

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 13, 2021** at 8:23 p.m. (via virtual teleconference.)

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 April 13th 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 April 13, 2021" 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.

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 of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, followed by the flag salute.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of March 8, 2021 and Conference and Official Meetings of March 30, 2021 which were approved by 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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the Bill List dated April 13, 2021, totaling \$5,287,087.81 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 Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Hannen and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoring the Victims, Survivors, Rescuers and Liberators of the Holocaust

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the systematic persecution and annihilation of Jews, and other ideological and political groups by the Nazi regime and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, where six million men, women and children were murdered; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS, we the people of the Township of Cranford should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, our global family regardless of race, religion or creed should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Miller Prunty, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980), do hereby honor the victims of the Holocaust and the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and proclaim that we, as a community, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

Cranford Library Recognition-National Library Week

MAYORAL REMARKS

COVID-19 Update to the Community- Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick and Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Matt Lubin

Mayor Miller Prunty announced that March 17, 2021 marks a year since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Cranford. Stated that since the pandemic, the Township and community have been faced with unprecedented challenges and decisions. Stressed the importance of wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, washing your hands, getting tested and vaccinated.

Held a question-and-answer forum with Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick and Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Matt Lubin.

Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick urged everyone to continuing to follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Hopeful by summer, the number of cases will decrease significantly due to the vaccines.

Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Matt Lubin stated that contact tracing is very important. Explained how crucial it is to cooperate with a contact tracer if you are contacted. Also discussed the number of vaccination sites located throughout New Jersey. Provided the State website.

Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick stated that his office has contract tracers on behalf of Cranford Township that work seven (7) days a week. Stated that this does help to reduce the spread of the virus.

INFORMAL MEETING

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the informal meeting portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Mayor Miller Prunty asked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue if she had received public comments correspondence. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that no public comments mail had arrived via the U.S. Post Service or via the Clerk's email box. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the informal meeting portion of the meeting.

ORDINANCE - Introduction

Ordinance No. 2021-08:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-08 entitled, "CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)"

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

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2021-08 to be held May 11, 2021 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on April 22, 2021.

RESOLUTION – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2021-177:

BE IT RESOLVED, that anticipated Township 2021 revenues, which amount to \$39,312,880.41, as indicated on sheet 11 on the Introduced Township Budget;

BE IT RESOLVED, that anticipated Township 2021 appropriations, which amount to \$39,312,880.41, as indicated on sheet 30 on the Introduced Township Budget;

BE IT RESOLVED, that anticipated Township Dedicated Swim Pool Utility 2021 revenues, which amount to \$1,255,835.00, as indicated on sheet 31 on the Introduced Township Budget;

BE IT RESOLVED, that anticipated Township Dedicated Swim Pool Utility 2021 appropriations, which amount to \$1,255,835.00, as indicated on sheet 33 on the Introduced Township Budget;

BE IT RESOLVED, that these indicated statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the municipal budget for year 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve the attached Township Budget for the year 2021;

Notice is hereby given that the Cranford Municipal Budget was approved by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, on April 13, 2021. A hearing on said Budget will be held at the Cranford Municipal Building on May 11, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. at which time and place objections to said Budget for the year 2021 may be presented by Township of Cranford taxpayers or other interested persons.

(SEE MUNICIPAL BUDGET INSERT)

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Public Hearing for the 2021 Municipal Budget to be held May 11, 2020.

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

Resolution No. 2021-178:

DOWNTOWN DISTRICT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
BUDGET NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Downtown District Management Corporation Budget for the year 2021:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Budget be published in the Westfield Leader in the issue of April 22, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve the following as the Downtown District Management Corporation Budget for the year 2021:

APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriated		
<u>General Appropriations</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating		
Salaries & Wages	82,435.00	120,464.00
Other Expenses	<u>96,419.00</u>	<u>53,834.53</u>
Total General Appropriations	178,854.00	174,298.53

ANTICIPATED REVENUES

	Anticipated	
<u>General Revenue</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Surplus		
Miscellaneous Revenue		
Sub-total General Revenue		
Amount to be Raised by Special		
Improvement District Tax	<u>178,854.00</u>	<u>174,298.53</u>
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES	178,854.00	174,298.53

Notice is hereby given that the Downtown District Management Corporation Budget was Approved by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, on April 13, 2021. A hearing on said Budget will be held at the Cranford Municipal Building on May 11, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. at which time and place objections to said Budget for the year 2021 may be presented by Downtown Special Improvement District taxpayers or other interested persons.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Public Hearing for the 2021 Downtown District Management Corporation Budget to be held May 11, 2020.

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

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

Resolution No. 2021-179:

SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 2020-239 - AUTHORIZING AN AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CLASSIC FLOOR FINISHING, INC. (DBA CLASSIC SPORT FLOORS) UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE-APPROVED BID NO. MRESC 18/19-62 FOR REPAIR AND REFINISHING OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER GYM FLOOR

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford wishes to purchase certain goods and services from an authorized vendor under the New Jersey State Approved Purchasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J. S. A. 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, Classic Floor Finishing, Inc., 150 Cooper Road, Building H21, West Berlin, New Jersey, 08091, New Jersey State Approved Co-op Member No. 65MCESCCPS, has been awarded No. MRESC 18/19-62 for Repair and Refinish of Gym Floors Time and Material Bid; and

WHEREAS, Classic Floor Finishing, Inc., will provide said equipment to the Township of Cranford at a cost of \$41,450.00; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b), the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available and appropriated for this purchase.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby approves an award of contract to Classic Floor Finishing, Inc. for the purchase of repair and refinishing of the Community Center gym floor at a cost not to exceed \$41,450.00 under New Jersey State Approved Bid No. MRESC 18/19-62 (Member Co-op No. 65MCESCCPS); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-04-20-006-000-212.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized and directed to execute documents in connection with said award of contract.

Resolution No. 2021-180:

APPROVE RELEASE OF CONTRACT RETAINAGE AND PERFORMANCE BOND FOR THE 2019 MUNICIPAL PAVING – PHASE 3 PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Contractor, American Asphalt & Milling Services, LLC, 96 Midland Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey, 07032 has submitted a Maintenance Bond Number CSC226766M in the amount of \$865,204.08 to the Township in connection with aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department has indicated that American Asphalt & Milling Services has completed the project and has met all requirements for final payment and is recommending the return of the Performance Bond No. CSC-226766 in the amount of \$827,058.27 currently on file with the Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department recommends the release of contract retainage and final payment in the amount of \$21,959.08 to American Asphalt & Milling Services, LLC, for the 2019 Municipal Paving- Phase 3 Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes the release of the Performance Bond and release of contract retainage to American Asphalt & Milling Services, LLC, in connection with the 2019 Municipal Paving – Phase 3 Project.

Resolution No. 2021-181:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SINGLE USE PLASTICS BAN WORKING GROUP

WHEREAS, the Township Committee desires to create a Single Use Plastics Ban Working Group to study and report back to the Township Committee the Working Group consensus guidance on whether and how single use plastics should be regulated in the Township of Cranford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby establishes the Single Use Plastics Ban Working Group as a committee comprised of a variety of community stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Single Use Plastics Ban Working Group shall consist of the following members:

1. Dave Pringle – Green Team
2. Ann Dooley – Green Team
3. Caren Demyen –Downtown District Management Corporation (DMC)
4. Kendall O’Brien – Centennial Village Committee
5. Gina Tipton – Cranford Chamber of Commerce
6. Ashley Wohlrab – Business Owner
7. Tammie Crispino – Business Owner
8. Dennis Concha – Business Owner
9. Scott Marino – Business Owner
10. Kathleen Miller Prunty – Mayor (Working Group Chair)
11. Brian Andrews – Deputy Mayor

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Single Use Plastics Ban Working Group to study and report back to the Township Committee the Working Group’s consensus guidance on whether and how single use plastics should be regulated in the Township of Cranford.

Resolution No. 2021-182:

WHEREAS, there were 558 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 17th to June 6, 2021 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seat belt usage through a combination of high visibility enforcement and public education; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey 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 ninety (90) per cent (%) to ninety-five (95) per cent (%); and

WHEREAS, a further increase in seat belt usage in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford declares its support for the *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization. both locally and nationally, from May 17th to June 6, 2021 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of seat belt use.

Resolution No. 2021-183:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 13th day of April, 2021 that the Tax Collector has been authorized to refund tax overpayments for the reason noted:

Resident Tax Overpayment

Block 220 Lot 10 11 Elmora Avenue
Arlene Gigon
11 Elmora Avenue
Cranford, NJ 07016

Refund \$ 837.50
(1-01-55-000-010-025)

Block 550 Lot 4 224 Hillside Ave
Corelogic
3001 Hackberry Road
Irving, TX 75063

Refund \$ 19.06
(1-01-55-000-010-025)

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

Refund \$ 750.90
(1-01-55-000-010-025)

Resolution No. 2021-184:

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Union;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Cranford Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 10,348.25
Cash Match	\$ 2,587.06
In-Kind	\$ 7,761.19
2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Resolution No. 2021-185:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on account of the ongoing public health emergency and the Township’s desire to assist residents and local businesses through the same, that the Downtown Management Corporation is authorized to establish and maintain parklets in the public parking spaces in the vicinity of the following, at a fee of \$4.50 per day (excluding Sundays) per Municipal Parking space:

- Ambeli Greek Taverna, 29 North Union Avenue – two (2) spaces on Alden Street (Municipal Parking spaces 963 and 964);
- Oasis Restaurant, 21 North Union Avenue – two (2) spaces on North Union Avenue (Municipal Parking spaces 929 and 930);
- Playa Bowls, 102 North Union Avenue and Venue 104, 104 North Union Avenue – two (2) spaces on North Union Avenue (Municipal Parking spaces 932 and 933);
- The Thirsty Turtle, 1-7 South Avenue West - two (2) spaces on South Union Avenue (Municipal Parking spaces 1018 and 1019);
- Old City Café and Grill, 20 North Union Avenue – two (2) spaces on Alden Street (Municipal Parking spaces 950 and 951); and
- Vinny's Pizza, 28 Eastman Street – one (1) space on Eastman Street (Municipal Parking space 996);
- Yale Terrace, 26 Eastman Street – one (1) space on Eastman Street (Municipal Parking space 997);
- Craven BBQ, 22 Eastman Street – one (1) space on Eastman Street (Municipal Parking space 998); and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on account of the ongoing public health emergency and the Township’s desire to assist residents and local businesses through the same, that the Downtown Management Corporation is authorized to establish and maintain parklets in the public parking spaces in the vicinity of the following:

- Garlic Rose Bistro, 28 North Avenue West - five (5) spaces in lower Municipal Lot 7

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing parklets are authorized from April 15, 2021, through and until October 31, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-186:

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees is a local membership and nonprofit organization that makes numerous contributions to the Cranford community through its volunteering, community events, and college scholarship program; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Jaycees annually host an Alumni Barbeque to acknowledge past members and their service to the community, and has requested the use of the Cranford Canoe Club on July 15, 2021, for the Alumni Barbeque; and

WHEREAS, the Alumni Barbeque will comply with all applicable COVID-19 restrictions, which currently permit outdoor gatherings of up to 200 people;

WHEREAS, should the COVID-19 restrictions applicable on July 15, 2021, prevent the use of the Cranford Canoe Club, the Jaycees request the use of Hanson Park for the Alumni Barbeque;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Township Committee approves the Jaycees’ use of the Cranford Canoe Club (or Hanson Park if required by then applicable COVID-19 restrictions) on Thursday, July 15, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., including the consumption of alcohol, consistent with all applicable State laws, regulations and COVID-19 restrictions.

Resolution No. 2021-187:

Removed from Agenda

Resolution No. 2021-188:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford wishes to purchase certain goods and services from an authorized vendor under the New Jersey State Approved Purchasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J. S. A. 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, Picerno-Giordano Construction, 200 Market Street, Kenilworth, New Jersey, 07033, has been awarded New Jersey State Contract No. 16-FLEET-0126 for park and playground equipment; and

WHEREAS, Picerno-Giordano Construction, will provide said service to the Township of Cranford at a cost of \$67,679.90; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b), the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available and appropriated for this purchase.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby approves an award of contract to Picerno-Giordano Construction for the purchase of park and playground equipment at Orange Avenue Pool at a cost not to exceed \$67,679.90 under New Jersey State Contract No. 16-FLEET-0126; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-27-16-017-100-280.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized and directed to execute documents in connection with said award of contract.

Resolution No. 2021-189:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.4 (6), that Frank Genova, be and hereby is, appointed as Acting Construction Code Official effective April 14, 2021 and continuing until the appointment of a permanent Construction Code Official, and in no event for a period of longer than sixty (60) days, at a per diem rate equivalent to \$90,000 per year.

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.

Gina Black, 34 Columbia Avenue, asked for clarification on the 2021 Municipal Budget. Questioned a \$1 million deficit in the Swim Pool Utility budget. Feels it is impressive that the Township was able to collect half of the pool's membership fees last year. Stated that a majority of the deficit falls in the miscellaneous portion of the budget. Curious what expenses are included in the miscellaneous budget.

Chief Financial Officer Patterson explained that in 2020 the Swim Pool Utility brought in a little over \$600,000 when the budget was \$1.7 million. Clarified that the miscellaneous budget is comprised of everything (Kids Club and special programs) except pool memberships. Also explained that the Township conducted a three-year average of the budget and briefly elaborated.

Discussion held regarding the expense budget, a decline in pool memberships and the \$1 million deficit.

Ms. Black questioned how the \$600,000 the Township received from the CARES Act was spent.

Chief Financial Officer Patterson responded and then stated that any expenses related to COVID-19 were paid through the Township's Reserve Trust Account for emergencies which will be replenished when the money is received.

Mayor Miller Prunty asked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue if she had received public comments correspondence. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that no public comments mail had arrived via the U.S. Post Service or via the Clerk's email box. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Esq.

- Announced that the Township now has a court approved Housing Element and Fair Share Plan. Explained that this gives the Township compliance with its Third Round Affordable Housing Obligation until 2025. Stated that this is the combination of tremendous amount of

hard work and commitment by the Township Committee and is a testament to the hard work and effort of the outside professionals. Thanked everyone involved with the process. Explained that to remain in compliance the Township must finish the projects that have begun. Also mentioned that there is a significant and meaningful surplus in the Township's affordable housing credits and if the Township continues to consistently apply its ordinances and pickup additional affordable housing, then there should be no problems with the next round of affordable housing in 2025. Stated that this will allow the Township to control its development in the years to come;

- Discussed the 2021 Municipal Budget. Noted that the Township's legal budget decreased in 2017 and has remained the same.

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Thanked the Township Committee for their leadership with the introduction of the budget. Also thanked Chief Financial Officer Patterson and her finance team and all the department heads and employees involved in the process. Feels this is a prudent budget with a favorable ranking compared to other municipalities in Union County;
- Thanked Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Matt Lubin and Health Officer Fitzpatrick for providing an update regarding COVID-19. Announced that Town Hall will be opening to the public Monday, April 19, 2021. Explained that the Township is trying to maintain the health of the public and its employees. Urged everyone to follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and discussed the drop boxes located outside the building and business that can be conducted online to limit the foot traffic in the building;
- Discussed Earth Day and the Green Team's efforts with the food waste program located at the Conservation Center. Thanked everyone involved and feels this is a good initiative.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Thanked everyone involved in the 2021 Municipal budget process. Stated that this budget is beneficial to the residents, provides all the town's services and allows the town to continue the infrastructure rebuilding that has been going on the past seven (7) years;
- Spoke about the Centennial Village Group (CVG). Announced that the 10th Annual CVG 5K will be held June 6, 2021. Details will be posted on their Facebook page;
- Announced Library Week and discussed a diverse library that will be paced in the Downtown. Stated that there are various libraries that have been popping up throughout town and feels this is a great way to get people and young children interested in reading;
- Thanked Rabi Kerbel for his invocation at tonight's meeting. Encouraged everyone to attend the Holocaust Remembrance;
- Wished everyone to stay safe and follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Spoke about the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony. Encouraged everyone to tune into TV35 to watch;
- Thanked Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Matt Lubin and Health Officer Fitzpatrick for providing an update regarding COVID-19. Stated that passing critical information onto the public is the only way the pandemic will end;
- Reminded everyone that the American Cancer Society is hosting the Cranford Cancer Relay for Life. Provided information for those interested in participating. Explained that the Cancer Society helps people cope with this insidious disease and will hopefully find a cure. Stated that the death rate has decreased. Urged everyone to support the cause.
- Stated that he swore-in the Roselle Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Announced that Dr. Christopher Chapman was sworn-in as the Chapter's president. Mentioned that he is an active member of the Cranford community and wished him the town's best for a successful term;
- Spoke about the deadline to file Primary Election petitions. Mentioned that the Democratic Chairperson submitted an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request for his petitions. Also stated that preceding this action, the Township Attorney reviewed the petitions to check for compliance with Daniel's Law. Feels this review should have been strictly for the Clerk's Office. Mentioned that this is the first time in all his terms that a political chair submitted an OPRA for petitions. Spoke about the deadline for challenging a petition. Is proud of his critical review of the objects that come before the Township Committee;
- Discussed the North Avenue Redevelopment Expressions of Interest that were received which will be reviewed by the Township Committee at the next meeting. Stated that the impact this development will have will be felt by Cranford in years to come. Meeting will continue to be held with residents impacted by some of the town's capital improvement projects to provide updates.

Commissioner Jason Gareis

- Thanked Rabi Kerbel for joining the Township Committee this evening and for his thoughtful words;
- Thanked Chief Financial Officer Patterson, Township Administrator Cryan and their staff for their efforts with the 2021 Municipal Budget. Feels this budget is extremely beneficial. Commended everyone involved with the process for a job well done;
- Discussed the Police Departments hiring of a new officer. Announced that the application is available on the Township's website. Spoke about a social media campaign that came about a few weeks prior. Encouraged residents to watch the video posted to gain a better perspective on the Police Department as well as the men and women who make up the department;
- Spoke about trash accumulation at some of the town parks. Excited that residents are using the town's facilities especially with the ongoing pandemic but is also embarrassed with the state of the parks. Knows that Deputy Mayor Andrews has been in touch with the Recreation Department to make them aware of the issue. Suggested starting a program in Cranford similar to the Adopt a Park Program that Union County has in place. Feels this would help the town take better care of its parks as well as other public spaces.

Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews

- Thanked Rabi Kerbel for joining the Township Committee tonight. Was moved by his remarks;
- Thanked Township Administrator Cryan and Chief Financial Officer Patterson for their efforts with the 2021 Municipal Budget;
- Announced that the Cranford Community Center will be reopening on April 19, 2021. Assured the residents that Parks and Recreation Director Robertazzi is taking the reopening very seriously. Discussed how the department will be operating. Stated that the senior citizens have been most vocal about the reopening of the Community Center. Appreciates how the directors have handled the reopening;
- Discussed the condition of the town's parks. Announced that two (2) new trash cans have been installed at Lincoln Park. Mentioned that there will be an increase in sweeps and cleanings in the parks. Encouraged residents to clean up after themselves as this is a personal responsibility;
- Spoke about the reopening of Nomahegan Park which is owned by Union County. Stated that it may reopen this weekend. Explained that most of the delays have been due to inclement weather;
- Discussed the Spring Hop event held by the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC). Stated that the event was a fundraiser for the 2022 high school graduating class;
- Discussed the adoption of Resolution No. 2021-185 which establishes parklets in the Downtown;
- Announced that the Painted Piano will be returning to the Downtown.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Thanked Rabi Kerbel for joining the Township Committee. His comments are always memorable. Encouraged residents to tune into TV35 to watch the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony;
- Thanked Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Matt Lubin and Health Officer Fitzpatrick for providing an update regarding COVID-19. Stated that they are both a valuable resource to the town;
- Announced that the Clean Communities Committee will be hosting a Clean Up Day with the Scouts. Discussed how this initiative came about and how the Clean Up Program will be run;
- Discussed various public meetings that were held regarding road work. Announced that a virtual meeting will be held April 15, 2021 for the residents of Brookside Place;
- Announced that May 6, 2021 a public meeting will be held regarding 750 Walnut Avenue. Details will be posted soon. Assured residents that the Township Committee will continue to hold public meetings on various redevelopment projects. Informed the public that the Township News Letter will have all the information which will be mailed tomorrow afternoon.

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner Gareis and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk

Date: April 13, 2021