

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **May 5, 2015** 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 CRANFORD CHRONICLE, UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, AND THE STAR LEDGER, 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 Andis Kalnins  
Deputy Mayor Lisa M. Adubato  
Commissioner Robert D’Ambola  
Commissioner Mary O’Connor  
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

**ABSENT:** None

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

The invocation was led by Commissioner O’Connor, followed by the flag salute.

#### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mayor Kalnins announced that Former Mayor Raymond Kirwin, who served as Mayor in 1964 and 1965, was in attendance and was invited to join the Township Committee on the dais.

#### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner D’Ambola and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of April 20, 2015 and the Conference and Official Meetings of April 21, 2015, were approved by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D’Ambola, O’Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

#### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Deputy Mayor Adubato, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor and passed, the bills list dated May 5, 2015 totaling \$4,794,520.47, were approved for payment by recorded vote and are on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato and Commissioners D’Ambola, O’Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

#### **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **Preeclampsia Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, Preeclampsia, including HELLP syndrome and eclampsia, is a dangerous condition of pregnancy that can, in its severest form, lead to maternal and/or infant mortality or premature birth with significant health risks for the mother and baby; and

**WHEREAS**, as many as 320,000 cases of preeclampsia are diagnosed in America every year with approximately 25% resulting in severe, life-threatening consequences to a pregnant woman and her baby; and

**WHEREAS**, public education as to the signs and symptoms of preeclampsia, HELLP syndrome and eclampsia can help women recognize the condition and seek appropriate medical care; and

**WHEREAS**, prenatal education should include recognition of those signs and symptoms (spikes in maternal blood pressure, sudden swelling of the face and hands, severe upper abdominal pain, blurred vision, persistent headaches, breathlessness); and

**WHEREAS**, many citizens of Cranford, NJ have joined with the Preeclampsia Foundation to raise public awareness in order to minimize maternal and infant illness and death due to preeclampsia.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Andis Kalnins, Mayor of the Township of Cranford proclaim May, 2015 as **PREECLAMPسيا AWARENESS MONTH** in the Township of Cranford. By this action, let it be known that we support the Preeclampsia Foundation’s efforts to reduce maternal and infant illness and mortality due to the preeclampsia and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

**Eagle Scout – Kean Dawson MacLelland**

**WHEREAS**, Kean Dawson MacLelland of Cranford Boy Scout Troop 75 has completed all requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eagle Scout rank is the highest earned rank in scouting. Past history indicates only two percent of all boys who joins scouting persevere to attain this distinctive accomplishment; and

**WHEREAS**, Eagle Scout MacLelland has worked very hard over the past several years in Scouting and has accomplished many things. He has served as Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Historian. He participated in a backpacking trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in 2011, as well as attending Florida Sea Base in 2012, where he served as boat captain; and

**WHEREAS**, Kean's project was to renovate, clean and repair an outdoor patio area at Cranford Health and Extended Care. Through generous donations he was able to complete the patio restoration by leading his 35 fellow Scouts and adult volunteers, totaling 404 man hours, in building a 20 foot by 8 foot flower box, restoring six benches, building 3 new tables, repairing a concrete sitting area and leveling a large slate patio; and

**WHEREAS**, with the completion of this project, the members of Cranford Health and Extended Care's rehabilitation and assisted living can now enjoy the outdoor patio knowing it is safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford commend and congratulate Kean Dawson MacLelland for his outstanding achievement and wish him success in all future endeavors.

**Municipal Clerk's Week**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartially, rendering equal service to all; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andis Kalnins, Mayor of the Township of Cranford do recognize the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as Municipal Clerks Week and extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Tara Rowley, and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.**

**Police Week**

**WHEREAS**, the Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15<sup>th</sup> as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as Police Week; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cranford Police Department has grown to be a modern and scientific law enforcement agency which unceasingly provides a vital public service, and plays an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the residents of Cranford; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of their police department and that members of our police department recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence or disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Andis Kalnins, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, call upon all citizens of the Township of Cranford and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to observe the week of May 10 through May 16, 2015 as **NATIONAL POLICE WEEK** with appropriate ceremonies in which all of our citizens may join in commemorating police officers, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that I call upon all citizens of the Township of Cranford to observe Friday, May 15, 2015 as **NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY** in honor of those peace officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

**INFORMAL MEETING**

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

**ORDINANCES – Introduction****Ordinance No. 2015-21:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2015-21 entitled, "AMENDED ORDINANCE

## AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ”

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

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D’Ambola, O’Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2015-21 to be held June 9, 2015.**

**Ordinance No. 2015-22:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2015-22 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 101 (DRUGS) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ”

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

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D’Ambola, O’Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2015-22 to be held June 9, 2015.**

## RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

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

**Resolution No. 2015-192:**

**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.

**Resolution No. 2015-193:**

**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 2015 in the sum of \$5,805.80 which is now available as a revenue from the Federal Bulletproof Partnership Grant, pursuant to the provision of the statute; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the like sum of \$5,805.80 is hereby appropriated under the caption “Federal Bulletproof Partnership Grant”; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the above is a result of a Federal grant of \$5,805.80 from the Federal Bulletproof Partnership Grant.

**Resolution No. 2015-194:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held May 5, 2015, hereby authorizes the submission of application to the Union County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund for a grant in connection with the 2015 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. 2015-195:**

**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 “Preserve 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. 2015-196:**

**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. 2015-197:**

**MOVED TO ROLL CALL VOTE (See below)**

**Resolution No. 2015-198:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes application to PSE&G in connection with its Events Funding program for grant funding for the fireworks display; 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. 2015-199:**

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. A-4325 supplementing chapter 4 of Title 54, R.S.54:4-65 and designated the "Transparent Tax Act of 2015" is being considered for adoption by the New Jersey State Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment would permit the local jurisdiction to print separate tax bills to each taxpayer, one showing the amount of property taxes due and payable for municipal tax purposes, the other shall state the amount of property taxes due and payable for county purposes, school purposes, fire district purposes, and for the purposes of any other special district on behalf of which the municipality collects property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, both bills shall include a brief tabulation showing the distribution of the total amount to be raised by taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, A-4325 would require the municipal tax collector to send notice of the pro rata share, if any, of the property tax appeal refunds paid by the municipality during the tax year to the county, school districts, and fire districts for inclusion in their annual budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, in the following tax year in which the refunds were paid, the municipal tax collector is then required to deduct the applicable pro rata share of the property tax refund from the amounts to be paid to the county, and each school and fire district; and

**WHEREAS**, these amendments, if adopted, will assist the general public to understand the tax bill, the structure of the taxes, and the level of support for each agency, and will further provide a more equitable structure to share the obligation of paying approved tax appeals as the title states, creates transparency in the tax supporting local assessments.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey, hereby supports Assembly Bill A-4325 amending Title 54:4-65 and urges the Legislature to approve and pass the bill for the reasons expressed herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of the NJ State Assembly, the members of the NJ Senate, and the Governor of the State of NJ, the New Jersey Stated League of Municipalities, the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, and all Union County municipalities.

**Resolution No. 2015-200:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015 that the Tax Collector be and hereby is authorized to refund the following payments of 2015 real estate taxes for reasons noted:

**Overpayment of 2015 Taxes Due to Homestead Rebate:**

Block 402 Lot 2

**Refund: \$ 270.03**

Elaine Dedousis

1333 Evergreen Avenue

Plainfield, N.J. 07060

Block 618 Lot 11

**Refund: \$ 739.98**

Robert & Joan Patrick

7 Cherokee Rd.

Cranford, N.J. 07016-3360

**Resolution No. 2015-201:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

**Redemption of Certificate# 14-00003**

Block 143 Lot 33  
 US Bank Custodian for PC4 Firsttrust Bank  
 50 South 16<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 2050  
 Philadelphia, Pa. 19102-2513

**Refund: \$ 826.06****Premium: \$ 900.00****Recorded vote:**

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola, O'Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**RESOLUTIONS – By Roll Call Vote**

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

**Resolution No. 2015-197:**

**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 Infrastructure and Municipal Aid grant program for 2015; 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.

**Recorded vote:**

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola and O'Connor

Nay: Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

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

**Resolution No. 2015-202:**

**WHEREAS**, at a meeting held April 8, 2014, the Township Committee adopted Resolution No. 2014-192 authorizing an award of contract to Integrated Technical Systems, 9 Whippany Rd. Bldg. A-1 Suite 6, Whippany, New Jersey, 07981 for the purchase of forty-four (44) multi-space pay stations at a low bid price of \$8,960 per pay station; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford has an opportunity to purchase demonstration pay stations from Integrated Technical Systems at a cost of \$5,000 per pay station; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015, that two (2) demonstration pay stations be purchased from Integrated Technical Systems at a cost of \$5,000 per pay station, for a total cost of \$10,000.

**Recorded vote:**

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola and O'Connor

Nay: Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

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

**Resolution No. 2015-203:**

**RESOLUTION AWARDED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE CRANFORD MUNICIPAL BUILDING PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED BY THE NJDCA, CDBG – DR 2013 GRANT AND THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.**

**WHEREAS**, Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 10:30 am, bids were opened in the presence of the Township Engineer, Carl P. O'Brien, PE, and the Township Clerk, Tara Rowley; and

**WHEREAS**, the low Base Bid plus Alternate Bid 'B', and Alternate Bid 'C', for the project is Mark Paving Company, Inc., 77 Cutter Dock Road, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095 with a total bid price of \$330,802.00

**WHEREAS**, Maser Consulting P.A. and other appropriate Township Officials have reviewed the bids and recommend award of contract for this project to Mark Paving Company, Inc; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer reviewed the available funding for the improvements and has certified that sufficient funds are available within the current and/or previously adopted budget for said purpose by way of **bond ordinance 2014-014**; and

**WHEREAS**, this Project is funded by NJDCA 2013 CDBG – DR Program and the Township of Cranford; and

**WHEREAS**, this project is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public in the Township of Cranford.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced construction project is awarded to Mark Paving Company, Inc., 77 Cutter Dock Road, Woodbridge, New Jersey, 07095 with a total bid price of \$330,802.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola and O'Connor

Nay: Mayor Kalnins and Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Leona Seufert, 22 East Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, announced that the Annual St. Anthony's Italian Festival in Roselle Park would be held in June. Provided information for those interested in attending.

James Shannon, 23 Tuxedo Place, discussed the recent sewer bill and the time period of October to March of water usage that is used to determine the amount of the sewer bill. Suggested the Township consider using the timeframe of November/December to May because water usage for landscaping can continue to be high during the month of September. Also discussed paving projects and cautioned the Township Committee to monitor the warranty for work being done because the time of year that paving is done can impact the end result.

Commissioner D'Ambola stated that he would follow up on the paving issue. Explained that some paving was done too far into the season and the Township plans to stop this from occurring this year. Also explained that there was a problem with the paving done on Brookside Place because of the fluctuation in temperatures.

Commissioner Hannen asked if Mr. Shannon installed new landscaping at his property which might have caused his water usage to increase more than usual.

Mr. Shannon feels the increase in water usage was a result of the summer weather.

Commissioner Hannen explained that some municipalities make allowances for landscaping maintenance in its sewer fees.

Donna Herran, 13 Carol Court, spoke on behalf of the residents of Carol Court and discussed the former rest area on the Garden State Parkway (Parkway) that borders Carol Court. Informed the Township Committee that this area is now being used as a staging area for construction work being done in the evenings and very early mornings. Discussed noise, lighting, and other issues that have impacted the residents in the area. Explained that she has contacted the Turnpike Authority and requested that a sound barrier be constructed, but her request was denied. Stated that her neighbors are requesting that a noise meter be installed in the area to monitor noise levels created by the equipment. Also requested that the Township contact the Turnpike Authority in an effort to resolve this issue.

Mayor Kalnins stated that the Township could place noise meters in the area.

Commissioner Hannen discussed a maintenance yard used by the Turnpike Authority in the Township of Clark that could be used for this equipment. Explained that the area in Clark would be more suitable for this equipment because it has the appropriate buffers and the houses are set back further. Feels the Township Committee might be able to adopt a resolution requesting that the Turnpike Authority move their operation to that maintenance yard once noise measurements are taken.

Dr. Frank Krause, 20 Pittsfield Street, discussed the removal of the Pepperidge tree. Feels citizens have concerns with the democratic process that was involved with the removal of the tree. Discussed the reports conducted by tree experts regarding the health of the Pepperidge tree and feels they were contradictory. Feels the report by Maser Consulting was the report that convinced the Township Committee to remove the tree. Stated that the photos he took indicated to him that there was no rot in the trunk or the branches. Feels the condition of the tree should have been investigated more carefully in order to make a more informed decision. Also does not feel the public had an opportunity to review all of the reports and feels the reports should have been posted on the Township's website before the tree was removed.

Mayor Kalnins stated that the reports had been conducted over the past six (6) years. Stated that he disagrees with Dr. Krause's statement that the reports were contradictory, as all of the reports indicated that the tree would fail.

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road, discussed the proposed improvements to the Municipal Building parking lot. Also discussed the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project, including the cost to residents and the parking spots that would be lost when the project is completed. Suggested that the pay stations currently being used in the area of the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project be repurposed instead of purchasing new pay stations.

Commissioner O'Connor explained that the purchase of the two (2) demonstration pay stations would be funded through unused funds from the bond ordinance adopted in 2014 for the purchase of pay stations. In addition, the demonstration pay stations would be installed at South Avenue and South Union Avenue to replace existing meters in that area. Also discussed the plan to convert existing parking spaces on South Avenue from metered spaces to permit spaces.

Commissioner D'Ambola discussed the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project and explained that the parking spaces that would be impacted by the project are not all in one area, but are spread out over several locations. Since there would still be parking in these areas, the existing pay stations must remain in their current locations. Also discussed the potential for reconfiguring Municipal Lot No. 3 to gain more parking spaces.

Ms. LaBrutto asked if the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project includes a new pick up and drop off area. Also discussed the Township's designation as a Transit Village and feels Cranford has received little benefit from this designation. In addition, Ms. LaBrutto discussed the condition of the train station. Feels the Township is making a large investment in pedestrian improvements and feels NJ Transit and the State of New Jersey need to make improvements to the train station.

Mayor Kalnins discussed NJ Transit's plans to improve the station and the fact that funding was reduced. Explained that the Township Committee is contacting its State legislators in an effort to have this funding restored. Mayor Kalnins also confirmed that the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project includes a new drop off and pickup area.

Commissioner D'Ambola discussed efforts by the Township Committee and the DMC to have this funding restored and urged residents to contact legislators. Feels the "squeaky wheel" gets results.

Ms. LaBrutto requested an update regarding the litigation involving Cranford Development Associates (CDA).

Township Attorney Dabulas discussed the additional motion filed by the Township with respect to the appeal of litigation involving CDA. Also discussed the appeal filed with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in connection with DEP's denial of the Township's request for a hearing as respects the issuance of a Flood Hazard Area permit to CDA. In addition, the Township is currently working to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling concerning affordable housing.

Michael Petrucci, 437 Brookside Place, discussed the removal of the Pepperidge tree and feels it was a difficult decision that had to be made. Expressed concern with a comment made by Commissioner Hannen that was quoted in NJ.com, in which Commissioner Hannen indicated that "the tree didn't have anyone speaking for it. It was up to us to speak for the tree". Discussed Commissioner Hannen's term as Mayor in 2013 and asked why no action was taken with respect to the Pepperidge tree in 2013 when Commissioner Hannen was Mayor.

Commissioner Hannen discussed an offer he made in 2012 to donate a fence to the Township to install around the Pepperidge tree. Also referenced discussions held by the Tree Advisory Board concerning fencing for the tree, and the Tree Advisory Board agreed that the type of fence Commissioner Hannen offered to donate would have been appropriate for the site. Also discussed the tree's ability to withstand recent storms and photos taken of the trunk and the branches after the tree was removed. Feels this all indicated that appropriate fencing would have provided the level of protection necessary from a public safety standpoint.

Mr. Petrucci thanked Commissioner Hannen for his comments and for his actions in 2012, but reiterated his question, asking why no action was taken in 2013 while Commissioner Hannen was Mayor.

Commissioner Hannen feels that many members of the Township Committee, current and prior, have spoken for the Pepperidge tree, but feels that on that particular evening he was the individual on the Township Committee that needed to lend his support for the tree.

Tina Helmstetter, 70 Burnside Avenue, feels the Township needs to move forward and focus on creating a memorial for the Pepperidge tree. Discussed her ideas for commemorating the tree.

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

## PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

### Township Clerk Tara Rowley

- Thanked the Township Committee for recognizing the role of the Municipal Clerk and for their continued support. Stated that she is honored to serve as Cranford's Municipal Clerk.

### Township Administrator Wall

- Stated that he would be contacting the NJ Turnpike Authority to request alternate staging areas to address the concerns of the residents of Carol Court;
- Discussed paving repairs needed on Tuxedo Place and other roads being considered for resurfacing;
- Discussed the letter the Township sent to NJ Transit requesting that full funding for improvements to the train station be restored. Read an excerpt from the letter in which a need for extensive structural and aesthetic repairs to the station was expressed. In addition, the letter also included a request that the Township's concerns be elevated and indicated that residents have been exceptionally tolerant of NJ Transit's use of Cranford as a storage area for unused trains.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

### Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Thanked Dr. Krause for his comments and professionalism. Also thanked Ms. Herran for her comments and Ms. Helmstetter for sharing her ideas to memorialize the Pepperidge tree;
- Discussed the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement Project and the loss of parking spaces in connection with the project. Also discussed Commissioner D'Ambola's comments concerning the potential for improvements to Municipal Lot No. 3 to help recoup those spaces however, the 2015 Capital Budget does not include funding for those improvements. Feels the additional funds allocated toward improvements to the Municipal Building parking lot could be used for Municipal Lot No. 3;
- Discussed the reduction in funding for train station improvements and expressed concern that there seems to be an issue with NJ Transit's ability to provide funds for the upkeep and maintenance that is their responsibility;
- Welcomed and thanked Former Mayor Kirwin for joining the Township Committee this evening and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Kirwin for the path he led for future Township Committees.

### Commissioner Robert D'Ambola

- Commended Eagle Scout Kean MacLelland on his achievement;
- Discussed Police Week and expressed concern with the recent tragic loss of a New York Police Department Officer;
- Discussed various events being hosted by the Friends of the Public Library and provided contact information for those interested in attending;
- Provided an update on the 2014 Paving Project which would be in full progress once the weather becomes a little warmer. Discussed a list of roads that are scheduled to be paved;
- Provided an update of development at Twin Oaks and 555 South Avenue and informed residents that both projects are near completion;
- Discussed the Pepperidge tree and the results of an examination that confirmed there was significant rot where the limbs connected to the tree's trunk. Informed residents that all of the reports indicated that the tree had rot and decay making failure of the tree probable. Explained that remediation would have altered the appearance of the tree with no guarantee from failure. Stated that it was necessary for the tree to be taken down for public safety reasons. Also discussed a tree that failed in Massachusetts today in a playground injuring two (2) children. Explained that the failure of this tree occurred on a day when the weather was normal, with no storm or wind;
- Discussed the Township Committee's request for input concerning a memorial for the Pepperidge tree and urged residents to submit ideas;
- Wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

### Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Discussed upcoming community events being organized by Cranford Community Connection. Provided information for those interested in participating;
- Discussed the removal of the Pepperidge tree and the fact that the decay in the supporting structure of the tree was extensive and deep into the trunk. Feels it was "an accident waiting to happen" that was prevented by removing the tree. Commended Commissioner D'Ambola for his efforts concerning the Pepperidge tree and stated that it is not easy to take a stand on an emotional issue. Feels the Township is lucky that nothing serious happened in Lincoln Park and feels it is important at this time to memorialize the tree in a positive way;
- Discussed the Police Department Unity Tour which coincides with Police Week and National Peace Officers Memorial Day. Discussed the Cranford officers that would be participating and explained that this event honors police officer that died in the line of duty;
- Discussed upcoming events being organized by public safety personnel and encouraged residents to get involved. Feels it is a great way to get to know public safety personnel;



- Discussed a recent article regarding development downtown. Welcomed residents that are moving into the newly created neighborhoods and encouraged them to get involved and make themselves a part of the community;
- Congratulated Eagle Scout Kean MacLelland on his achievement;
- Welcomed Former Mayor Kerwin and thanked him for “bringing a piece of Cranford history to life”;
- Wished her parents a Happy 63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary;
- Wished all a Happy Mother’s Day.

**Deputy Mayor Lisa M. Adubato**

- Congratulated Eagle Scout MacLelland on his achievement;
- Discussed the proclamation regarding Municipal Clerk’s Week and commended Township Clerk Tara Rowley and Deputy Township Clerk Heather Capone for their efforts;
- Discussed Police Week and commended the Police Department for their efforts. Extended best wishes to all first responders that they stay safe;
- Welcomed Former Mayor Kirwin and discussed an article she found online that was written at the time of Mayor Kirwin’s tenure as Mayor. Extended her thanks to Mayor Kirwin for his service to Cranford and wished him all the best;
- Wished all mothers a Happy Mother’s Day.

**Mayor Andis Kalnins**

- Congratulated Eagle Scout MacLelland on his achievement;
- Announced that the Relay for Life event would be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and provided information for those interested in participating;
- Announced that the Preeclampsia Walk would be held on May 17, 2015 and encouraged residents to support the event;
- Discussed funding for the Army Corp of Engineers flood study and announced that funding was received to complete the study. Extended his thanks to everyone involved for their support and discussed the public information sessions that would be scheduled to inform the public of options being considered in the study;
- Thanked former Mayor Kirwin for joining the Township Committee and thanked him for his service to Cranford. Presented former Mayor Kirwin with a Cranford key pin.

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tara Rowley, RMC  
Township Clerk

Date: May 5, 2015