

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 24, 2015** at 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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 CRANFORD CHRONICLE, UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, AND THE STAR LEDGER, 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 Andis Kalnins
Deputy Mayor Lisa M. Adubato
Commissioner Robert D’Ambola
Commissioner Mary O’Connor
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner D’Ambola, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of February 9, 2015, the Conference and Official Meetings of February 10, 2015 and the Special Meeting of February 17, 2015, were approved by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D’Ambola and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioner Hannen

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Deputy Mayor Adubato, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor and passed, the bills list dated February 24, 2015 totaling \$750,642.04, were approved for payment by recorded vote and are on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato and Commissioners D’Ambola, O’Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recognition of Service - Fire Chief Leonard R. Dolan, III

WHEREAS, Chief Leonard R. Dolan III has been a career member of the Cranford Fire Department for over thirty-seven (37) years, not only as a second generation firefighter, but also a second generation Fire Chief; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dolan was appointed to the career department on August 1, 1977, and was subsequently appointed as Fire Inspector, promoted to Lieutenant in 1985 and promoted to Captain in 1989, which set the course for his appointment as Fire Chief in 1997, a position he proudly held for seventeen (17) years; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dolan was responsible for the development of the Union County Mutual Aid agreement and served as Mutual Aid Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dolan made firefighter safety a top priority by instituting various practices that would ensure that firefighters would not be exposed to additional hazards when entering a burning structure; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dolan advocated continual training and professional development to ensure that the Cranford Fire Department was the most highly trained department possible; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dolan championed the Fire Prevention Bureau, ensuring that all residents and businesses in Cranford were properly educated about fire safety, and requiring nightly public assembly inspections in which firefighters would drive through the Township inspecting all public assembly places, schools and assisted living facilities to ensure the safety of those occupying the space; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dolan instituted an “acting officer” policy to allow firefighters the opportunity to be an officer when only one sworn officer was on duty to give a firefighter the experience of supervising a platoon of men and gaining knowledge from the experience; and

WHEREAS, Chief Dolan was always available to the members of the Fire Department to promote a sense of family and community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford extends its appreciation and gratitude to Chief Dolan for his service and protection to the residents of Cranford Township, wishes him all the best in his future endeavors, and commends him for a job well done.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Resolution No. 2015-133:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held February 24, 2015 that Patrick Dolan be, and hereby is, appointed as a Firefighter within the Cranford Fire Department, effective March 1, 2015.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: Mayor Kalnins and Commissioner Hannen

Absent: None

Oath of Office Administrated by Tara Rowley, Township Clerk

FIVE MINUTE RECESS

INFORMAL MEETING

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

ORDINANCES – Introduction

Ordinance No. 2015-06:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2015-06 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 136, ATTACHMENT 1 OF SCHEDULE 1 OF THE "REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY (1988)," TO MODIFY THE MAXIMUM BUILDING COVERAGE FOR RESIDENTIAL USE."

Said ordinance was approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner D'Ambola, seconded by Deputy Mayor Adubato, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola, O'Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2015-06 to be held March 24, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner D'Ambola and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2015-134:

WHEREAS, Anthony E. Matusawicz, a Communications Officer within the Police Department, is qualified for a leave of absence pursuant to the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes FMLA/NJFLA leave of absence from February 24, 2015 to April 13, 2015 using accumulated time as available if employee so elects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Anthony E. Matusawicz shall comply with all provisions of law during the FMLA/NJFLA leave of absence, including providing all required medical proofs if applicable.

Resolution No. 2015-135:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held February 24, 2015 that Stephen Patterson be, and hereby is, appointed as Fire Subcode Official effective March 1, 2015 for a four (4) year term ending February 28, 2019.

Resolution No. 2015-136:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58 provides for appropriation transfers during the first three (3) months of the year, when it has been determined it is necessary to expand for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the sum appropriated therefore and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may, by Resolution setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than two-thirds vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer be and the same is hereby authorized to make transfers among the 2014 budget appropriations in accordance with the following schedule of transfers.

Account	From	To
DPW MAINT & REPAIR	\$2,000.00	
B & G PARKING, MAINT & REPAIR		\$2,000.00
	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Resolution No. 2015-137:
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held February 24, 2015 that the Township Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to advertise for sale at public auction certain unclaimed vehicles which have come into the possession of the Cranford Police Department as well as Township owned vehicles.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Auction will be held on March 31, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

<u>MAKE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>
Honda Civic	1988	JHMED3647JS003553
Mazda MX6	1995	1YVGE31C5S5377188
HMD Trailer	2014	HMDSC2014045
Mercedes Benz 300	1992	WDBEA26D6NB608852
Dodge Aries	1988	1B3BD46K1JC220147
Honda Civic	2002	2HGES15542H519367
Ford Econoline Van	1995	1FTJE34H3SHA92538
Dodge Caravan	2002	1B4GP453X2B541629
Toyota Avalon	2000	4T1BF28B4YU020731
GMC Sierra Pickup	1999	2GTEK19T9X1522434
Harley Davidson FLHTP	1997	1HD1FMR12VY618255
Ford P71	2008	2FAHP71V28X136182
Ford F350 Mason Dump	1989	1FDKF38M6KNB03831
Chevrolet Suburban	1991	1GNGV26K1MF130092
Freu Trl & 10” pump	1960	NJ6136
Dodge Ram	1986	3B4GW12W9GM629930
Johnston Street Sweeper	1999	1J9VM3H6XXC172067
Laymore Roller	1976	511250125
Ford Crown Victoria	1992	2FACP72W5NX218114

Resolution No. 2015-138:
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held February 24, 2015 that the Township Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to advertise for sale at public auction certain unclaimed bicycles which have come into the possession of the Cranford Police Department through abandonment or failure of owner to claim same.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Auction will be held on March 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Make	Color	Serial #
Nice Cycle	Pink	J93020888
Frantic	Red	A47008850
Unknown	Blue/Gray	N/A
Schwinn	Black	SNMG12C65614
BMX		
Mongoose	Black	SNFSD12L32545
Giant	Black	CB3J8015
Magna	Yellow	DJED119372
Jamis	Pink	HM0833515
Mongoose	Sl/Bk/Wt	6NFSD06G88262
Schwinn	Red	SN1DC08C27748G4247-0
Mongoose	Black/White	SNACB08J53771
Huffy	Champ/Blk	47002
Diamondback	Silver	ACF10K003189
Haro	Gray	LI4G0764
Ross	Black	RK7C52339

Next	Red/Silver	LWIH083937
Next	Purple/Pink	LWFAU29204
Next	Red	47644697
Mongoose	Pink	SNFSD10DM8877
Kent	Red	DWED008867

Resolution No. 2015-139:

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTING THE CERTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ENFORCEMENT CONCERNING COSTS TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE FROM THE SIDEWALK AT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 111-115 NORTH UNION AVENUE (BLOCK 191 /LOT 5) AND AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A SPECIAL CHARGE AGAINST SAID PROPERTY FOR SAID COSTS

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 172, the Township of Cranford removed snow and ice from sidewalk located at 111-115 Union Avenue North (Block 191 Lot 5), after duly-giving notice to the property owner of said property; and

WHEREAS, the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer has certified the costs incurred by the Township in removal of snow and ice from the aforementioned property; and

WHEREAS, the total additional costs incurred by the Township for the removal of snow and ice, as certified by the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer, is \$185.86; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 172 authorizes the governing body to have a special charge placed against the subject property for the costs incurred by the Township, together with interest thereon at the rate of delinquent taxes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the Mayor and Township Committee do hereby formally accept and approve the certification of the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer for the removal of snow and ice from the sidewalk of the property located at 111-115 Union Avenue North (Block 191 Lot 5).
2. That the Mayor and Township Committee do hereby direct the Tax Collector to place an assessment against the subject property in accordance with this resolution.

Resolution No. 2015-139A:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby authorizes the property owner of 31 Wall Street to encroach into the Township's right-of-way for the construction of new front steps in the front yard of said property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute a Right-of-Way Agreement in a form acceptable to the Township Attorney.

Resolution No. 2015-139B:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes the termination of employment of Zachery Zulick, Laborer within the Department of Public Works, effective February 24, 2015.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola, O'Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS – By Roll Call Vote

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor seconded by Deputy Mayor Adubato and passed, the following resolution was adopted by Roll Call Vote:

Resolution No. 2015-140:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held February 24, 2015 that Fire Captain Dean Russamano be, and hereby is, appointed as Acting Fire Chief effective March 1, 2015 for a term not to exceed (60) days.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: Mayor Kalnins and Commissioner Hannen

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola seconded by Deputy Mayor Adubato and passed, the following resolution was adopted by Roll Call Vote:

Resolution No. 2015-141:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held February 24, 2015 that Andrew Stratton be, and hereby is, appointed as Interim Fire Official effective March 1, 2015.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola, O'Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: Mayor Kalnins

Absent: None

On motion of Deputy Mayor Adubato seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the following resolution was adopted by Roll Call Vote:

Resolution No. 2015-142:

WHEREAS, there exists a need to engage experts to provide affordable housing legal services for the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for affordable housing legal services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq., and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford has deemed that the background, experience and qualifications of the respondent satisfies the criteria set forth in the RFQ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey that affordable housing legal services in calendar year 2015 be provided by the following firm:

1. **Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Fader, 218 Route 17 North, Suite 300, Rochelle Park, New Jersey 07662** be and hereby is awarded a contract to provide affordable housing legal services at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00.
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with **Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Fader**; and
3. This contract is awarded pursuant to the "fair and open" process (N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.5 et seq.).

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola and O'Connor

Nay: Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Kalnins opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Frank Krause, 20 Pittsfield Street, commended Fire Chief Dolan for his service and congratulated Patrick Dolan on his appointment as firefighter.

Dr. Krause also discussed the fire that occurred in Edgewater and feels similar construction is occurring at 555 South Avenue East. Feels the fire in Edgewater should "open a new chapter" for Cranford with respect to public safety. Feels Cranford has outstanding public safety departments and discussed presentations by Police Chief Wozniak and Fire Captain Stratton at recent Workshop meetings in which the impact of redevelopment projects to public safety was discussed.

Dr. Krause also discussed a report he provided to the Township Committee concerning decisions made by the Zoning Board of Adjustment and requested an opportunity to discuss his report with the Township Committee at a Workshop meeting. Also discussed his recommendation to invite Governor Christie to visit Cranford and speak with residents.

John Hrebin, 414 Cranford Avenue, requested an update regarding Birchwood Avenue.

Township Attorney Dabulas informed residents that the appeal of litigation has been fully briefed and the Township is waiting for the dates for oral arguments. As to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) ruling concerning the issuance of a Flood Hazard Area permit to Cranford Development Associates (CDA), explained that the Township filed an appeal of DEP's decision and has received the briefing schedule.

Mr. Hrebin questioned the resolution authorizing an award of contract to Florio, Perrucci & Steinhardt for affordable housing legal services.

Mayor Kalnins explained that the Township solicited Request for Proposals for this service on two (2) occasions and only one firm submitted a response on both occasions. Explained that the Township Committee is also working with the firm that is handling the Township's appeal and would be considering that firm as another option.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Kalnins closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Administrator Wall

- Provided an update regarding the 2015 Municipal Budget, stating that all Department Managers have presented their budget requests to the Township Committee;
- Discussed the Township's website and informed residents that it is continuously being updated. Announced that the Township's newsletter and a calendar of events are available on the website. Also encouraged residents to contact his office with any concerns, input or feedback they may have on any Township matter.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Referred to Dr. Krause's comments regarding Governor Christie visiting Cranford. Feels Birchwood Avenue would be the main topic residents would like to discuss with the Governor and is hopeful that the Governor would visit.

