

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **January 12, 2021** at 7:38 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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 the January 12th Official Meeting remotely and by electronic means.

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 Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means. Residents can view the meetings on TV-35, YouTube CranfordTV35 and via livestream on [TV-35's Facebook Page](#).

Members of the public who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in any scheduled public hearing can access the videoconference at <https://meet.google.com/rkv-qdpj-nty>, or by telephone at 213-634-2478, with the access code: 367524470#

Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of a meeting, which will be read during the public portion of the meeting. Written public comments submitted prior to the meeting must identify the name and address of the commenter. No anonymous comments will be accepted. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail with the subject line "Public Comment-Township of Cranford Township Committee- Meeting Date of January 26, 2021" to the Clerk of the Township Committee, Patricia Donahue at [clerk@cranfordnj.org](mailto:clerk@cranfordnj.org) or by mail addressed to: Patricia Donahue, Municipal Clerk, Township of Cranford, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. E-mailed comments must be received at least eight (8) hours prior to the meeting. Mailed comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before 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 Kathleen Miller Prunty  
Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews  
Commissioner Jason Gareis  
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.  
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

**ABSENT:** None

#### **INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

The invocation was led by Rabbi Paul Kerbel from Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, followed by the flag salute.

#### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

On motion of Deputy Mayor Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of December 14, 2020, and the Conference and Official Meetings of December 15, 2020, were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Commissioners Hannen and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: Deputy Mayor Andrews and Commissioner Gareis

Absent: None

#### **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### *National Tribute to Victims of COVID-19*

Mayor Miller Prunty announced that on January 19, 2021 the Township of Cranford will be joining cities and towns across the country to pay tribute to the more than 376,000 Americans and 103 Cranford residents who have died from COVID-19. The Presidential Inauguration Committee is asking Cranford to join by illuminating buildings and ringing church bells at 5:30 p.m. on January 19, 2021 in a moment of national unity and remembrance. The Township will honor the grieving families of loved ones lost to the pandemic. Cranford will be participating by illuminating a Township site and asking houses of worship to ring bells.

Spoke on how the pandemic has affected America in the past ten (10) months and how Cranford was a stunning example of actual American patriotism and humanity. Discussed an event that happened at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 that was far from patriotic. Stated that America is founded on the right to voice your opinion, but it does not come with a license to bully, harass, intimidate or cause violence and

destruction. Mentioned that public officials on every level are to provide the public with information and facts. Assured residents that she has made numerous public commitments to keep the residents informed. Explained that a difference of opinion between political parties does not mean the other side is up to something sinister. Stated that each of the Township Committee members ran for public office because they want to serve Cranford. Discussed biased events that took place over the past few months. Assured the residents that every member of the Township Committee value public service, it is not a job but a commitment and is also their home. Urged residents to work with the Township Committee even if they disagree because more will be accomplished with civil and respectful debate.

### **INFORMAL MEETING**

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the informal meeting portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road, inquired about the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the 750 Walnut Avenue property. Spoke about the current tax revenue that is collected from the site and how sixty (60) per cent (%) goes toward the Board of Education. Questioned if there have been discussions regarding the approximate number of school children that will be residing at 750 Walnut Avenue. Is concerned about the single-family residences that will be picking up the slack if these large developments in town with high density continue to take over the school system. Would like for someone to run through the numbers.

Mayor Miller Prunty referred to the Township Attorney but also stated that there have been initial conversations between the Board of Education and the Township that will continue.

Township Attorney Cooper explained that the Memorandum of Understanding indicates that Hartz Mountain will be applying for a PILOT now that a settlement has been reached. As information becomes available, it will be shared with the public.

Discussion held regarding the difference between the Memorandum of Understanding and the PILOT Agreement.

Ms. LaBrutto seeking the process once a PILOT is applied for. Feels a meeting needs to be held explaining the process to the public to ensure that the project will not be a negative to the Cranford tax base.

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the Township has every intention of holding public meetings to share information and answer questions.

Ms. LaBrutto is very concerned about high-density projects with PILOTs. Spoke about the Birchwood PILOT and the fact that there is a waiting list because the units were rented before the project was completed. Stated that Cranford currently has a surplus of Affordable Housing and feels the schools will need to be expanded. Hopeful the Township Committee shares the same concerns and that there will be written material that can be viewed by the public before a vote is taken.

Mayor Miller Prunty assured Ms. LaBrutto that public meetings will be held before a vote is taken.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the informal meeting portion of the meeting.

### **ORDINANCES – Introduction**

#### **Ordinance No. 2021-01:**

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

#### **Ordinance No. 2021-02:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-02 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 367, ARTICLE I REPAIR OR IMPROVEMENT OF SIDEWALKS AND CURBS”

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Hannen and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2021-02 to be held February 9, 2021 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on January 21, 2021.**

### **RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda**

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

**Resolution No. 2021-99:**

**WHEREAS**, land-use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, poor land-use decisions can lead to, and increase societal ills such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space and the degradation of natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, well planned land-use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space and allow for continued use of vital natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, given New Jersey's strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land-use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making Cranford a truly sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in the next master plan revision and to update our zoning accordingly:

- I. ***Facilities Siting*** – to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bikability, access to transit and proximity to other uses when siting new or relocated municipal facilities. The actions of a municipality when locating their own facilities can set a positive precedent and encourage other public and private sector entities to consider sustainable land-use considerations into account when locating their own facilities.
- II. ***Housing Variety*** – through the use of our zoning and revenue generation powers, to foster a diverse mix of housing types to meet the needs of people from all ages and walks of life. A variety of housing options, from single family homes to one-bedroom apartments, including housing affordable to people with low, moderate and middle incomes, is vital to allow residents to live and work in a municipality through various stages of their lives.
- III. ***Natural Resource Preservation*** - to preserve open space and create recreational opportunities within our municipality. As the most densely populated state in the nation, open space in New Jersey is at a premium. Preserving what is left of our open space, for its ecological and recreational value, is critical for a sustainable future, further, if feasible, we pledge to complete a Natural Resources Inventory to identify and assess the extent of our natural resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis and land use planning and zoning.
- IV. ***Transportation Choices*** - to create transportation choices within our municipality by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and automobiles, when planning transportation projects. Given that emissions from transportation, mainly passenger cars, make up the largest share of the State's carbon footprint, creating transportation alternatives at the local level is critical to reducing the state's overall carbon footprint.
- V. ***Mix of Uses*** - to use our zoning power to allow for a mix of uses in areas that make the most sense of our municipality and the region. Development is not needed in every municipality. But where development makes sense, land-use patterns that segregate uses such as commercial and residential create an environment where the only feasible mode of transportation is the automobile. Allowing for a mix of compatible land uses, residential units above retail stores for example, can help reduce the necessity of driving by allowing people to walk to various destinations.
- VI. ***Green Design*** - to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements. Green design strategies not only improve the environmental performance of buildings but lessen the impact of those buildings on the surrounding environment. Such strategies include energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, use of recycled renewable materials, construction waste reduction, reduced auto use, tree preservation, native planting, and avoidance of environmentally sensitive features.
- VII. ***Regional Cooperation*** - to reach out to administrations of our neighboring municipalities concerning land-use decisions, and to take into consideration their concerns when making regional level land-use decisions. Local land-use decisions can often have regional impacts, even though they are decided exclusively by one municipality. For example, a large mall build in one municipality can affect traffic and retail opportunities in neighboring towns.
- VIII. ***Parking Regulations*** – to re-evaluate our parking requirements with the goal of promoting shared parking. Promote transportation alternatives to individual automobile use. Evaluate areas to install safe and secure bicycle parking. Evaluate parking revenues, where fee for parking may be implemented or needs to be implemented.

**Resolution No. 2021-100:**

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

**Resolution No. 2021-101:**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayors Council for Rahway River Watershed Flood Control was established to address conditions of serious and repeated flood damage within municipalities along the Rahway River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the participating municipalities of the Council act in a cooperative manner to engage in planning, engineering, legal and environmental assessment activities to commence a process to determine the most feasible and effective program for alleviation of these flooding events; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford, as a participating member of the Council, has agreed to participate in a cost sharing agreement with other member municipalities of the Council to pay for the cost of the aforementioned activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee will make payment to the Township of Millburn (Joint Municipal Escrow Fund), who is the lead agency for the cost sharing agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk per adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the Municipal Cost Sharing Agreement-Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 for the funding of activities conducted in connection with the Mayors Council for Rahway River Watershed Flood Control; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford agrees to pay \$20,000.00 to the Millburn Township-Joint Municipal Escrow Fund for the performance of services enumerated in Municipal Cost Sharing Agreement-Fiscal Year 2021. Said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. 1-01-20-100-100-214.

**Resolution No. 2021-102:**

**AUTHORIZING AN INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF UNION  
FOR THE DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT CALLOUT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** the County of Union through the Union County Police Department is responsible for administering the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Drug Recognition Expert Callout Grant Program on behalf of local and county agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-722, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders authorized the County Manager to apply for, accept, and expend the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety (hereinafter referred to as the "NJDHHS") Drug Recognition Expert Callout Grant Program to assist law enforcement agencies in reducing drug-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities in an amount of \$56,625.00 for the grant period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the "Program"); and

**WHEREAS** this Agreement shall memorial the expression of intent among the County and the Township of Cranford to cooperate with each other in implementing and operating a callout procedure for certified Drug Recognition Experts to respond to and conduct evaluations when drug use is suspected during a motor vehicle stop. The participants recognize that such cooperation assists in enabling communities to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities associated with drugged driving on County roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJDHHS has issued a grant to the County of Union to administrate and provide call out through the Union County Police Department's Dispatch Center for participating municipal police department's Drug Recognition Experts (hereinafter referred to as "DRE"). Pursuant to the grant, the County of Union will receive funds for administration costs. The grant provides overtime costs for DRE's callouts, as well as court appearances related to expert testimony. Funding is also provided for equipment purchases and training related to the DRE program; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and the Township of Cranford have determined it to be in their mutual interest for the Cranford Police Department to designate certain DREs to be assigned to the Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford wishes to enter into this Agreement with the County of Union for the purpose of setting forth the terms and conditions regarding the assignment of DREs employed by the Municipality to the Program; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, New Jersey, that the Township Administrator and the Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a Drug Recognition Expert Callout Program Agreement with the County of Union, Union County Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207, for the purpose of providing the Township with access to and funding for Drug Recognition Experts in order to reduce drug-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

**Resolution No. 2021-103:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A11-5(1) (dd), the Township may, by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase goods or services for the support, maintenance, and acquisition of proprietary computer hardware and software; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford is in need of acquiring software and hardware from Integrated Technical Systems, Inc. for the management of the parking meter system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$40,000; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et. Seq., Integrated Technical Systems Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Integrated

Technical Systems Inc. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Cranford in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Integrated Technical Systems Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a non-fair and open contract with Integrated Technical Systems Inc. as described herein; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value to be placed on file with this resolution.

**Resolution No. 2021-104:**

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

**Resolution No. 2021-105:**

**ESTABLISHING REMOTE MEETING PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS DURING  
DECLARED STATES OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 103 declaring a state of emergency as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 104, which announced aggressive social distancing measures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which included encouraging employees to tele-work if feasible and limiting large social gatherings and in-person meetings such as those conducted by local government entities; and

**WHEREAS**, local and county government entities, such as the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, has and may continue to conduct public meetings and hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic remotely so as to continue the effective administration of government and to enable the general public to continue to participate in government decision making without unduly compromising public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) has promulgated emergency regulations, codified at N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 to -1.7 (the “DLGS Regulations”), which establish standard protocols for remote public meetings held by local government entities during a Governor-declared public health emergency, state of emergency or state of local disaster emergency, including minimum procedures to be followed to provide reasonable notice and to allow public input; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 24, 2020, DLGS issued Local Finance Notice 2020-21, expanding on the DLGS Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, to allow the Township Committee to continue to conduct public business, and to allow the public to attend Township Committee meetings remotely, consistent with and in compliance with Executive Order 104, the OPMA, and N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 to 1.7, the Township Committee wishes to establish standard protocols for remote public meetings as set forth in this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has decided to adopt the following standard protocols and procedures for conducting remote public meetings, including minimum procedures to be followed to provide reasonable notice and to allow public input;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that:

1. The following procedures and requirements are hereby adopted for the Township Committee’s remote meetings:
  - (a) The Township Committee’s public notice of each meeting conducted remotely shall contain the dial-in conference number and/or web address necessary for members of the public to participate in and access the meeting remotely. The Township Committee presently uses Google Meet video conferencing to conduct its remote public meetings, which accommodates at least fifty (50) public participants in addition to those required to conduct the meeting. Members of the public wishing to comment during the public portion of meetings or during a public hearing may press the “Raise Hand” button on Google Meet or dial \*3 to raise their hand. A representative of the Township Committee (“Facilitator”) will keep members of the public muted, except when they are selected to speak during the public portion of the meeting or during any public hearing. Members of the public may also mute and unmute themselves by pressing the microphone button on Google Meet or pressing \*6 on the telephone keypad or by any other method as may be suggested that may mute or unmute themselves. Members of the public may also discontinue their video through the “Google Meet” platform.
  - (b) Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of a meeting, which will be read during the public portion of the meeting. Written public comments submitted prior to the meeting must identify the name and address of the commenter. No anonymous comments will be accepted. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail with the subject line “Public Comment-Township of Cranford Township Committee- Meeting Date of \_\_\_\_\_” to the Clerk of the Township Committee, Patricia Donahue at clerk@cranfordnj.org or by mail addressed to: Patricia Donahue, Municipal Clerk, Township of Cranford, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. E-mailed comments must be received at least eight (8) hours prior to the meeting. Mailed comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

- (c) Public comments submitted prior to the meeting shall be read aloud by an authorized representative of the Township Committee during the public meeting in a matter audible to all meeting participants. Written comments received prior to the meeting will be read after all those members of the public attending the meeting wishing to provide comment have had the opportunity to do so. The same time limit of five (5) minutes shall apply to each of the public comments received prior to the meeting. Each written comment shall be read from the beginning, until the time limit is reached. If duplicative written comments are received, the name of each commenter will be noted for the record, and the contents may be summarized.
- (d) The Township Committee will not accept comments made through the Google Meet “chat” feature during remote public meetings.
- (e) The agenda for the meeting will be available on the Township website, <https://www.cranfordnj.org/node/70/agenda>, prior to the meeting.
- (f) If any meeting includes a public hearing all material that will be considered by the Township Committee at the public hearing shall be posted on the Township Committee’s website in a conspicuous location or as otherwise required by law. If sworn testimony is to be taken during the public hearing, it shall be broadcast by both video and audio. Written comments, as set forth within this resolution, will be accepted for such public hearings.
- (g) Immediately after calling the meeting to order, the designated meeting Facilitator shall ensure that the Google Meet link and dial-in number are working. If the Google Meet link or dial-in number are not working, and cannot be returned to working order in a reasonable period of time the meeting shall be adjourned to another time.
- (h) The Facilitator shall announce at the beginning of the remote public meeting the procedures and requirements for making public comment. The Facilitator will also explain that members of the public who are not speaking must mute themselves by pressing the microphone button on Google Meet or by pressing \*6 on the telephone keypad or by another method as may be suggested by the Facilitator and may un-mute themselves by pressing the microphone button on Google Meet or by pressing \*6 on the telephone keypad, a second time or by another method as may be suggested by the Facilitator.
- (i) In the event the meeting is being recorded, the Facilitator will advise the public at the beginning of the meeting.
- (j) If any member of the public is attending remotely, he/she will be provided an opportunity to provide public comment of no greater than five (5) minutes (unless an alternative time limit is stated at the beginning of the public comment portion of the meeting at the sole discretion of the Mayor) in duration during the public comment portion of the meeting during the time in the meeting set forth on the agenda (this applies equally to written public comments submitted via email or through the mail). The designated meeting Facilitator will ask whether any member of the public has a comment. Members of the public wishing to comment during the public portion of meetings or during a public hearing may press the “Raise Hand” button on Google Meet or dial \*3 to raise their hand. The Facilitator will address members of the public by the name that is assigned by Google Meet, i.e., such as “Caller 1”. The Facilitator will need to unmute the caller so they may then announce themselves. The commenter may then unmute themselves by pressing the microphone button on Google Meet or by pressing \*6 on the telephone keypad or any other method as may be suggested. Commenters must state their name and address for the record. At the conclusion of the comments, the commenter will be muted by the Facilitator. Once all members of the public who wish to make comment have been heard and all written comments have been read, any Township Committee member may address any comments made.
- (k) If any member of the public is attending remotely, and a closed session is called by the Township Committee as permitted by the OPMA, a separate call-in number or other electronic means of limiting remote participation shall be available so only the Township Committee and other persons needed for the closed session may participate. The Clerk of the Township Committee shall clearly state at what point in the agenda the closed session will occur, the reasons for the closed session, the projected length of the closed session, whether formal action will be taken on any matter after the closed session, and that the public will not be able to hear the Township Committee or provide comment during the closed session. The Township Committee shall return to the public meeting following closed session to adjourn the meeting or take other action as necessary.
- (l) Any member of the public who is attending remotely must participate in the meeting with appropriate decorum and act in a civil manner. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The Township Committee reserves the right to exclude those members of the public who display conduct or make comments that are disruptive, which includes but is not limited to sustained inappropriate behaviors such as, shouting, interruption, or the use of profanity. Members of the public engaged in such conduct will receive a warning, and if the conduct continues, the person will be muted and his or her comments deemed concluded. Should the commenter remain disruptive, he or she shall be removed from video and/or removed altogether from the meeting.
- (m) Members of the public may also be immediately, and without warning, muted, removed from video and/or removed from the meeting altogether for conduct or comments that are harassing, demeaning, threatening, and/or offensive to any person’s race, gender, color, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and disability (list is representative, not exclusive).

- (n) The Township Committee, in its discretion, may change the technology for conducting remote public meetings from Google Meet web conferencing to an alternate acceptable form of audio/video-conferencing technology, which accommodates at least fifty (50) public participants in addition to those required to conduct the meeting.
- 2. Any prior ordinance or resolution controlling the decorum of the Township Committee's meetings continue to be in effect unless directly contradictory to the provisions in this Resolution.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Hannen and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS**

**Township Attorney Ryan J. Cooper, Esq.**

- Spoke about the adoption of Resolution No. 2021-105 which establishes remote meeting procedures and requirements during declared states of emergency. Explained that the Township Committee is meeting virtual due to the increase in positive COVID-19 cases. Encouraged residents to review the resolution which will be posted on the Township website.

**Township Administrator James Cryan**

- Apologized to residents for the delay in mailing out the Recycling schedule. Will make sure that moving forward all residents will be properly noticed regarding any changes. Stated that the change was discussed publicly at Township Committee meetings, shared on Township social media and posted in a couple of newspapers;
- Announced that there will be a Township Committee Budget Workshop meeting this Saturday. Provided information for those interested.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Mary O'Connor**

- Thanked Rabbi Kerbel for his meaningful invocation this evening;
- Spoke about an anti-Semitism incident which occurred in Cranford. Stated that it is unacceptable and irresponsible and is hopeful that someone will have the courage to come forward and talk to the Police if they know anything about it. Urged residents to do what they can to make sure Cranford is a place that welcomes and embraces everyone;
- Addressed incidents that happened at the Capitol and other places last week. As an elected official, this was truly troubling to her. Stated that elections are the will of the people and Americans need to respect the process and the outcome. Mentioned that she votes for the person that she believes will do the best job. As elected officials, the Township Committee's responsibility is to the residents of Cranford and believes most residents know that the Township Committee members follow that principle. Stated that this country needs to come together and if it does not, America will pay a very high price;
- Discussed the transmission rate of COVID-19 in Union County. Reminded everyone how important it is to wear masks, social distance and make sure everyone is doing the right thing.

**Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.**

- Stated that recent events that happened in the country were truly disturbing;
- Thanked Deputy Mayor Andrews for having Rabbi Kerbel conduct the invocation;
- Wished Madeline a Happy Birthday tomorrow.

**Commissioner Jason Gareis**

- Thanked Rabbi Kerbel for conducting the invocation tonight;
- Thanked Deputy Mayor Andrews for leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Feels everyone should reflect on the words especially with what's going on in our country;
- Condemned the hateful actions that happened in Cranford last week;
- Spoke about national events that took place on January 6, 2021. Offered his condolences to the

family of Police Captain Brian Sicknick and to the families of the other individuals that lost their lives. Stated that the actions of all those involved last week must be investigated and prosecuted. Mentioned that the job as an elected official at any level of government is to engage in political debate and not cite actions contrary to the government. Stated that he was reminded of the Oath of Office that he recently took. Announced that America's union will be celebrating its 245<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and is guided by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights. Explained what sets American's democracy apart is its ability to prevail through turbulent times through political discourse and not resort to violence. Hopeful that the new administration will help foster a more peaceful discourse;

- Stated that he looks forward to working with all residents no matter what their views may be.

**Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews**

- Discussed events the Downtown Management Corp will be hosting this month: Souperhero Stroll and the Takeover Makeover. Provided information for those interested in participating. Also reminded residents how important it is to support local businesses;
- Discussed an incident that happened at the nation's Capitol;
- Spoke about an incident that happened in Cranford. Assured the residents that the local government is taking this incident very seriously. Thanked the Cranford Police Department for quickly launching an investigation and reporting the hate incident to the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Also thanked the Department of Public Works for responding quickly to remove the graffiti. Hopeful that the individuals responsible for this hate crime are caught and prosecuted to the greatest extent;
- In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, cited a quote from a Birmingham Jail letter from 1963.

**Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty**

- Thanked each Commissioner for outstanding words;
- Discussed the celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Cranford. Encouraged residents to participate and watch the virtual service which will be broadcast on TV35. Mentioned that it is strongly encouraged that the public celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life by being of service. There will be a link published in the Township's Newsletter regarding service opportunities and organizations that will allow the public to participate.

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia Donahue, RMC  
Township Clerk

Date: January 12, 2021