

The following notice appeared on the Township Committee's January 25, 2021 Workshop Agenda and was read by Mayor Miller Prunty at the start of the Meeting

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
SUNSHINE NOTICE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
January 25, 2021**

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 the January 25th Workshop Meeting remotely and by electronic means.

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 Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means. Residents can view the meetings on TV-35, YouTube CranfordTV35 and via livestream on [TV-35's Facebook Page](#).

Members of the public who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in any scheduled public hearing can access the videoconference at <https://meet.google.com/rkv-qdpj-nty>, or by telephone at 213-634-2478, with the access code: 367524470#

Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of a meeting, which will be read during the public portion of the meeting. Written public comments submitted prior to the meeting must identify the name and address of the commenter. No anonymous comments will be accepted. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail with the subject line "Public Comment-Township of Cranford Township Committee- Meeting Date of ____" to the Clerk of the Township Committee, Patricia Donahue at clerk@cranfordnj.org or by mail addressed to: Patricia Donahue, Municipal Clerk, Township of Cranford, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. E-mailed comments must be received at least eight (8) hours prior to the meeting. Mailed comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

The Minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **January 25, 2021** at **7:00 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 Kathleen Miller Prunty
Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews*
Commissioner Jason Gareis
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: None

Deputy Mayor Andrews arrived to the Township Committee Meetings at 7:15 p.m.

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Administrator Jamie Cryan and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

Public Comments

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

Referencing recently-adopted Resolution No. 2021-105, Mr. Brian Lopez of 29 Wade Avenue Mr. Lopez spoke about the Township Committee's decision to move the Township Committee Meetings from in-person meetings to virtual meetings. Mr. Lopez asked Mayor Miller Prunty about the number of residents diagnosed with the Coronavirus and the number of residents with Coronavirus who were in long-term facilities. Mayor Miller Prunty responded that she didn't have those figures. Mr. Lopez further elaborated about the Township Committee's decision to move to virtual meetings.

Mayor Miller Prunty asked Township Clerk if she had received public comments' correspondence. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that no public comments' mail had arrived via the U.S. Post Service and one (1) email had been received by the Clerk's Office email account (from Ms. Morgan Dow.) Township Attorney Ryan Cooper read aloud the email received by Ms. Morgan Dow:

From: Morgan Dow <business.morgandow@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 11:57 AM

To: Clerk <Clerk@cranfordnj.org>

Subject: Public Comment - Township of Cranford Township Committee - Meeting Date of 1/26/21

I have a few questions that should be thought about in depth before this ordinance is even brought to the committee for voting.

If a blood relative works in the assessors office, that means i cannot apply for a job to the building department, business and economic development department, the police department, downtown Cranford, the engineering department, the finance department, the fire department, the first aid squad, the health department, the municipal courts, the office of planning and zoning, the pool and fitness center, public works, the recreation and parks department, recycling, the tax collector department, the town administrator, the township clerk, the township committee, the traffic bureau, or tv 35?

It seems as though this would be taking away equal opportunity of employment for someone based on the fact that a relative may work in a completely different department.

If a blood relative has worked for any of these departments, but is retired. would this mean that I would be allowed to apply or because a relative at some point had worked for the town that it completely disqualifies me from applying?

Does this extend to the recreation and pools? If so, does this mean that individuals 16+ that have a relative working in any of these departments may not apply to work for a summer job in these departments?

Are committees that are appointed by the township affected?

If you are going based on the definition of nepotism, the practice among those with power or influence of favoring relatives OR FRIENDS, especially by giving them jobs; then every person on any committee in this town should not have been hired seeing as everyone knows someone. It's called life.

As a resident of Cranford their entire life and from someone who has been very involved in the town since I was a teen, I am failing to see how adding this anti nepotism ordinance will bring good to the town. In my eyes, you are taking away opportunities from people that want to serve and give back to their community all because their relative happens to work there too? Seems a little discriminatory to me, especially if you are a qualified individual. I am not saying a relative should get the job over someone else more qualified, but you have to admit that completely disqualifying them from applying seems a bit regressive.

Sincerely,

Morgan Dow

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

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2021-98.2

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

- Legal Update
- Affordable Housing - Fair Share Housing Settlement
- Affordable Housing – 750 Walnut Avenue

Personnel

- Department of Public Works
- Downtown Management Corporation (DMC)
- Building Department

Minute review

- Closed Session Minutes of January 12, 2021

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Hannen, & O'Connor
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

On motion of Deputy Mayor Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 8:05 p.m.

375 Centennial Avenue Update - DMR Architects

Mr. Jeffrey Curry of DMR Architects was present.

Mr. Jeffrey Curry stated that seventy-five (75) per cent of the architectural drawings were completed for the 375 Centennial Avenue renovation project. He noted that the drawings included work which pertained to LED lighting layouts, the courts and the demolition of 1) the interior vestibule and 2) the locker rooms. Mr. Curry stated that upcoming tasks included a walk-through of the building with representatives from the Township scheduled for the following day, HVAC design and the selection of finished materials such as paint and tile, which would be facilitated by a "color board". Mr. Curry noted that the Township would likely go out to bid for further renovation-related services at the end of February. Commissioner Hannen inquired about the project's budget. Mr. Curry responded that the Township was still on "budget." Administrator Jamie Cryan elaborated briefly about the planned recreation spaces in the renovated building such as areas for pickle ball, basketball, box lacrosse, volleyball and possibly indoor soccer. Mr. Curry spoke about divider curtains and lighting. Mayor Miller

Prunty stated that she would like the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board to review the plans. Deputy Mayor Andrews stated he agreed with a Recreation and Parks Advisory Board review.

Edward Gill Apartments Proposed Generator

Township Attorney Ryan Copper spoke about a request received from the owners of the Edward Gill Apartments regarding a proposed generator at the vicinity of Winans Avenue and Meeker Avenue. Mr. Cooper noted that the land at Edward Gill Apartments was Township-owned, and therefore, the Township could waive Planning Board processes and instead authorize a Planning Board non-binding advisory review. Mr. Cooper stated that such action would assist the Housing Board in that the fees associated with the generator application would be reduced and the variance requirement would be waived. Discussion ensued including discussion on how disruptive the new generator would be (Deputy Mayor Andrews) and whether “surrounding-property” notices would allow for the opportunity for sufficient feedback (Commissioner Gareis.) Mr. Cooper noted that the proposed generator was expected to serve as an emergency generator. Mayor Miller Prunty suggested that the Township receive more information regarding this proposal. Commissioner O’Connor requested information regarding the expected generator cycling (i.e., noise.)

Cranford First Aid Squad (CFAS) Update

Cranford First Aid Squad (CFAS) Captain Matt Schrier and President Kent Lucas were present.

Mr. Lucas provided a status report of the Cranford First Aid Squad (CFAS). He stated that the CFAS was able to staff every shift. Mr. Lucas noted that there was a larger need for CFAS to participate in mutual aid calls. He spoke about the number of CFAS calls which involved cardiac arrests. Captain Matt Schrier spoke about some of the technology used in the CFAS, i.e., tracking devices, a stationery scanner and portable scanners. He spoke about the CFAS’ need for eight (8) portable radios. Mr. Lucas spoke about the need for updated radios as the CFAS can’t communicate with the Cranford Fire Department with their current (older) radios. Mayor Miller Prunty inquired how many radios were needed. Mr. Lucas responded that eight (8) radios and two (2) mobile devices were needed. Deputy Mayor Andrews inquired if the CFAS members were able to get the Coronavirus vaccine. Mr. Lucas responded that CFAS members were able to receive the vaccine. He then spoke about the CFAS cadets and noted that CFAS cadets do not go on Coronavirus-related calls. Members of the Township Committee thanked Captain Schrier and President Lucas and the CFAS for their service.

Purchase of 2021 Fire Department Vehicle

Fire Chief Czeh spoke about the Fire Department’s request to buy a new vehicle under the Cranford Police Cooperative Program. Chief Czeh spoke about revenue generated by the Fire Department through inspections and noted that such fees are denoted in the Fire Department Budget under “Uniform Fire Code.” He stated that Uniform Fire Code monies can only be spent as specified by New Jersey State Statute and that the procurement of vehicles for Fire Department use was allowed under such statute. Chief Czeh stated that the Fire Department

planned to make vehicle purchases every two (2) years. He noted that the vehicle being replaced would then be transferred to another Township Department in need of a vehicle. Chief Czeh also noted that such procurement would occur without using Capital Budget monies. Discussion ensued including discussion as to whether the purchase was taxpayer-funded (Commissioner Hannen,) amount of annual revenues brought in under the Uniform Fire Code (Commissioner Gareis,) and the reasoning behind the selection of a Tahoe vehicle (Deputy Mayor Andrews.) Township Committee consensus was reached to move forward with the purchase of the 2021 Fire Department vehicle.

Township Committee Meeting Schedule

Mayor Miller Prunty reviewed the proposed resolution (Resolution No. 2021-122) pertaining to the amendment of the 2021 Township Committee Meeting schedule which would be considered at the following evening's Official Meeting. She explained that the updated resolution pertained to the Monday evening Township Committee Meetings, specifically that the Commissioners would no longer move to Closed Session at 7 p.m. Commissioner Hannen suggested that the resolution be updated with Conference and Official Meeting times specified, i.e., start times of 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively Township Clerk Patricia Donahue requested confirmation that TV35 would only televise the Tuesday night Official Meetings at 8:00 p.m. and TV35 would not televise the Monday evening Township Committee Meetings and the Tuesday evening Conference Meetings.

Proposed Nepotism Ordinance

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the introduction of Ordinance 2021-01, pertaining to anti-nepotism practices, had been pulled off the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda so that the Township could ascertain how other municipalities were addressing anti-nepotism practices. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the interest in an anti-nepotism ordinance arose during the State's Best Practices review last October. Administrator Jamie Cryan spoke about outreach to professional organizations regarding other municipalities' practices regarding this issue (including the New Jersey League of Municipalities.) Mr. Cryan stated that he would reach out to neighboring municipalities regarding this issue. Commissioner Hannen noted that the State did not require such ordinance.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Mayor Miller Prunty inquired whether members of the Township Committee had any feedback or comments regarding the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda. There were no comments from members of the Township Committee.

Minute Approval - Closed Session Minutes of January 12, 2021

Commissioner O'Connor made a motion to adopt the January 12, 2021 Closed Session Minutes. Commissioner Gareis seconded the motion. Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews and Commissioners Gareis, Hannen and O'Connor voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of January 12, 2021.

Public Comments

Mr. Brian Lopez of 29 Wade Avenue inquired about the removal of Dr. Chapman from the Emergency Management Council. Mr. Lopez noted that Mr. Juan Carlos Nordello moved to Cranford in June 2019. Mr. Lopez spoke about Nordello's qualifications. Mr. Lopez elaborated about a review he conducted of Mr. Nordello's social media accounts. Mr. Lopez then stated that the Township needs public meetings (i.e., in person.) Mayor Miller Prunty stated that Mr. Lopez had provided public comments for five (5) minutes. and therefore, his time to speak had ended.

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

On motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk

Dated: January 25, 2021