Commissioner Robert D'Ambola

- Congratulated Patrick Dolan on his appointment as firefighter and Chief Dolan on his retirement. Feels it is special when a public safety career is passed down from one generation to another;
- Provided an update regarding the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project. Stated that updated drawings were presented during last evening's Workshop Meeting. Explained that this project has been planned for several years and is finally on track to begin in May with an estimated completion time of four (4) months. Also explained that construction would impact the downtown and feels communication with Special Improvement District personnel, business and property owners is essential. Announced that North Avenue would remain open because it is a state highway, but approximately twenty (20) parking spaces would be lost. Efforts to alleviate this issue are being considered, such as signage improvements, and the reconfiguration of other areas to create additional parking spaces. Explained that the Township would have a better idea of how to assess the problem once the capital budget is adopted. Also announced that all businesses affected by this project would remain open during construction;
- Discussed a proposed ordinance to prohibit parking on roads covered with three (3) or more inches of snow. Urged residents to remove vehicles from roadways when there is snow, as unmoved vehicles hinder plowing efforts and create a public safety issue. Discussed a current state statute that considers cars unmoved for forty (48) hours as abandoned vehicles;
- Discussed various events being hosted by the Friends of the Public Library and provided contact information for those interested in attending those events.

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Discussed the Rain Barrel Workshop being held by the Environmental Commission on March 21, 2015 at the Cranford Community Center and provided contact information for those interested in attending;
- Announced that an information session concerning the Pilgrim Pipeline is being held by Chatham and Madison officials and encouraged residents to attend;
- Feels there is misleading information regarding the subject of conflicts of interest and explained that these regulations do not apply to voting on municipal budgets. Explained that the bylaws of the Township Committee were amended to ensure that members of the Township Committee adhere to the current state law and take the appropriate action. Read an excerpt from this law and discussed instances in which Mayor Kalnins, Commissioner D'Ambola, and Commissioner Hannen needed to recuse themselves from discussions pertaining to employment in the Police and Fire Departments because of a potential conflict of interest. Feels since all three (3) of these commissioners were treated equally proves there is no political intent. Stated that while residents elect individuals to the Township Committee based upon their knowledge and experience, feels residents expect Township Committee members to act ethically and put the best interest of Cranford above all other interests;
- Referred to Dr. Krause's comments regarding public safety. Assured residents that the Township Committee is doing everything possible to ensure that Cranford has adequate and well-trained public safety professionals;
- Congratulated Patrick Dolan on his appointment as firefighter and for carrying on a family tradition. Welcomed him and wished him good luck;
- Congratulated Chief Dolan on his retirement. Stated that she has had the privilege of working with Chief Dolan for the past fourteen (14) months as Public Safety Commissioner and thanked him for his insight and knowledge, and for his many dedicated years of service to Cranford.

Deputy Mayor Lisa M. Adubato

- Congratulated Chief Dolan on his retirement and thanked him for his many years of service to the community;

- Congratulated Patrick Dolan on his appointment as firefighter and wished him luck, and commended all public safety personnel for their efforts;
- Announced that the Cranford High School Girls Swim Team won the title of Central Group C Sectional Champions and explained that this is the first sectional title in the school's history. Also announced that five (5) girls from the team would be competing this weekend at the Meet of Champions in Gloucester County and wished them luck.

Mayor Andis Kalnins

- Congratulated Chief Dolan on his retirement and thanked him for his many years of service to Cranford;
- Congratulated Patrick Dolan on his appointment as firefighter and stated that he is proud to see the Dolan family tradition continuing;
- Assured residents that the Township Committee supports its public safety personnel and would address any concerns or issues to ensure proper staffing levels. Explained that issues regarding construction have been discussed with the Construction Code Office. The Construction Code Official assured the Township Committee that it has been fully engaged since the beginning of these projects to ensure that construction meets and exceeds state requirements. Also mentioned that the Township would continue to make recommendations to state leaders regarding code requirements;
- Discussed upcoming events being sponsored by the Cranford Jaycees and provided information for those interested in attending. Informed residents that all proceeds would be donated to the Cranford First Aid Squad.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Adubato and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 24, 2015

Tara Rowley, RMC
Township Clerk