

**The following notice appeared on the Township Committee's May 11, 2020 Workshop Meeting Agenda**

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD  
SUNSHINE NOTICE  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 11, 2020**

Due to the ongoing public health emergency, and the Governor's Executive Orders related to the same, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford will conduct all meetings remotely and by electronic means for the foreseeable future. The Township Committee will continue to meet on their regularly scheduled meeting dates and times.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") and consistent with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services guidelines, the Township Committee Meetings will be open to the public by electronic means. Residents can view the meetings on TV-35, and via livestream on [TV-35's Facebook Page](#).

Residents who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in any scheduled public hearing should follow the instructions and complete the registration form available at the Township of Cranford's website at <https://www.cranfordnj.org/minutes-and-agendas>.

The Minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **May 11, 2020** at **7:01** p.m. remotely and by electronic means.

THIS MEETING IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE "OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT" AS ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY E-MAILING THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS TO THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD, BY POSTING SUCH ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE ON A BULLETIN BOARD IN THE TOWN HALL RESERVED FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE FILING OF SAID NOTICE WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK OF CRANFORD. FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

Present: Mayor Patrick Giblin  
Deputy Mayor Kathleen Prunty  
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.  
Commissioner Jean-Albert Maisonneuve  
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: None

The Township Committee held the Workshop Meeting by telephone conference (as per the public notice, remotely and by electronic means.)

Administrator Jamie Cryan, Township Attorneys Ryan Cooper and Francine Kaplan, Downtown Management Corporation Director Gabe Bailer and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Giblin opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that no email requests to join the Workshop Meeting had been received from members of the public. Hearing no comments, Mayor Giblin closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

### **Closed Session**

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

### **Resolution No. 2020-97.12**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee will go into closed session to discuss the following, the minutes of which will be released at some time in the future at the discretion of the Township Committee:

### **Legal Matters**

- Legal Update

### **Contractual Matters**

- Legal Budget – Affordable Housing
- Affordable Housing - 201 Chestnut Street and 100-126 South Avenue

### **MINUTE REVIEW**

- Closed Session Minutes of April 27<sup>th</sup>

#### **Recorded vote:**

Aye : Mayor Giblin, Deputy Mayor Prunty, Commissioners Hannen, Maisonneuve & O'Connor  
Nay : None  
Abstained : None  
Absent : None

On motion of Commissioner Maisonneuve, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:00 p.m.

Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) Director Gabe Bailer joined the teleconference/videoconference.

### **Outdoor Public Plazas**

In light of the COVID-19 public health crisis' effect on Cranford businesses, Mr. Bailer spoke about opening three street areas in Cranford's downtown area, including sections of Eastman Street (both near Post Office Plaza and the Clock Plaza) and Alden Street. Mr. Bailer noted that the restaurants are expected to have less headcount due to the advent of social distance seating. Mayor Giblin stated that there had been preliminary discussions with the Police Department regarding this proposal. Further discussion ensued regarding concrete barriers, water barriers, whether off-duty police officers would be needed and chairs and table equipment. The Mayor stated that he wanted 1) the residents to feel safe and 2) the restaurants to have the increased ability to support themselves. Commissioner Maisonneuve suggested that consideration be given to streets with no direct sunlight as outdoor dining could be too warm for some people. Deputy Mayor Prunty inquired whether consideration had been given to an area off of South Avenue. Mayor Giblin stated that the goal of this presentation was to determine if the Township Committee would consider the opening of streets. He stated that if the answer was yes then Mr. Bailer would work with Mr. Maisonneuve and the DMC on this matter. Commissioner O'Connor stated that she thought this was a good option. Commissioner Hannen suggested that table and clean-up costs be identified. He also suggested that only one street be opened. Deputy Mayor Prunty requested clarification regarding whether there would be wait staff service and needed cleanup. Discussion ensued. Mayor Giblin requested Mr. Bailer speak with both members of the Police Department and members of the DMC Board and then return to the Township Committee's May 26<sup>th</sup> Workshop Meeting with a solidified plan.

### **Small Business Recovery - Downtown, Centennial Village, Raritan Road and throughout Cranford – Commissioner O'Connor**

In light of the COVID-19 public health crisis, Commissioner O'Connor spoke about the importance of getting Cranford businesses "back on track". She stated that the businesses were looking for guidance from the Township Committee and the Police and Health departments on how to move forward. Commissioner O'Connor spoke about her concern for the businesses around Cranford including in the Downtown, Centennial Village and Raritan Road areas. She spoke about her communications with Zoning Officer Jason Bottcher pertaining to conditional use and outdoor space matters. Commissioner O'Connor suggested that the Township consider options such as parklets. She inquired how we could assist non-food related businesses such as salons. Commissioner O'Connor suggested that we gather interested people to develop a business recovery plan and stated that it was important for the community to know that the Township was being proactive. Deputy Mayor Prunty noted that the Planning Board had recently discussed the same matter. Discussion ensued.

### **Capital Ordinance Elevation Project**

Commissioner Hannen spoke about the capital ordinance which would be considered at the following evening's Official Meeting pertaining to the elevation of homes at various locations. Commissioner Hannen stated that a construction manager was needed for this endeavor. Administrator Jamie Cryan stated that the proposed ordinance was very similar to an ordinance the Township had adopted in 2012. Discussion ensued.

### **Municipal Pools**

Deputy Mayor Prunty stated that the Township was awaiting guidance from the State regarding the pool opening in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. She stated that the Swim Pool Utility Committee had met during the previous week and had discussed pool membership revenues received thus far (approximately \$80,000,) proposed ways to move forward, i.e., not opening the pools this summer or opening one pool, having members of the public pay for admission on a daily basis and requesting that members of the public bring their own lawn chairs to the pool. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Hannen suggested that the Township conduct a swim pool revenue analysis. Mayor Giblin stated that it was important that the residents understand the pools' financials. He stated his concern for the residents' mental health in light of the pool situation. Deputy Mayor Prunty noted that the Swim Pool Utility Committee had moved their quarterly meeting schedule to a bi-weekly meeting schedule.

### **COVID-19 Public Health Crisis Effect on Municipal Budget**

A brief discussion ensued regarding the School Board's receipt of Federal government CARES funding. Mayor Giblin then spoke about the Township's tracking of COVID-19 expenses and the expected Township request for CARES reimbursement for cleaning and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) expenses.

## **Rahway River Mayors Council**

Mayor Giblin stated that the replacement of dam gates and the desilting (of deposited sediment) project had been completed at Droescher's Dam and Hansel Dam. He also noted that Senator Corey Booker had successfully worked to insert important language into the Water Resources Development Act. Mayor Giblin stated that Congressman Malinowski was now working to get similar language into the Water Resources Development Act.

## **Review Official Meeting Agenda**

Mayor Giblin inquired whether there were any questions regarding the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda. Members of the Township Committee had no feedback.

## **Minute Approval – Closed Session Minutes of April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Commissioner O'Connor made a motion to adopt the April 27<sup>th</sup> Closed Session Minutes, as amended (specifically replacing the name of Deputy Mayor Dooley in the motion to adjourn with Deputy Mayor Prunty's name.) Commissioner Maisonneuve seconded the motion. Mayor Giblin, Deputy Mayor Prunty, Commissioners Hannen, Maisonneuve and O'Connor voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Commissioner Reports**

Mayor Giblin thanked members of the FMBA (Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association), PBA (Police Benevolent Association) and FLAG (Front Line Appreciation Group) and residents who supported the May 9<sup>th</sup> FLAG of Cranford, Cranford PBA and FMBA Food Drive. He stated that over 300 cars participated in the Food Drive and spoke about the residents' generosity.

## **Public Comments**

Mayor Giblin opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that no email requests to join the Workshop Meeting had been received from members of the public. Hearing no comments, Mayor Giblin closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Prunty and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue  
Township Clerk

Dated: May 11, 2020