent state legislation will also restrict the provision of single-use plastics within the scope of the Ordinance;

WHEREAS, there exists a public health emergency due to the community spread of the novel coronavirus causing the condition COVID-19, and for which social distancing orders required for public health and safety have created significant economic difficulties for Cranford's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the use of single-use plastics for limited periods of time can improve the public health and safety by reducing the number of common surfaces that both consumers and retail employees touch, thus reducing the spread of the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to delay the enforcement of Ordinance 2019-10 to ease any potential economic burden on Cranford's businesses, and for the benefit of public health and safety during the ongoing public health emergency;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford reaffirms its commitment to reducing the amount of single-use plastics in the Township, which plastics are a detriment to the ecology and quality of the Rahway River, and numerous other waterways;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, New Jersey that is the official policy of the Township that a moratorium on enforcement of Ordinance 2019-10, **including the transition period of Section 232-32**, be imposed until December 31, 2020, to allow the Township, its businesses, and residents to address the on-going public health emergency, weather the economic consequences of the same, and to reconcile any state legislation that may be enacted to also regulate single-use plastics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, absent further action by the Township Committee, Ordinance 2019-10, remain in full force and effect, and be enforced pursuant to its terms effective January 1, 2021.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner O'Connor stated that the amendment changed the enforcement date of the existing ordinance to December 31, 2020 to help the local businesses during this time.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Giblin, Deputy Mayor Prunty, Commissioners Hannen, Maisonneuve and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Giblin opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Administrator Jamie Cryan read the emails he had received from members of the Public:

Anonymous (via email), expressed concern regarding people playing tennis at Unami Park during the observance of social distancing.

Township Administrator Cryan stated that he will follow up with the Police Department.

Mayor Giblin stated that he has received this complaint before and the Cranford and Union County Police Departments are well aware of the issue and are responding to the complaints.

Kevin Cumiskey, 109 Columbia Avenue (via email), asked for an update regarding the standing water and sump pump damage at the corner of Belmont Avenue and Locust Avenue. Also questioned when Columbia Avenue will be scheduled to be repaved.

Township Administrator Cryan stated that the 2019 Paving Project has been placed on hold but is hopeful it will be finished by summer. Unfortunately, there is no make-up date at this time but it is a priority to the Township.

Commissioner Hannen will follow up and reach out to Mr. Cumiskey.

Hearing no further comments (e-mails,) Mayor Giblin closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Thanked everyone involved with the virtual meetings process.

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Concurred with Township Clerk Donahue's comments. Feels the virtual meetings have been a great opportunity for the public. Appreciates everyone's patience with this matter. The Township continues to work very hard to serve the members of the public. Asked for everyone to continue practicing social distancing.

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper

- Discussed the impact the Coronavirus has on the Township's Affordable Housing Plan. The mediation that took place on March 13th with Hartz Mountain was unsuccessful so a settlement on the original proposed agreement is scheduled for May 19th and 20th. It will be advertised on the Township's website and published in the newspaper. Also explained to the residents that a new Judge has been assigned to the case because the original Judge was moved to the Chancery Division. Is very optimistic about moving forward with this case. Will continue to keep the Township Committee and public apprised of the matter.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Thanked Assemblyman Bramnick and Senator Cryan for doing an informative session on Facebook live regarding the impact the Coronavirus is having on employment;
- Encouraged the public to continue practicing social distancing;
- Encouraged residents to help their neighbors and thanked all the organizations that are volunteering and everyone that is contributing;
- Wished everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen

- Expressed condolences to the Ditzel family on the passing of retired Firefighter Wesley Ditzel, Sr. (aka Hutch);
- Encouraged high-risk residents to reach out to their Pastors if they are in need of help during this time;
- Discussed the adoption of Resolution No. 2020-183 which authorizes the Township to purchase electrical supplies for generation ability. Hopeful this will help with renewables;
- Urged the public to be safe and look out for each other.

Deputy Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Feels Cranford is blessed with extraordinary people doing extraordinary things. Thanked all the residents;
- Urged all residents to take care of themselves, family and friends.

Commissioner Jean-Albert Maisonneuve

- Thanked all the local residents for their acts of kindness. It is amazing to see everyone come together;
- Urged residents to continue to support all local businesses. Spoke about the special events the businesses are conducting and which are posted to the Township's Facebook page;
- Wished everyone to stay safe and be well.

Mayor Patrick Giblin

- Recognized a few groups in town for their help during this time of need and encouraged the public to check out their Facebook page;
- Announced that there is a group in town called Virtual Cranford to help keep normalcy at home. Encouraged residents to view their Facebook page.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Maisonneuve and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2020

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk