

The following notice appeared on the Township Committee's April 26, 2021 Workshop Agenda and was read by Mayor Miller Prunty at the start of the Meeting

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
SUNSHINE NOTICE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
April 26, 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 April 26th 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 **April 26, 2021** at **7:03 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.

Absent: Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Administrator Jamie Cryan, Township Clerk Patricia Donahue, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson and Department of Public Works Superintendent were present.

Public Comments

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

Ms. Gina Black of 34 Columbia Avenue stated that she noticed that the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) matter was on the Closed Session Agenda. She stated that hopefully this matter would be discussed in an open forum Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the RFEI's received were not considered bids. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment RFEI's would be discussed in Closed Session, specifically to review the process and next legal steps. Ms. Black inquired when there would be a public meeting for the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment matter. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that such a meeting would be announced in early June after the Township's professionals reviewed the received RFEI's.

Mayor Miller Prunty noted that a meeting would be held on May 6th pertaining to development at 750 Walnut Avenue.

Commissioner Hannen inquired who would be on the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment RFEI Review Committee. Mayor Miller Prunty responded that members of the Review Committee would be decided that evening.

Mr. Rob Ramirez of TAPinto Cranford and Michigan Avenue in Kenilworth inquired about the County's 2021 Infrastructure and Municipal Aid Grant Program announcement as it pertained to the \$90,000 award to the Township of Cranford. Township Administrator Jamie Cryan and Patricia Donahue responded.

Mayor asked the Township Clerk if she had received public comments. Township Clerk stated that two (2) letters had been received that day from Dr. Frank Krause and Ms. Barbara Krause. Ms. Donahue read both letters aloud (such letters are attached to the end of these Minutes.)

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

Conservation Center – Permit Stickers and Landscaper Use

Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Erik Hastrup spoke about the car stickers used to gain access to the Conservation Center. He noted that the 2021 stickers had been updated with a baseball logo. DPW Director Hastrup stated that he was seeking clarification as to whether a

resident could receive a second sticker upon request as had been a previous-year policy. Discussion ensued as to whether the Township Code allowed for a second sticker distribution to a resident, why the second sticker distribution policy had changed, whether residents were seeking a second sticker and the new placement of license plate information on the sticker.

Mr. Hastrup then spoke about landscaper use of the Conservation Center, noting that landscapers were not allowed to utilize the Conservation Center.

Discussion ensued regarding the current capacity at the Conservation Center, the type of waste that could be dropped off at the Conservation Center, whether there were a lot of requests for a second sticker, whether the Conservation Center staff was checking license plate information, and whether access changes would require changing the Township's Code

Members of the Township Committee each recommended that the Township Code not be revised, i.e., residents can receive two stickers for Conservation Center access.

Special Pay Plan

Mr. Bruce Linger of Lincoln Financial Advisors and Mr. Kurt Miller of US Bencor were present.

Mr. Linger stated that Lincoln Financial Advisors had partnered with US Bencor in the offering of a sick day plan called a Special Pay Plan. He stated that the Special Pay Plan provided benefits for both the offering entity and the participants.

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the Special Pay Plan. He elaborated about the mechanics of the plan and elaborated about its key benefits. Mr. Miller stated that there were currently 400,000 participants enrolled in the Special Pay Plan. He stated that New Jersey was a new territory for them and noted that the municipality of Roxbury was a plan participant.

Chief Financial Officer Lavona Patterson spoke about the Township's practice of encumbering funds for accumulated employee time, noting that approximately \$900,000 to \$1 million in funding was set aside at the end of each year. Ms. Patterson inquired if the plan required mandatory enrollment of all Township employees. Mr. Miller responded that it would require mandatory enrollment. Ms. Patterson inquired about plan regulation. Commissioner Hannen inquired whether the savings accumulated at current dollar amount or retirement date dollar amount. Ms. Patterson inquired about employees who would need to use their sick days in the case of an unexpected emergency such as a heart attack. Mr. Miller responded that employees usually had a twenty (20) sick day "cushion" of available time. Mr. Miller stated that the Special Pay Plan saved school districts in Florida approximately \$100 million a year.

Road Project Status and Schedule

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that this Agenda item would be moved to the following evening's Conference Meeting Agenda.

Low Flying Aircraft Noise

Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about the aircraft noise in town. She asked members of the Township Committee if they had any feedback on the following evening's proposed resolution (Resolution No. 2021-195) regarding the Township's opposition to low flying aircraft and the proposed letter to New Jersey's Senators and Congressman Malinowski. Members of the Township Committee indicated they were satisfied to move forward with proposed Resolution No. 2021-195 and the proposed letter to the Port Authority.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Mayor Miller Prunty noted that a Relay for Life resolution (proposed Resolution No. 2021-198) had been added to the Official Meeting's Agenda (for the following evening.)

Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about proposed late additions for the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda which would pertain to the area on Eastman Avenue between North Avenue West and Miln Street. She stated that she had spoken to members of staff in the Governor's

Office regarding this matter. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that an ordinance would need to be considered regarding this matter. Discussion ensued.

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue requested clarification of the following evening's public hearing and consideration of Ordinance No. 2021-07. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper responded that the consideration of Ordinance 2021-07 would be carried for consideration to the Township Committee's next Official Meeting and briefly elaborated.

Commissioner Hannen requested that the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) matter be discussed in Workshop session and not in Closed Session. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that he advised against discussing the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment RFEI matter in Workshop (Open) Session. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that there would be multiple and ample opportunities for review of the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment RFEI matter.

Minute Approval - Closed Session Minutes of March 29th, March 30th, April 12th and April 13, 2021

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that Commissioner O'Connor (who was absent from the Workshop Meeting) had requested that consideration of the March 30th Closed Session Minutes be carried until the following evening.

Commissioner Hannen requested that consideration of the April 13, 2021 Closed Session Minutes be postponed.

Committee consensus was reached to carry consideration of the Closed Session Minutes of March 29th, March 30th, April 12th and April 13th until the following evening.

Closed Session

On motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

Resolution No. 2021-98.12

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

- Legal Update

Contractual

- North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI)

Personnel

- Building Department
- Clerk's Department

Minute review

- Closed Session Minutes of March 29th, March 30th, April 12th and April 13, 2021

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis & O'Connor

Nay: Commissioner Hannen

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner Gareis and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:33 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner Gareis and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 26, 2021

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk