

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 6, 2015** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 108.

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, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE WESTFIELD LEADER, 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 WILL 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

*Deputy Mayor Adubato arrived at 7:40 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Victor Bary 208 Holly Street, addressed the Township Committee on the subject of the Pepperidge tree. Discussed the historical significance of the tree and informed the Township Committee of a ceremony that was held in 1964 dedicating the Pepperidge tree as the Official Tree of Cranford, and provided a copy of the program from that ceremony to the Township Clerk. Requested that the Township Committee preserve the tree if at all possible.

Tina Helmstetter, 70 Burnside Avenue, discussed seminars she attended regarding hazardous trees. Feels she did not adequately share the knowledge she acquired at these seminars or the Tree Advisory Board and the Township Committee would have made a more informed decision regarding the removal of the Pepperidge tree. Discussed her efforts to gather a group of residents to attend the Township Committee meeting on April 7, 2015 to express their support for the preservation of the Pepperidge tree. Provided copies of the report conducted by Bartlett Tree Experts concerning the Pepperidge tree and asked the Township Committee to consider its preservation.

Barbara Krause, 20 Pittsfield Street, thanked the Township Committee for attending the award ceremony for the restoration of the historic murals and commended Mayor Kalnins for his speech during the ceremony. Discussed other individuals involved with the restoration project that could not attend the ceremony and requested that they be recognized at a Township Committee meeting.

Mrs. Krause also informed the Township Committee that the gas company marked her street for utility work. Discussed existing gas lines and requested clarification as to their age.

Township Engineer O'Brien discussed various reasons for the street being marked and explained that it does not necessarily mean that work would be conducted on that street. Informed Mrs. Krause that he would follow up with the gas company.

Mrs. Krause commended former Mayor Daniel Aschenbach and Mayor Kalnins for their involvement with the Mayors Council on the Rahway River Watershed.

Mrs. Krause also discussed proposed renovations to the PSE&G substation and stated that she is hopeful that the project would move forward.

Mayor Kalnins informed Mrs. Krause that the Township has met with PSE&G several times to discuss the project.

Mrs. Krause expressed her concern with the removal of the Pepperidge Tree and discussed several studies that were conducted regarding the condition of the tree.

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

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Payment of Bills:

Commissioner Hannen discussed the approval of the bills list and feels there is a policy matter that requires discussion in executive session.

Resolution No. 2015-171: American National Red Cross Agreement

Discussion held regarding the agreement between the Township of Cranford and the American National Red Cross for use of the Cranford Community Center as an emergency shelter in the event of a disaster. Deputy Mayor Adubato stated that she would like to review the amended agreement before moving forward with the resolution authorizing execution of the agreement.

Further discussion April 7, 2015 Conference Meeting.

Engineering Update

Township Engineer O'Brien provided an update regarding various engineering projects as follows:

North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement project

Township Engineer O'Brien provided an update of the North Avenue Station Pedestrian Improvement project. Informed the Township Committee that a resolution authorizing a notice to bidders would be scheduled for adoption on April 21, 2015.

2014 Paving Program

Township Engineer O'Brien discussed the status of the 2014 Paving Program and the remaining roads to be paved as part of the program. Informed the Township Committee that an updated schedule would be provided later this week.

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program

Township Engineer O'Brien discussed the status of projects being funded through the Community Development Block-Disaster Recovery Program. Stated that bids for both the Carpenter Place Detention Basin and Municipal Building Parking Lot Improvements were received and contracts are scheduled for award on April 21, 2015.

Stormwater Management Report

Township Engineer O'Brien informed the Township Committee that he is working with the Department of Public Works to finalize the Storm Water Management Report.

Northeast Quadrant Stormwater Management Plan

Township Engineer O'Brien stated that there is no update to provide at this time with respect to the Northeast Quadrant Storm Water Management Project.

NJ Transit

Township Engineer O'Brien discussed the status of improvements by NJ Transit to the train station's platform and informed the Township Committee that funding for the project was reduced. Discussed additional items that were scheduled for improvement such as the roof and stairwell of the station and explained that these items have been removed from the project because of the reduction in funding.

Township Administrator Wall suggested the Township contact NJ Transit officials and legislators to request the reinstatement of funding for the project.

The Township Committee was agreeable to Township Administrator Wall's suggestion. Township Administrator Wall to draft a letter and provide to the Mayor and Township Committee for review.

Commissioner Hannen requested clarification of storm water management measures that are being taken in connection with improvements to the Municipal Building Parking Lot.

Township Engineer O'Brien discussed items that were included in the specifications as an alternate bid.

Proposed 2015 Capital Budget

Mayor Kalnins discussed the Township's current debt level and his recommended target for sustainable debt payments.

A draft capital budget to be prepared for discussion at the April 20, 2015 Workshop Meeting.

Request to install fence in Township right-of-way

Commissioner Hannen did not participate in discussion due to a potential conflict of interest.

Discussion was held regarding a request to install a fence in the Township's right-of-way at 21 Norman Place.

Township Attorney Dabulas to follow up with Planning and Zoning Director Robert Hudak for further clarification of the request and report back to the Township Committee at the April 7, 2015 Conference meeting.

Request to use Township property for grand opening event-Neos Zoe

The Township Committee discussed a request by Neos Zoe to use a portion of the sidewalk at 230 Centennial Avenue for various events related to the grand opening of its business.

The Township Committee was agreeable to the request.

Minute approval – Closed Session Minutes of March 23, 24, 30 and 31, 2015

Discussion to be held in closed session.

Workshop meeting of March 23, 2015

Commissioner Hannen feels the minutes should indicate that there was a 3/2 vote against a proposed salary increase for Mayor and Township Committee.

The Township Committee was agreeable to amending the Workshop Minutes of March 23, 2015 to reflect the vote for a proposed salary increase for the Mayor and Township Committee members.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Hannen

- Informed the Township Committee of a former resident of Cranford who moved to an age restricted housing facility in an adjacent municipality. The former resident is seeking membership to the Cranford pool at a resident's rate, due to the number of years he resided in Cranford. Recreation and Parks/Swim Pool Utility Director Stephen Robertazzi suggested the Township Committee consider charging the resident's rate for those who were residents of Cranford for twenty-five (25) years or more.

The Township Committee was agreeable to the request.

Commissioner O'Connor

- Announced that Daniel Czech was selected as the Fire Chief and commended all of the officers that participated in the process. Stated that the appointment would be authorized at the meeting of April 21, 2015.
- Discussed a joint effort of the Cranford Community Connection and the Municipal Alliance to coordinate a "family day" in Cranford. This event would include a 5K race and a barbeque by members of the Fire Department and Police Department.
- Discussed the Pedal Paddle Fun event to be held in April.

Commissioner D'Ambola

- Announced that the Annual River Cleanup would be held on April 25, 2015.

Deputy Mayor Adubato

- Commended the subcommittee on the selection process for Fire Chief. Stated that she was also impressed with all of the candidates.

Mayor Kalnins

- Discussed a meeting he had with President McMenamin of Union County College, at which he was informed that there were no plans for a sports field at the Cranford Campus.
- Discussed the decision to remove the Pepperidge Tree and the fact that it no longer appears in the national registry of oldest trees in the country. Assured residents that efforts would be taken to commemorate the tree.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Barbara Krause, 20 Pittsfield Street, requested clarification of a proposal to install a fence at Municipal Parking Lot No. 1.

Commissioner D'Ambola discussed the Downtown District Management Corporation's plan to install a fence around the parking lot.

Mrs. Krause suggested the Township Committee include funds in the capital budget for the installation of a fence around the Pepperidge Tree.

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

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

Resolution No. 2015-14:

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:

Contractual

- Teamsters Local 469 (white collar)
- Field lease agreements

Legal

- CDA v. Township of Cranford
- Edan Ben Elazar v. Macrietta Cleaners, Inc.

Minute Review

- Closed Session Minutes of March 23, 24, 30 and 31, 2015

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:25 PM.

Minute approval – Closed Session Minutes of March 23, 24, 30 and 31, 2015

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner D'Ambola and passed, the Closed Session Minutes of March 23, 24, 30 and 31, 2015 were approved by the indicated vote of the Township Committee.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Mayor Kalnins and Commissioner Hannen departed the meeting at 9:25 PM due to potential conflicts of interest.

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to closed session at 9:25 PM.

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:45 PM.

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Dated: April 6, 2015