

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
June 11, 2018

The Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Answering present to the roll call were Township Committee members: Mike Ferrante, Dan Mulligan, Matt Scott, Jay Taylor and Mayor Glenn Johnson. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/Director of Finance and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Johnson led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Rubin gave 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 provided:

Posted on December 4, 2017 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 December 4, 2017.

Filed on December 4, 2017 at the Cranbury Municipal Office, 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey, posted on the Township's web site and remains on file for public inspection.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

--Township Committee Minutes of May 14, 2018

The Township Committee Minutes of May 14, 2018 on a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Mulligan, and unanimously carried; the Township Committee Minutes of May 14, 2018 were adopted.

--Township Committee Minutes of May 29, 2018

The Township Committee Minutes of May 14, 2018 on a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Mulligan, and unanimously carried; the Township Committee Minutes of May 29, 2018 were adopted.

--Reports and Communications

--Mayor – Mayor Johnson requested to give his report last.

--Reports and Communications

--Members of Committee

--Mr. Ferrante

Mr. Ferrante congratulated Mr. Taylor and the Cranbury Historical Preservation Society on a great event.

Mr. Ferrante followed up on the topic of bike paths with West Windsor and Rutgers regarding grant money available for these paths. Additional information is available on the Mercer County Area Networks which has information on all the trails in the area.

Mr. Ferrante reported that he attended the public meeting at the Princeton Library regarding the previous and proposed future send and received agreement between Princeton Township and Cranbury Township to continue having Cranbury students pay tuition and attend Princeton High School from grades 9th -12th. The agreement will be voted upon later this month. The meeting was coordinated by two members of the Princeton Board of Education.

--Mr. Mulligan

Mr. Mulligan attended the Planning Board meeting with Mayor Johnson. He discussed that the parking lot in Village Park will be complete before July 4th with the addition of two handicap parking spots.

Mr. Mulligan also followed up with Tom Weidner, Parks Commission Chairperson, regarding his liaison responsibilities and that Mr. Weidner can reach out to him at any time if he is unable to attend a meeting.

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--Mr. Taylor

Mr. Taylor attended the annual Strawberry Festival and hosted the Cranbury Historical Preservation Society fundraiser over the past weekend at his residence.

Mr. Taylor reported he met with Denise Marabello, Township Administrator and Chief of Police Rickey Varga regarding a campaign for school age children regarding "Slow Down in our Town".

Mr. Taylor is working on the logistics for diversity speakers.

Mr. Taylor followed up on the recent request for a "Swap Pile" in town and that it was being denied due to liability concerns.

--Mr. Scott

Mr. Scott gave congratulations to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Ferrante on the primary elections.

Mr. Scott met with a representative of PSE&G regarding street lighting. He prepared a power point presentation for public presentation regarding induction street lighting. This replacement survey does not include the decorative lighting in downtown Cranbury. Mr. Scott to follow up with full survey of lights needed for replacement, as well as, the strength that would be utilized. Mr. Mulligan stated that it would be beneficial to have the information for budget time as this may need to be a multi staged project. To be discussed further at a future meeting.

--Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson reported he met with a constituent regarding a development issue, attended the annual Strawberry Festival, met with a company that would like to locate in Cranbury, and met with Chief Varga and Township Administrator, Denise Marabello regarding traffic issues.

Mayor Johnson addressed the public regarding the Volunteer First Aid Squad and the inception of it dating back to the 1940's. He advised the public that the Township Committee does not have operational oversight to the Volunteer First Aid Squad and that the squad is under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Department of Health. He addressed Penny Ftikas email that the Township is not covered from 7:00 p.m. until morning, nor on Sundays. The Mayor wanted to note that it is untrue as the squad is covered by volunteers at that time.

Mayor Johnson reviewed Chief Varga's April Report from the police department. He highlighted the motor vehicle stops that took place within the town.

--Subcommittees

There were no reports from Subcommittees.

--Departments

Follow-up Items

None at this time.

Agenda Additions/Changes –

Mayor Johnson appointed Preet Kamal as Alternate No. 1 to the Municipal Alliance with the term expiring December 31, 2018.

--Public Comment (For Items on the Agenda) – Mayor Johnson opened the meeting to public comment. As seeing none, he closed the portion to public comment.

