

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET MEETING
REMOTE ACCESS – VIA ZOOM
JANUARY 29, 2022

The Township Committee Budget Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 9:00 a.m. viz Zoom. Answering present to the roll call were Township Committee members: Eman El-Badawi, Michael Ferrante, Matthew Scott, Evelyn Spann and Mayor Rogers. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO; and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Ms. Rubin read the following Open Public Meetings Act statement;

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provide:

Posted on January 21, 2022 on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.

Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on January 21, 2022.

Filed on January 21, 2022 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's website and remains on file for public inspection.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Ms. Rubin also read the following statement on public comment;

Statement on Public Comment during Remote Meeting

The public may electronically submit questions or comments to twpcclerk@cranbury-nj.com or in written letter form via mail to Cranbury Township Town Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled Committee Meeting. Name, address and phone or email must be included. Timely submitted questions or public comment shall be read aloud and addressed during the public meeting. Duplicate written comments may be summarized and noted for the record in a consistent manner.

To eliminate background noise so that all meeting participants may hear, please mute your microphone and remain in listening mode only. The Clerk will place all remote attendees on this platform on mute as well and will manage the order of the remote participant's comments. During public comment period(s), the Clerk will make an announcement that any remote participant seeking to comment must signify their intent by using the "raise hand" feature on Zoom. The Clerk will then unmute each participant individually when it is their designated time to speak. If you do not have a question or comment, please keep your microphone muted. Please unmute yourself only at the direction of the Clerk. All remote users must state their name and address at the beginning of his/her public comment. Each speaker will have **three** (3) minutes to comment.

Should a member of the public using the Zoom platform become disruptive, that individual will be kept on mute and receive a warning that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking or removed from the meeting entirely. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to speak.

The Township Committee will facilitate a dialogue with all commenters to the extent permitted by Zoom technology.

Capital Plan -

Police - Lt. DeChiara and Chief Owens discussed requests made within the Capital Budget. All were approved by the Township Committee. Discussion on electronic vehicles and EV stations were tabled to 2023 budget discussions.

Affordable Housing-Eden – Mark Berkowsky, CHA, was present for the discussion. He explained the process needed to move forward which will include variances needed from the Zoning Board. Ms. Marabello conducted a straw poll on whether to proceed in 2022 or 2023 with the majority of the members voting to proceed in 2022 by a 3-2 (Spann, Rogers) vote of all members present.

There was further discussion on remaining capital plan items such as, building maintenance/repair, Bike Network Plan and Cranbury Greene milling and paving project.

Parks Commission – Sally O’Grady, Parks Commission Chairperson, was present to discuss budget requests which included Village Park walking path; Arts in the Park; Heritage Park grading and bicycle racks. Ms. Marabello conducted a straw poll vote on whether to move forward with the walking trail in Village Park with the majority of the members voting to proceed by a 4-1 (Rogers) vote of all members present.

Use of Surplus and Tax Rates – The Township Committee agreed to use \$1,790,000 of surplus to keep the municipal tax rate stable with no increase or decrease for Cranbury residents.

Salary Pool – The Township Committee approved a 3% salary pool with a retroactive date of January 1, 2022.

Increases In Operating Line Items – Discussed any significant changes from 2021 to 2022 budget.

Public Comment – Mayor Rogers opened the meeting to the public.

- Connie Bauder – Mrs. Bauder asked if the senior exercise program will be fully funded to include the expense of the program in the summer months.

Hearing no additional public comment, Mayor Rogers closed the meeting to the public.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mayor Rogers and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk