

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 13, 2018** at 7:45 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 Ann Dooley
Commissioner Patrick F. Giblin
Commissioner Jean-Albert Maisonneuve
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Maisonneuve, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of January 22, 2018 and Conference and Official Meetings of January 23, 2018 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Giblin and passed, the Bill Lists dated February 13, 2018, totaling \$5,211,599.12 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 Dooley, Commissioners Giblin, Maisonneuve and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

INFORMAL MEETING

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

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

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

Resolution No. 2018:126:

WHEREAS, Christopher DiFabio, Detective within the Cranford 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 (NJPFLA) for the care of his wife and child.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Committee of the Township of Cranford that Christopher DiFabio is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning May 15, 2018, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

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

Resolution No. 2018-127:

WHEREAS, Matthew Lubin, Lieutenant within the Cranford Fire 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 (NJPFLA) for the care of his wife and child.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Committee of the Township of Cranford that Matthew Lubin is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning on or about March 4, 2018, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Matthew Lubin shall comply with all provisions of law during the FMLA/NJFLA/NJPLA leave of absence, including providing all required medical proofs

Resolution No. 2018-128:

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR DONATIONS – ACCEPTANCE OF BEQUESTS AND GIFTS
(NJS 40A:5-29)**

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated for Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts (NJS 40A:5-29) are appropriated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement: Acceptance of Fire Donations

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union, New Jersey as follows:

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for Donations – Acceptance of Bequests and Gifts (NJS 40A:5-29) –Acceptance of Fire Donations used for the purchase of specialty equipment for use by the Township of Cranford Fire Department.
2. The Clerk of the Township of Cranford, County of Union is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of the Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Resolution No. 2018-129:

WHEREAS, NJSA 46:18-6 & 54: 5-55 grants the cancellation of a municipal tax sale certificate for a lien held by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Riverside abstract redeemed the lien in full for the owner of record, Robert Seedorf; Block 515 Lot 14, 127 Thomas St. Certificate#17-00034.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to cancel the same of record.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector.

Resolution No. 2018-130:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 13th day of February 2018 that the Tax Collector had been and hereby is authorized to refund an overpayment for reason noted:

Veteran Deduction Granted for 2017

Block 473 Lot 46.01 C016B

Neil Bryson

16B Lincoln Ave W

Cranford, NJ 07016

Refund \$250.00

(8-01-55-000-010-025)

Resolution No. 2018-131:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 13th day of February 2018 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate# 17-00022

Block 414 Lot 4.02 – 163 Hillcrest Ave.

Christiana T C/F CE1/FIRSTRUST

PO Box 5021

Philadelphia, PA 19111-5021

Redemption of Certificate# 17-00030

Block 492 Lot 29 – 41 Blake Avenue

Trystone Capital Assets, LLC

P.O. Box 1030

Brick, NJ 08723

Refund: \$9,113.59
(8-01-55-000-010-029)

Premium: \$29,000.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Refund: \$384.66
(8-01-55-000-010-029)

Premium: \$200.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2018-132:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the Chamber of Commerce be, and hereby is, authorized to hold its annual Spring Festival on Sunday April 29, 2018, its annual Fall Festival on Sunday, October 14, 2018, and a “Children’s Expo” on Sunday, August 26, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these events will be held on the aforementioned dates, rain or shine; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the festivals will require the closing of various streets from 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM as follows:

North Union Avenue from Springfield Avenue to North Avenue;

Alden Street from North Avenue to Parking Lot #11;

Municipal Parking Lot #1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cranford Chamber of Commerce is permitted to post approximately fifteen (15) signs on municipal property in connection with the aforementioned events, and that said signs shall be posted not more than ten (10) days prior to each event, and shall be removed the day following each event.

Resolution No. 2018-133:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held February 13, 2018, that the Chamber of Commerce be and hereby is authorized to hold the Annual Tree Lighting on Township property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby authorizes the closure of Municipal Lot No. 1 on November 23, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM and a portion of Lot No. 7 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM in connection with the Annual Tree Lighting.

Resolution No. 2018-134:

Item moved to Roll Call Vote (see below)

Resolution No. 2018-135:

WHEREAS, Kathleen Prunty, Director – Downtown Business and Economic Development office, will resign from her service to the Township of Cranford effective February 28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee thanks Kathleen Prunty for over twenty years of service to the Township of Cranford as a municipal employee of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Prunty has accumulated 157 unused sick days and has 20.33 days vacation and has requested compensation for such accrual; and

WHEREAS, the Township has agreed to compensate Ms. Prunty one paid sick day for every four sick days accrued for a maximum of 32.5 days over her employment with the Township of Cranford and agrees to compensate for 20.33 days of vacation and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes that Ms. Prunty be compensated a total of 32.5 paid sick days and 20.33 paid vacation days .

Resolution No. 2018-136:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held February 13, 2018 that Jason W. Cruz be, and hereby is, appointed as a Communications Officer within the Cranford Police Department, effective February 14, 2018.

Resolution No. 2018-137:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held February 13, 2018, that Gabriel A. Bailer be, and hereby is, appointed as Director of the Downtown Business and Economic Development office, effective February 28, 2018.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2018-134:

**EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS IN FURTHERANCE OF REDEVELOPMENT OF PROPERTY
LOCATED AT 215 AND 235 BIRCHWOOD AVENUE (BLOCK 291, LOT 15.01 AND BLOCK 292,
LOT 2) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, UNION COUNTY**

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2017, the Township of Cranford acquired property located at 215 and 235 Birchwood Avenue, Block 291, Lot 15.01 and Block 292, Lot 2, in Cranford, Union County, New Jersey (hereinafter the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2017-188A, dated April 26, 2017 ("Redevelopment Resolution"), the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford ("Township Committee") designated the Property as a Non-Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment, as provided in N.J.S.A.40A:12A-5; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Resolution was transmitted to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") via overnight delivery on April 26, 2017, and was deemed approved on May 26, 2017; DCA provided notice of its approval of the Redevelopment Resolution by letter dated May 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2017-182 dated April 18, 2017, the Township authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposal ("RFP") to solicit proposals for purchase and redevelopment of the Property; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2017-285C dated July 18, 2017 the Township conditionally designated Birchwood Developers Associates, LLC, who submitted a Proposal on June 19, 2017 in response to the RFP, as the Designated Developer of the Project; and

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 2017-14 adopted November 28, 2017, the Township adopted a Redevelopment Plan for a Non-Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment for the Property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 13th day of February 2018 by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey:

1. The Township of Cranford is committed to the redevelopment of the Property; and
2. The redevelopment of the Property will require the Township, as owner of the Property, to execute documents, including but not limited to applications for permits and approvals from the municipal, county and/or state authorities required for the project proposed by Birchwood Developers Associates, LLC; and
3. Thomas H. Hannen, Jr., Mayor of the Township, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute documents on behalf of the Township of Cranford in furtherance of the redevelopment of the Property.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: Commissioner Giblin

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.

John Pritchard, 42-44 West Holly Street, agrees with giving tax deductions to veterans. 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, and urged the Township Committee to request that legislators reactivate Muhlenberg Hospital and other hospitals in the area due to their proximity to Ground Zero.

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS - NONE

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Addressed comments made at the January 23, 2018 Official Meeting. Stated that no contributions were made directly to Deputy Mayor Dooley or herself during their campaign. All contributions were made to their campaign committees and also mentioned that they both had running mates. All contributions made were recorded and are public record. Stated that she will no longer accept contributions from any companies that do business with Cranford in the future. Is a lifelong resident of Cranford and assured residents that everything she does as a Commissioner is in the best interest of the town;
- Discussed the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in the downtown municipal parking lots. Is in the process of gathering more information. Is hopeful to have a plan in place for one of the next upcoming meetings. Understands that the Planning Board will be holding discussions regarding the charging stations being incorporated within the Master Plan. Supports the idea but would like for Cranford to move into this direction a lot sooner. Feels this initiative is a great way to market the downtown and help the environment. Also mentioned that Cranford is conducting a survey to determine the town's carbon footprint and to try and find ways to reduce the town's energy use;
- Spoke about the new initiative in Cranford called "Conversations". The group held its first meeting which was a success. Provided information regarding the next meeting for those interested in attending;
- Informed the public that the first round of the 2018 Municipal budget meetings are finishing up. Thanked all the employees involved with the process. There is a lot to consider with all the constraints facing every municipally;
- Announced that she would be holding evening office hours for residents to discuss concerns they may have;
- Wished her father a Happy 90th Birthday;
- Wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Commissioner Patrick Giblin

- Discussed the Breaking Points Presentation by the Police Department and Cranford Jaycees. Thanked all organizations involved with bringing this initiative to Cranford. Announced that the presentation will be broadcasted on TV35 and urged the public to watch;
- Announced that the Teen Advisory Board will be holding a meeting in the Community Center. Welcomed all teen to stop by;
- Discussed the Business and Economic Development Office and wished Kathleen Prunty a happy and successful retirement. Looks forward to working with Gabriel Bailer who will be replacing Ms. Prunty;
- Wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Commissioner Jean-Albert Maisonneuve

- Discussed the DVD that the Historic Preservation Advisory Board has made highlighting Cranford's history and architecture. Provided information for those interested in obtaining a copy;
- Thanked Business and Economic Development Director Prunty for her years of service to Cranford. She's done an amazing job and wishes her well;
- Mentioned that on February 22, 2018 the Downtown District Management Corp will be presenting a draft Strategic Plan. Provided information for those interested in attending. Encouraged all residents to appear;
- Wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Deputy Mayor Ann Dooley

- Thanked everyone who participated in the Facebook question of the week regarding the 2018 Municipal budget. During the Capital Budget discussions she will consolidate all of the ideas that were provided and share them with the other Township Committee members;
- Welcomed the new Business and Economic Development Director, Gabriel Bailer, who is a Cranford resident. Assured the residents that she will share all their ideas with Mr. Bailer. Mentioned that Mr. Bailer has great ideas of his own and feels this will be an exciting time for downtown Cranford;
- Wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Congratulated Business and Economic Development Director Prunty on her retirement;
- Welcomed the new Business and Economic Development Director Gabriel Bailer;
- Wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Maisonneuve and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 13, 2018

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk