

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 28, 2017** 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 WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD, BY POSTING SUCH ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE ON A BULLETIN BOARD IN THE TOWN HALL RESERVED FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE FILING OF SAID NOTICE WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK OF CRANFORD. FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.
Deputy Mayor Patrick F. Giblin
Commissioner Ann Dooley
Commissioner Andis Kalnins
Commissioner Mary O’Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Giblin and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of February 13, 2017 and Conference and Official Meetings of February 14, 2017 were approved by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Kalnins, seconded by Commissioner Dooley and passed, the Bill Lists dated February 28, 2017 totaling \$698,014.20, 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 Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Art Month

WHEREAS, art education contributes powerful educational benefits to all elementary, middle, and secondary students including the following:

- * art education develops students’ creative problem-solving and critical thinking abilities;
- * art education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and other expressive qualities;
- * art education gives students a deeper understanding of multi-cultural values and beliefs;
- * art education reinforces and brings to life what students learn in other subjects; and
- * art education interrelates student learning in art production, art history, art criticism, and aesthetics.

WHEREAS, our national leaders have acknowledged the necessity of including arts experiences in all students’ education; and

WHEREAS, MARCH is officially recognized as YOUTH ART MONTH, I endorse the observance of Youth Art Month and encourage the support of quality school art programs for children and youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas H. Hannen, Jr., Mayor of the Township of Cranford proclaim March as **YOUTH ART MONTH** and endorse the observance of Youth Art Month and encourage the support of quality school art programs for children and youth.

INFORMAL MEETING

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

Theodore Mann, 303 Lincoln Park East, commented on the proclamation regarding Youth Art Month. Feels there should be increased funding for art in the schools and discussed a trip he took to the Metropolitan Museum of Art when he was in school.

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

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

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

Resolution No. 2017-137:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Robert McQuone be and hereby is appointed as Mechanic within the Police Department at a salary of \$28 per hour effective March 1, 2017.

Resolution No. 2017-138:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that Rui DeJesus be and hereby is appointed as full-time General Maintenance III person within the Office of Downtown Business and Economic Development and the Department of Public Works of \$ \$37,050 effective March 13, 2017.

Resolution No. 2017-139:

WHEREAS, William Pietrucha, Detective within the Police Department, is qualified for a leave of absence pursuant to the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the New Jersey Paid Family Leave Act (NJPFLLA) for the care of a family member.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that William Pietrucha is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning March 10, 2017, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William Pietrucha shall comply with all provisions of law during the FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence, including providing all required medical proofs.

Resolution No. 2017-140:

WHEREAS, on or about March 20, 2015, the Township of Cranford entered into a contract with RS Food Express, Inc. for operation of concessions at the Orange Avenue and Centennial Avenue Outdoor Pools; and

WHEREAS, said contract provided for the Contractor to operate said concessions for the 2015 season; and

WHEREAS, said contract further provided for the extension of the contract for the 2016 and 2017 seasons at the option of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to extend said contract for the 2017 season;

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

1. That the aforementioned contract dated March 20, 2015 between the Township of Cranford and RS Food Express, Inc. be, and hereby is, extended to include the 2017 season; and
2. That the sum to be paid by the Contractor to the Township for the 2017 season shall be \$30,000.00 and;
3. That the Township Administrator be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to notify the Contractor of the extension granted herein.

Resolution No. 2017-141:

WHEREAS, on or about February 10, 2015, the Township of Cranford entered into a contract with Circelli Construction for Concession Rights for the Cranford Canoe Club; and

WHEREAS, said contract provided for the Contractor to operate said concessions for the 2015 and 2016 seasons; and

WHEREAS, said contract further provided for the extension of the contract for the 2017 and 2018 seasons at the option of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to extend said contract for the 2017 season;

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

1. Aforementioned contract dated February 10, 2015 between the Township of Cranford and Circelli Construction be, and hereby is, extended to include the 2017 season; and
2. Sum to be paid by the Contractor to the Township for the 2017 season shall be \$4,060.00 and;
3. The Township Administrator be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to notify the Contractor of the extension granted herein.

Resolution No. 2017-142:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requires an expert to provide Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) Services in connection with the Birchwood Avenue property; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has deemed that the background, experience and qualifications of **Excel Environment Resources, Inc., 111 North Center Drive, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902** satisfy the criteria to provide the aforementioned service; and

WHEREAS, **Excel Environment Resources, Inc.** has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that **Excel Environment Resources, 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 **Excel Environment Resources, Inc.** from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, Excel Environment Resources, Inc. has submitted a Business Entity Contribution Certification which certifies that **Excel Environment Resources, Inc.** has not made any reportable contribution during the past twelve (12) month period pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey, as follows:

1. **Excel Environment Resources, Inc., 111 North Center Drive, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902** be and hereby are awarded a contract to perform the above referenced service at a fee not to exceed \$34,330.00; and
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Excel Environmental Resources, Inc.; and
3. The Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Business Entity Contribution Disclosure Certification be placed on file with a copy of this resolution; and
4. A copy of this resolution be published as required by law within twenty (20) days of its adoption.

Resolution No. 2017-143:

APPROVE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE TO MARK PAVING COMPANY, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT HIGH STREET AND MAPLE PLACE

WHEREAS, Mark Paving Company, Inc., the contractor for the Drainage Improvement Project at High Street and Maple Place, has posted Maintenance Bond No. 286396MB in the amount of \$329,434.25 for construction work and activity performed in connection with the aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS, Maser Consulting, as the Township Engineer, per correspondence dated February 21, 2017, is recommending the release of Performance Bond No. 286396P being held by the Township in the amount of \$329,820.85; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all work was performed to the satisfaction of the Township Engineer and release of the Performance Bond in the amount of \$329,820.85 be and hereby is authorized.

Resolution No. 2017-144:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Township Clerk be and hereby is authorized to post advertisements to the Township's website for the solicitation of Proposals and Qualifications for affordable housing planning services and banking services.

Resolution No. 2017-145:

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL A222 "NEW JERSEY LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT" AND URGING THE ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO APPROVE SAME FOR A FULL ASSEMBLY VOTE

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill A222, the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, authorizes the issuance of \$125,000,000.00 in general obligation bonds to finance capital projects and;

WHEREAS, it has been more than fifteen years since a library construction bond program has been developed by the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, numerous public library facilities need capital funding to provide physical and technological improvements to meet the growing needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, many public library facilities in New Jersey are not ADA compliant and, therefore, thousands of New Jersey residents do not have full access to library services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford supports this financing for capital projects at public libraries around the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Cranford Township Committee that it does express and hereby affirm its support of Assembly Bill A222 and urges its passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cranford Township Clerk is directed to convey a certified copy of this Resolution to New Jersey Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto and all members of the New Jersey General Assembly.

Resolution No. 2017-146:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 28th day of February 2017 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector due to a 2015 Real Estate Tax Appeal according to statutory requirements:

TAX OVERPAYMENT

Block 478 Lot 4
Daniel G. Keough, Trustee
783 Springfield Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901-2332

Refund: \$4,069.45
(7-01-55-000-010-028)

Resolution No. 2017-147:

WHEREAS, Cranford Township is a community that celebrates a rich and vibrant culture wherein all residents should feel supported and accepted by their neighbors and the community as a whole regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or gender expression;

WHEREAS, Cranford Township has a large and longstanding commitment to community service as exemplified by the numerous local non-profit organizations focused on contributing and improving the life, health, opportunities, and well-being of all of our residents regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender expression;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee desires to support and inspire public interest and open dialogues about bias and harassment, and the importance that individual strength and character has in building a culture wherein all residents feel supported by their community, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or gender expression; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee seeks to encourage the entire community, including individuals and organizations, the public and private sectors, and local, county and state governmental interests, to collaborate in order to strengthen Cranford Township's culture of community and acceptance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford is dedicated to ensuring that the Township of Cranford remains a welcoming and diverse community where everyone is treated equally and with respect;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford condemns all hateful speech and violent action, and finds such conduct especially pernicious when it is motivated by racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, or gender expression bias; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee supports and encourages partnerships with the private and public sectors, including the Cranford Public School District Board of Education, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and the many local community services organizations, to accomplish the goals and policies set forth in this resolution.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS - None**COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS****Commissioner Mary O'Connor**

- Discussed the meeting she attended with Mayor Hannen in Washington DC regarding flood control efforts for the Rahway River Watershed. Thanked legislators for being key supporters in moving this project forward, especially in the area of funding. Urged residents to contact legislators and show their support for the project. Also announced that the Mayors Council on the Rahway River Watershed would be meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers on March 2, 2017 to continue with this process;
- Informed residents that the Cranford Township Newsletter is now available and encouraged all to keep the newsletter on hand rather than recycling it, as it contains schedules and information that is useful throughout the year;
- Discussed the new pick up schedule for recycling and provided contact information for residents with questions;
- Announced that she would be holding evening office hours for residents to discuss concerns they may have.

Commissioner Andis Kalnins

- Discussed the national award to the Township for the murals displayed in Council Chambers, due to the efforts and nomination by the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR). Informed residents that DAR also nominated the flagpole restoration project at Post Office Plaza for a national award and the project was selected. Discussed the history of the flagpole and efforts that made the restoration possible. Provided details of the award presentation to the Township and welcomed residents to attend the ceremony;
- Discussed the 2017 Municipal Budget process and announced that introduction of the budget has been scheduled for March;
- Announced that he would be holding evening office hours for those interested in discussing or providing input concerning the 2017 Municipal Budget.

Commissioner Ann Dooley

- Thanked Union County Freeholder B.J. Kowalski and Union County Director Ron Zuber for their assistance with tree removal along the Lincoln Terrace pathway, and for their efforts in connection with the de-snagging of trees along the Rahway River. Also thanked the Department of Public Works for leading this effort.

Deputy Mayor Patrick Giblin

- Congratulated the Cranford Fund for Excellence on its recent Trivia Night fundraiser. Also congratulated the winning trivia team, which included Township Attorney Ryan Cooper;
- Discussed his attendance at Union County Budget meetings. Mentioned that there was no opportunity for public comment but he did have the opportunity to discuss his concerns with Union County Freeholder Mirabella, and requested that the Board of Chosen Freeholders keep taxpayers in mind when adopting the Union County budget;
- Discussed the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade and announced that the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is holding a kick-off event on March 3, 2017.

Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Discussed his attendance at the meeting in Washington DC concerning flood control for the Rahway River Watershed. Thanked legislators for their continued support and for their efforts in expediting the project. Discussed next steps in the process and assured residents that the Township Committee continues to press federal legislators for support in expediting the project. Also discussed meetings he attended with Commissioners O'Connor and Kalnins and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in which they continued to express the importance of moving the project along. Discussed a potential agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers and DEP for investigative work at the Orange Reservoir, which is vital to the balance of the project. Also explained that if DEP can identify funding in its 2017 budget to prefund that portion of the study, it could possibly "jump start" that portion of the work going forward;
- Thanked Deputy Mayor Giblin for his comments regarding the anti-bias resolution adopted by the Township Committee. Explained that the Cranford Board of Education would be adopting a supporting resolution;
- Thanked residents in attendance this evening and those watching on TV35.

On motion of Commissioner Kalnins, seconded by Commissioners O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2017

Tara Rowley, RMC
Township Clerk