

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **June 27, 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

Commissioner Dooley arrived at the meeting at 9:01 PM.

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Mayor Hannen, 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 June 12, 2017 and Conference and Official Meetings of June 13, 2017 were approved by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Kalnins, seconded by Deputy Mayor Giblin and passed, the Bill Lists dated June 27, 2017 totaling \$283,094.46, 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 Kalnins and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Township Attorney Cooper discussed an application submitted by Hartz Mountain and announced that Hartz Mountain would attend the July 18, 2017 Township Committee Official Meeting to present its proposal. Feels a presentation would be beneficial to both residents and the Township, due to the great interest in the application that has been expressed by residents and the Township Committee.

James Rhatican, Hartz Mountain, discussed the desire of Hartz Mountain to present its proposal to the Township Committee. Also discussed the desire to hold a meeting with the public in a less formal manner prior to July 18, 2017. Mentioned that he just learned about the public meeting that is being held tonight at the Community Center regarding Hartz Mountain's proposed development of 750 Walnut Avenue, and invited members of the public to contact him with any questions.

Township Attorney Cooper stated that the Township Committee would assist Hartz Mountain with the scheduling of its meeting with residents

INFORMAL MEETING

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

PRESENTATION – ENERGY AUCTION

Michael Stoller, EMEX, discussed the energy auction held today regarding the third party supply of electricity to municipal facilities. Explained that the auction provided the Township with the option of one hundred (100%) percent green energy. Also explained that cost savings for main road lighting would be approximately \$3,200 per year, and savings in connection with street lighting would be approximately \$1,600 per year.

ORDINANCES – Final Reading and Public Hearing**Ordinance No. 2017-07:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2017-07 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 98 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS ”

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

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

ORDINANCES – Introduction**Ordinance No. 2017-09:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2017-09 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 58 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ”

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

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2017-09 to be held July 18, 2017.**RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda**

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

Resolution No. 2017-248:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held June 27, 2017 that John Heesters be and hereby is reappointed as a per diem Special Law Enforcement Officers within the Cranford Police Department, effective July 12, 2017.

Resolution No. 2017-249:**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION – N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an appropriation for the equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union, New Jersey hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2017 in the sum of \$1,930.20 which is now available as a revenue from the State of New Jersey FY 2017 Alcohol Education Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund, pursuant to the provision of the statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$1,930.20 is hereby appropriated under the caption “Alcohol Education Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of a State grant of \$1,930.20 from the State of New Jersey – Alcohol Education Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund.

Resolution No. 2017-250:

WHEREAS, prior years General Capital Fund Receivable balance exists in the records of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the balance is as follows:

ORD #2011-31 Parking Garage	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
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WHEREAS, certain General Capital Improvements appropriated balances remain dedicated to projects now and completed; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said unfunded balances:

ORD #2011-31 Parking Garage	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
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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 cancel the balances from the records of the Township.

Resolution No. 2017-251:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Mayor and Township Clerk be, and hereby are, authorized to execute an agreement with Garden State Fireworks, Inc., P.O. Box 403 Carlton Road, Millington, NJ 07946 for the display of fireworks in connection with the Township of Cranford's Fourth of July Celebration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fee for said services shall not exceed \$10,000 and shall be charged to Account No. T-15-00-000-110-000.

Resolution No. 2017-252:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby ratifies, affirms and approves execution of a Temporary Access and Use Agreement with the County of Union by the Mayor and Township Clerk in connection with the Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks at Nomahegan Park

Resolution No. 2017-253:

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, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Tele-Measurements, Inc. be and hereby is awarded a contract for the purchase of equipment in connection with Phase 2 Improvements to Cranford Counsel Chambers in the amount of \$164,000.00 under state contract # T-1466; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Bond Ordinance No. 2017-05, Account No. C-04-17-005-000-211.

Resolution No. 2017-254:

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, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Bucks County International be and hereby is awarded a contract for the purchase of new dump truck chassis with a contract price of \$75,565.00 under state contract # T-2787; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-04-17-005-000-203.

Resolution No. 2017-255:

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, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Trius Inc. be and hereby is awarded a contract for the purchase of two (2) new Swenson EV100-10 Stainless Steel V-Box spreaders with a contract price of \$18,328.10 each for a total of \$36,656.20 under the New Jersey approved CO-OP #65CESCCPS, Educational Services Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-04-17-005-000-203.

Resolution No. 2017-256:

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, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Trius Inc. be and hereby is awarded a contract for the purchase of new Wausau Model HSS 3610H snowplow with a contract price of \$17,203.00 under the NJPA CO-OP state approved CO-OP;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-04-17-005-000-203.

Resolution No. 2017-257:

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 engineering construction management services.

Resolution No. 2017-258:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held June 13, 2017, hereby authorizes the submission of application to the Union County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund for a grant in connection with the 2017 Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign any and all documents necessary in connection with said applications.

Resolution No. 2017-259:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes application to the County of Union in connection with the Union County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund's "Greening Union County" Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign any and all documents necessary in connection with said applications.

Resolution No. 2017-260:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held June 27, 2017, that the following alcoholic beverage license be, and hereby is, renewed for the term 2017-2018:

RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSES

2003-33-008-011 Cranford Restaurants, LLC
 T/A The Thirsty Turtle
 16 Ridge Street
 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Resolution No. 2017-261:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 27th day of June 2017 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate #16-00016

Block 409 Lot 2 – 205 Burnside Ave.
 D1 Softball
 20 Glenside Terrace
 Montclair, NJ 07043

Refund: \$ 880.61
 (7-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$1,400.00
 (T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2017-262:

WHEREAS, a sewer billing error was noted on Block 534 Lot 1, Account# 6900-1 aka Cranford Business Park, LLC 570 South Ave. E. and;

WHEREAS, The Cranford Township Sewer Department billed the above mentioned property for the incorrect number of sewer units for the years 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and;

WHEREAS, the error caused a much larger billing amount for sewer due to this property in the past four years, and;

WHEREAS, it has now been determined that the overpayment amount comes to a total of \$45,391.83;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the refund of payment in two installments:

\$22,695.92 7-01-55-000-010-050
 \$22,695.91 8-01-55-000-010-050

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first installment will be made June 27, 2017 and the second installment be made after adoption of the 2018 budget.

Resolution No. 2017-263:**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR 2017 ENGINEERING PROJECTS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the Township Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to advertise for bids for the following 2017 Engineering Department projects:

1. Northeast Quadrant Stormwater Management Project, Riverside Drive North and South, Gravity Storm Sewer Interconnections Contract-2B; and
2. 2017 Municipal Paving Program.

Resolution No. 2017-264:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized to execute 2016/2017 Senior Focus Grant Agreement between the Township of Cranford and County of Union.

Resolution No. 2017-265:

WHEREAS the Township of Cranford's relationship to industrial and commuter rail has been an engine for economic growth and a contributor to Cranford's identity as a traditional commuter railroad community; and

WHEREAS the Township of Cranford is a Transit Village identified by the State Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS maintaining and highlighting Cranford's accessibility and relationship to rail transportation is a major vision for 2020 as set by Cranford's Master Plan; and

WHEREAS the Township's and the region's continued cultural and economic success is highly dependent on infrastructure investments in the Raritan Valley Rail line and its connections to major urban centers, including Newark, New Jersey and New York, New York; and

WHEREAS since 2010, and the cancellation of the ARC Tunnel Project, rail infrastructure support for the Hudson River tunnels and the connecting rail service has predictably deteriorated, threatening Cranford and the region's continued economic growth;

WHEREAS constant delays due to congestion and deterioration of the region's rail infrastructure costs Cranford and the region's businesses hundreds of millions of dollars annually in lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Gateway Program is a major capital project designed to increase the region's rail capacity, reliability, and resilience, with expanded commuter services to boost economic growth; and

WHEREAS, this month the President of the United States has announced a \$1 trillion Transportation Infrastructure Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby urges our State and Federal legislators to aggressively pursue funding for the Gateway Program – including new Hudson River tunnels, the Portal Bridge, and reconstruction of New York City's Pennsylvania Station – as essential to Cranford and the region's economic success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to United State Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, to Senators Menendez and Booker, Representative Leonard Lance, Governor Christopher Christie, State Senator Tom Kean, Jr., Assembly Member Jon M. Bramnick, and Assembly Member Nancy F. Munoz.

Resolution No. 2017-266:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Joseph Corbisiero be and hereby is appointed to the title of Foreman at a salary of \$33.91 per hour.

Resolution No. 2017-267:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES FOR PUBLIC USE ON AN ONLINE AUCTION WEBSITE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

RESOLUTIONS – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2017-244:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the resignation of Charles Hallax as a Call Member of the Cranford Fire Department be and hereby is accepted with regrets effective June 5, 2017.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Mayor Hannen

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

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

Resolution No. 2017—245:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the resignation of Frank Rivera as a Call Member of the Cranford Fire Department be and hereby is accepted with regrets effective June 5, 2017.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Mayor Hannen

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

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

Resolution No. 2017—245A:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held June 27, 2017 that the following be and hereby are appointed as Call Department Members of the Cranford Fire Department:

Paul Richardson

Brian McCabe

Stephanie Bagniewski

Andrew DiFrancesco

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Mayor Hannen

Absent: Commissioner Dooley

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Lydia Allen, 751 Walnut Avenue, stated that she attended the citizen's meeting with respect to 750 Walnut Avenue. Also stated that she emailed the Township Committee concerning this matter and only two (2) members responded. Feels it would have been courteous for all to respond. Stated that she also contacted members of the Planning and Zoning Boards and received no response. Discussed a noise complaint she made because of construction that occurred at 750 Walnut Avenue, and informed the Township Committee that the complaint was handled by the Police Department. Also informed the Township Committee that she contacted the Engineering Department and the Office of Planning and Zoning as to whether a permit was issued for construction at 750 Walnut Avenue, and she was informed by the Zoning Officer that there was no permit. Expressed concern that the Zoning Officer was unable to issue a summons immediately and could only issue a warning. Also expressed concern with the service provided by the Zoning Officer. In addition, Ms. Allen discussed her concerns with the proposed development of 750 Walnut Avenue and the impact to traffic and schools. Feels she would have to sell her house if the application is approved. Also believes Hartz Mountain will request a tax rebate.

Mayor Hannen extended his apologies to Ms. Allen for his lack of response to her email. Also assured Ms. Allen that customer service would improve as respects her visit to the Office of Planning and Zoning.

John Pritchard, 42-44 West Holly Street, spoke in support of the military. Feels residents should always remember those who served our country and those who were lost during war. Sang a song in support of the military. Urged the Township Committee to request that legislators reactivate Muhlenberg Hospital and other hospitals in the area due to their proximity to Ground Zero.

Mayor Hannen recommended that Mr. Pritchard contact his congressman and senators and thanked him for singing.

Rafi Namroud, 176 North Lehigh Avenue, discussed the parklet installed on Eastman Street and feels it has impacted business in the downtown. Also discussed a petition that was signed by business owners in opposition to the parklet and the lack of response from the Township to concerned business owners. Feels the DMC did not advocate on behalf of business owners and feels the Township should be more transparent and include business owners in its future plans.

Mayor Hannen discussed the petition that was circulated in opposition to the parklet and confirmed that it was received by the Township Committee. Also discussed the decision to install a parklet in the location on Eastman Street and assured Mr. Namroud that the Township Committee is interested in making sure all businesses are successful. Explained that the parklet is an experiment that the Township Committee feels will increase foot traffic, which will help businesses. If it does not work, it will be removed.

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road, feels the parklet is “ridiculous” and feels the Township Committee should focus on density and parking. Also feels the Township Committee has “lost its way” in its handling of matters. Discussed the Hartz Mountain application and the amount of funds held in escrow. Questioned the amount of escrow required in relation to the size of the proposed development. Suggested that additional escrow funds be requested prior to the Planning Board meeting.

Mayor Hannen stated that he would have Township Administrator Wall follow up concerning the amount of escrow. Also commented on the parklet and explained that it is an experiment and would be removed if it does not work.

Gary Goodman, 720 Willow Street, discussed changes to the parking that occurred with the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project which resulted in a loss of twenty-six (26) parking spaces. Discussed the traffic patterns of buses, which he feels is a danger to pedestrians. Also discussed the impact the loss of parking spaces has had on the downtown. Feels communication needs to be improved. Also discussed the cost involved with the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project which he believes exceeded the grant amount awarded to the Township.

Mayor Hannen requested that Township Administrator Wall follow up with the Township Engineer concerning Mr. Goodman’s comments related to bus traffic pattern.

Deputy Mayor Giblin discussed plans to improve the traffic signal at North Union and Alden Street. Stated that impacted downtown business owners were notified of this project and he is hopeful that it will not be disruptive during construction.

David Bongiovanni, 111 Cranford Avenue, discussed his opposition to the parklet. Also discussed the meeting held this evening by concerned citizens regarding the Hartz Mountain application. Stated that the number of people in attendance was encouraging, but he was dismayed with information that was shared and the sense that the Township would not have a choice with respect to this development because of COAH requirements. Also expressed concern with redevelopment occurring in Cranford and surrounding municipalities. Feels the Township should have “learned” from its experience with the Birchwood Avenue property.

William Kugelman, 117 Springfield Street, feels there were six hundred (600) residents in attendance at the meeting held by citizens this evening. Discussed the proposed development and feels it will change the “face” of Cranford, even if the density proposed is reduced. Also feels that no Cranford resident would accept the Hartz Mountain application. Discussed Commissioner O’Connor’s concern with proposed development of twenty (20) units on Centennial Avenue. Feels the Hartz Mountain application needs to be addressed in an aggressive way by the Township Committee and does not feel Hartz Mountain has Cranford’s best interest in mind.

Judith Kugelman, 117 Spring Garden Street, feels the Hartz Mountain application is a bad decision for Cranford. Stated that she moved to Cranford because of the closeness of the community and feels consistent development is changing its character to a transient community. Urged the Township Committee to listen to residents’ concerns, and feels other options must be available.

Township Attorney Cooper reiterated his prior announcement and informed residents that Hartz Mountain has requested an opportunity to present its proposal to the Township Committee at a Township Committee meeting, and a presentation has been scheduled for July 18, 2017. Also discussed Hartz Mountain’s desire to hold a community meeting to educate residents on its application.

Michael Burcher, 10 Broad Street, expressed concern with the proposed development and comments that residents would move if Hartz Mountain’s application is approved. Stated that he moved to Cranford for the school system, which would be impacted if Hartz Mountain’s application is approved. Also does not feel the Township can handle a large influx of people.

Louis Recupero, 22 Shetland Drive, expressed his concern with the Hartz Mountain proposal. Feels it contradicts Cranford’s Master Plan. Also expressed concern with the impact it would have to the school system, public safety and the traffic. Feels this development would change the character of the community and also feels it is the Township Committee’s responsibility to collect the facts in this matter.

Steven Merman, 19 Doering Way, feels it is difficult for the Township Committee to address the application by Hartz Mountain at this time because it comes on the “heels” of Birchwood Avenue and 555 South Avenue East, but explained that Hartz Mountain has the right to request a zoning change and propose development. Further explained that while Hartz Mountain has the right to make this request, its proposal should be reasonable. Implored the Township Committee to take its time concerning this application, and to retain experts that could provide the Township with the appropriate information. Stated that he respects Hartz Mountain, and he respects the Township Committee, but the process should be slowed down in order to ensure the right decision is made.

Lydia Allen, 751 Walnut Avenue, informed the Township Committee that she was struck by a vehicle crossing Walnut Avenue in December 2014, and discussed the surgeries she had as a result of the accident. Stated that

there are no crosswalks at the intersections of Behnert Place or Mitchell Place on Walnut Avenue and she was issued a ticket for jay-walking after the accident. She contacted the Police Department to discuss the need for a crosswalk at one of these intersections and was informed that crosswalks could not be done because Walnut Avenue is a Union County road.

Deputy Mayor Giblin stated that he would follow up with the Police Department's Traffic Division. Explained that while Walnut Avenue is a Union County road, it does not mean a crosswalk cannot be installed.

Ms. Allen questioned how a crosswalk could be installed on North Avenue, but not on Walnut Avenue.

Mayor Hannen discussed the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project and explained that North Avenue is a state highway. Discussed the fact that children are directed to cross closer to Walnut Avenue School when crossing Walnut Avenue.

Commissioner Kalnins stated that the portion of Walnut Avenue between South Avenue and North Avenue is a Township road, and that the remainder of the roadway is regulated by Union County.

Commissioner Dooley informed Ms. Allen that Walnut Avenue is scheduled for repaving, and that she would discuss her request for a crosswalk as part of that project.

Carlos Beltron, Carlito's Barber Shop, 6 Alden Street, requested clarification as to efforts to obtain additional parking spaces as a result of the loss of spaces that has occurred due to work being done by NJ Transit.

Deputy Mayor Giblin discussed efforts to gain spaces at the parking lot adjacent to Bar Americana and revenue to be collected in connection with those spaces.

Mr. Beltron feels the downtown parking situation is hurting businesses. Feels the improvements done in connection with the North Avenue Station are a hazard, and discussed accidents that have occurred due to a blind spot on Alden Street. Feels this is a public safety issue and expressed concern for his children's safety as well as other children's safety. Also discussed the condition of roadways, specifically Alden Street, and asked if there are plans to repave certain roadways.

Deputy Mayor Giblin informed Mr. Beltron that Alden Street is included in the 2017 Paving Program and that new curbs would be installed at the corner of Alden Street and North Union Avenue. There would also be improvements to the traffic signal at that intersection.

Mr. Beltron feels there should have been more focus on improvements to the train station rather than to the bus pickup and drop off pattern.

Jerry Grillo, 4 Seneca Road, referred to Deputy Mayor Giblin's comments concerning parking spaces in the lot adjacent to Bar Americana and his comment concerning revenue. Requested clarification as to the amount of revenue being collected.

Deputy Mayor Giblin stated that he does not have the amount but would follow up.

Mr. Grillo discussed an email business owners of Alden Street received from the DMC regarding this parking lot, which indicated that it would be provided to business owners for their use. Also stated that this lot has been used by commuters for over a year, free of charge.

Mayor Hannen expressed concern that the DMC sent correspondence regarding the parking lot to Alden Street business owners.

Mr. Grillo stated that the correspondence was from a Township entity, if it was not from the DMC. Also discussed the installation of the parklet and the petition opposing the parklets that was circulated. Feels every business is impacted by it and the Township needs every parking space possible. Referenced meeting minutes in which Deputy Mayor Giblin discussed the request for parklets and that business owners were contacted and agreeable to the proposal.

Deputy Mayor Giblin explained that he did not personally contact business owners. The Office of Downtown Business and Economic Development contacted business owners and he relayed this information to the Township Committee.

Mr. Grillo referred to an email which indicated that a parklet would be installed on Alden Street, and that business owners in the area were opposed to it. Stated that the DMC then denied that Alden Street was selected as a location for a parklet. Feels the Township Committee was misinformed and should have made the petition that was circulated a bigger priority.

Mr. Grillo also discussed the meeting that was held at the Community Center by residents earlier this evening with respect to the application filed by Hartz Mountain. Discussed the request to rezone the property and the Township's affordable housing obligation. Feels Cranford needs to hire the best planner and attorney possible to handle this matter. Feels money cannot be a concern, as the Township needs to protect its investment and its children. Does not agree with the decisions being made by Township Committee. Feels the Township needs some direction and implored the Township Committee to do what is best for Cranford.

James Rhatican, Hartz Mountain, discussed the plan to hold a community meeting and informed residents that he is available after tonight's meeting to speak to those with questions or concerns. Invited the Township Committee and residents to visit the communities in which Hartz Mountain has constructed projects.

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

On motion of Deputy Mayor Giblin, seconded by Mayor Hannen and passed, the following resolution was adopted by **roll call vote**:

Resolution No. 2017—246:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that William Masol be and hereby is appointed as Township Engineer for a three (3) year term beginning July 10, 2017 and expiring July 9, 2020 at salary of \$110,000.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Kalnins explained that he would be voting against Resolution 2017-246, which authorizes the appointment of a Township Engineer. Feels the Township was served well through outsourcing and explained that the overruns the Township is experiencing are due to the prior Township Engineer. Discussed the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project as an example and stated that the current consultant "saved" the project by working with the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT). Also expressed concern with the appointment of an in-house Township Engineer because it would be at a much higher cost to the Township, and he feels the candidate selected does not have the experience needed. Also expressed concern that this appointment requires a three (3) year commitment, as opposed to a consulting engineer which can be replaced after one (1) year if the Township is dissatisfied with the service provided.

Commissioner O'Connor referenced the Township's Land Development Ordinance as respects storm water management responsibilities of the Township Engineer. Stated that she is not in favor of changing the engineering model that is currently in place, or hiring an engineer that does not possess the qualifications outlined in the Township's ordinance.

Mayor Hannen discussed comments made by fellow commissioners regarding the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement project being "saved" by the Township's consulting engineer. Stated that this resulted in approximately twenty (20) parking spaces being eliminated, and the final design was negotiated between the consulting engineer and NJDOT. Also stated that the project was originally supposed to cost \$500,000. The Township of Cranford received grant funding through Union County's Infrastructure Grant Program, but the final cost of the project cost an additional \$700,000 to complete, and there are issues with the bus turnaround and other safety issues. Explained that the appointment of an in-house Township Engineer does not mean that the Township would no longer outsource for certain projects, and discussed projects in which a consulting engineer was retained to handle. Feels the Township needs a fulltime engineer instead of a part-time consultant, and feels the cost to the Township is the same. Discussed other positions, such as the Chief Financial Officer, which was outsourced for a period of time and then made as an in-house position. Also addressed concerns with the need for storm water management experience, and stated that the Construction Code Official has been the storm water manager in the past, and if necessary, a consulting engineer could be retained for storm water management services.

Commissioner Dooley stated that the Township spent approximately \$3 million to outsource for engineering services and feels the Township will see significant savings with an in-house engineer. Also discussed Mr. Masol's background and expertise and stated that while he does not have hydraulic engineering experience, he is an expert in road and traffic signal construction, which she feels is very important. Discussed Cranford's former engineer, and explained that while he was very experienced with hydraulics, his performance was lacking in other areas of importance. Feels the Township needs to find the right person to serve as Township Engineer, and then supplement with consulting engineers.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin and Commissioner Dooley

Nay: Commissioners Kalnins and O'Connor

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Administrator Terence Wall

- Referenced comments by residents and stated that he would be addressing concerns with customer service within the Office of Planning and Zoning. Encouraged residents to continue to communicate their concerns to him;
- Responded to a resident's comment concerning escrow amounts and stated that escrow accounts have been fully funded appropriately;
- Stated that he would investigate comments concerning safety issues as respects the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project with the Township Engineer.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Announced that the Cranford Clergy Council would be sponsoring a Blood Drive and provided information for those interested in donating;
- Discussed all festivities planned for the Fourth of July and invited residents to participate;
- Discussed the 2017 Paving Program and the number of roads paved when the Township had two (2) in-house engineers, versus the current consulting engineer. Explained that engineering services for projects are funded through the capital budget, but an employee's salary and benefits are funded through the operating budget. Discussed a reduction in the Police Department's headcount and feels these positions should be reinstated before hiring an in-house engineer. Feels public safety is key to the lifestyle enjoyed by the residents of Cranford and is "money better spent." Feels the current engineering program is highly effective and highly fiscally responsible and should continue;
- Wished everyone a safe, healthy and happy Fourth of July.

Commissioner Andis Kalnins

- Discussed his opposition to the hiring of an in-house engineer. Explained that while the Township has spent more money since retaining a consulting engineer, a great deal of work has been done. Further explained that the Township spent more money completing capital projects during the last three (3) years than in the past ten (10) years. Also explained that the Township spent generally five to ten (5% to 10%) percent below per project which is below engineering standards. Feels it was the wrong choice to appoint an in-house engineer;
- Thanked residents for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns;
- Congratulated the graduating class of 2017;
- Mentioned that school is out and encouraged drivers to use caution;
- Wished everyone a happy Fourth of July and discussed events scheduled for the holiday.

Commissioner Ann Dooley

- Wished everyone a happy Fourth of July;
- Thanked residents for expressing their concerns to the Township Committee;
- Discussed the capital budget and stated that the engineering portion of expenses is included in the capital budget, not the operating budget. Discussed the condition of the roads in Cranford and the five-year paving plan that was put in place. Also discussed plans to increase the number of roads to be paved in future budgets. In addition, discussed road repaving that has been delayed due to pending flood mitigation projects and informed residents that the Township is currently working with the Department of Environmental Protection regarding flood mitigation projects;
- Wished everyone a happy Fourth of July.

Deputy Mayor Patrick Giblin

- Discussed events planned for the Fourth of July;
- Discussed the capital budget and the Township's financial status in recent years due to the housing crisis and tax appeals. Explained that the amount of funding set aside for the capital budget determines the amount of projects to be done. Informed residents that this year, the Township Committee followed the consulting engineer's recommendation to fund \$1.5 million in the capital budget for road paving. Also referred to comments concerning the hiring of additional police officers. Stated that this request was brought to the Township Committee in 2016, but the Township Committee did not take action to move forward with new hires in the Police Department. Also discussed the Township Committee's decision to take action on an \$18 million purchase of the Birchwood Avenue property, and discussed the interest costs involved with this purchase.

Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Explained that the number of roads paved is determined by the amount of funds dedicated to the capital budget. The Township Committee authorized the Township Engineer to move forward with the bidding process for the milling and paving of roads that the Township Committee would like completed before the start of the school year. Explained that the consulting engineer's cost is part of the bond, which is

paid over the life of the bond. Feels the amount of money the Township will be saving with an in-house engineer will help pave more roads in the long run;

- Wished everyone a happy Fourth of July.

On motion of Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 10:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 27, 2017

Tara Rowley, RMC
Township Clerk