Ordinance

Second Reading

Cranbury Township Ordinance # 05-18-11

An Ordinance entitled, CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE #05-18-11, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE AT ARTICLE XII, CHAPTER 85 REGARDING PERFORMANCE, MAINTENANCE AND RELATED GUARANTEES was presented for second reading and final adoption The Ordinance was published in the Trenton Times, posted on the Township's website, posted on the Township Bulletin

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Board and copies were available to the public. The Mayor opened the public hearing on the Ordinance. No one present wished to speak, so the hearing was declared closed. On a motion by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Ferrante, the Ordinance was passed on second read by vote:

Ayes:	(Ferrante (Mulligan (Scott (Taylor (Johnson	Abstain: (None Absent: (None
Nays:	(None	

Consent Agenda

Mayor Johnson asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the consent Agenda. Hearing no questions or comments, Mayor Johnson requested a motion to adopt the Consent Resolutions. On a motion by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and unanimously carried, the following Resolutions adopted by vote:

Ayes:	(Ferrante (Mulligan (Scott (Taylor (Johnson	Abstain: (None Absent: (None
Nays:	(None	

Cranbury Township Resolution #R 05-18-094

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury that all bills and claims as audited and found to be correct be paid.

Cranbury Township Resolution #R 05-18-095

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury appointing Michael Owens as a Regular member for the Municipal Alliance filling an unexpired term to expire December 31, 2020.

Cranbury Township Resolution #R 05-18-096

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Cranbury authorizing renewal of (3) Liquor Licenses – Cranbury Inn, Buy Rite Liquors and Stay Bridge Suites for 2018-19

--Reports from Township Staff and Professionals
--Administrator's Report - None

--Municipal Clerk – Ms. Rubin asked the Township Committee if they would be participating in Cranbury Day in September. The Committee all agreed and will schedule coverage and theme.

--Public Comment

Mayor Johnson opened the meeting to public comment. He asked that the public hold comments to three (3) minutes.

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Penny Ftzikas – Discussed an incident that occurred at her residence on November 5, 2017, where a call was made to 911 for emergency services to be dispatched. She expressed her concern regarding the length of the response time from the Volunteer First Aid Squad. Ms. Ftzikas further expressed her support for a full time 24/7 paid EMS squad within Cranbury Township. She stated that she believes there is a problem within the township and there needs to be a solution where the emergency services can be merged to guarantee that the residents are provided swift and effective service. Ms. Ftzikas also thanked the volunteer squad members in the audience for their service to the community.

Javier Betancourt – Added his concern over the incident he witnessed at Penny Ftzikas' residence on the above date. He discussed his medical background along with his concerns regarding the response time of all crews (paid/volunteers). Mr. Betancourt also added that he is in support of a paid ALS crew 24/7 within Cranbury Township.

John Nichols – Captain – Cranbury Volunteer First Aid Squad – Mr. Nichols explained the 911 dispatch system. He explained that it is a dual system where the initial call is directed to South Brunswick Township and then, if deemed necessary, further dispatched to a central dispatch through Mercer EMT dispatch. He also explained mutual aid and shared agreements with towns. The incident regarding Ms. Ftzikas' residence was dispatched incorrectly and therefore the reason for the lapse in response time. Mr. Nichols explained the various training all volunteer squad members must have. He added that the squad has an open policy and is happy to meet with any one regarding how the squad works or if there are any concerns over the functions of the squad. He also reminded the audience about volunteerism and that applications are available.

Suzanne Nydick – Volunteer Squad member – She advised that cell phone calls to dispatch cannot be guaranteed proper dispatching. It is important, if available, to use a landline which promulgates the address of the call immediately. She reiterated a past call that was not dispatched correctly due to a cell phone being used for 911 calls.

Wendy Nikitiades - Incident at her home regarding her 3 week old son. She had been advised that no one from Cranbury Volunteer First Aid Squad showed up due to the fact that the members were all in training and did not come to the call. She advised the police were there immediately and that someone from the squad should be held accountable as the squad does get tax dollars. She wants to know why the residents are not getting provided the appropriate service. She is requesting 24/7 paid service for residents. She questioned where the contribution from the township is being spent.

George Nikitiades – Thanked all the volunteer service members. It is a problem that the residents feel are not being addressed. This should be about adding a service. He believes residents would be willing to pay higher tax for paid service. Requesting 24/7 paid service.

Michael Kervan – Chief Volunteer Fire Department & Member of Squad – Clarified that all paid and volunteer members are professionals. They should only be referred as “paid” and “volunteer” members. The idea of extending to a paid 24/7 squad does not guarantee coverage 100%. He stated the only way to ensure coverage is to have the community more involved and have more families become volunteers.

Neil Wagner – Gave his praise for the Volunteer First Squad. He had two incidents at his home with quick response time. On another note, he agreed with Mr. Scott's lighting presentation suggestions as lighting is much more effective today and his action would aid in lessening the light pollution in the area.

Charlie Smith – Member of the Volunteer First Aid Squad - Added to the history of the squad within the township and the importance on volunteerism within the community. He said that people in the community need to sacrifice for one another and volunteer.

Joe Fesi– He stated there was a legitimate problem where an error was made regarding the incident at Ms. Ftzikas' residence. Going forward the weakest link must be fixed. He shared there is a concept of expectation that residents did not receive. The level of service they received was very limited. Squad

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members should not be defensive and not all people can be volunteers for a number of reasons. He supports the paid EMS moving forward.

Jane Elias – Stated that it appears to have been a problem with the 911 dispatch service and it is devastating that the squad members are being scrutinized over it. She added that even though all cannot volunteer, many can donate with funds. She added her thanks to all the volunteers and the Township Committee.

Richard Kallan – Agreed there are currently issues with 911 and volunteerism. He added that these organizations can use contributions from the residents.

Claudette Guy - Discussion regarding traffic safety. She requested information on the traffic safety group that was being formed. She advised that many in the community would be interested in volunteering for it. She requested information that the Chief had recommended at a Township Committee meeting in the fall. Ms. Marabello advised that the traffic subcommittee recently met and will report findings to the Township Committee members in the near future. Ms. Guy was advised to continue following Township Committee meeting agendas for follow up on the findings to be made at a public meeting. Her last request was an inquiry regarding a previous meeting that former Township Committee member, Dave Cook, attended with “Keep Middlesex Moving”. They discussed initiatives that can be followed up on again. Mr. Scott said he did follow up and advised that he has not heard back and will continue to follow up.

Mr. Mulligan added that the township is capped in the amount of monies that are donated to the Volunteer First Aid Squad unless the Township takes over the Squad. The Township Committee must follow County and State laws. Ms. Marabello added that if the committee considers taking over the Squad, the township must remember that the Budget CAP cannot be exceeded.

Javier Betancourt – Spoke again to add that he agrees there is not enough volunteers. There is a problem that exists. He questioned if there is a discrepancy between the response time of paid or volunteers and that a standard needs to be set and met.

Derek Moody – Cranbury First Aid Squad – He shared a personal story to show that we are all a community. In addressing the idea of having a second unit, the need for mutual aid may still exist as both units may be out on a call. There is no way to guarantee a Cranbury unit will respond to a particular call whether paid or volunteer members. He was glad to see the community attended the meeting to discuss this topic.

Christina Mascarenhas – Questioned whether training between paid and volunteers are the same. She asked what will happen moving forward. Mayor Johnson advised that as he said in the beginning of the meeting, the volunteer first aid squad is a private entity and therefore the decision lies within the squad. Mr. Nichols added that no decision has been made at this particular time.

Mr. Mulligan clarified that the committee is limited by the state law and the municipality has limited oversight.

Nancy Whitcraft – Asked the committee if the question for paid 24/7 coverage could be a referendum question at election time. Would an analysis be done regarding taxes and funds being used? Mr. Nichols suggested they meet after the meeting to discuss.

Evangelos Giannos (Ms. Ptzikas's Father)- Questioned the difference between cell phone and land line calls being made to 911 and how the dispatched call is relayed. Mr. Nichols explained the process. He furthered thanked the volunteers and the committee for all their help and dedication. Mr. Nichols explained that for his particular incident the miscommunication was the second dispatch service inadvertently dispatched the unit into a neighboring town, to an address with the same street name. Cranbury EMS was not dispatched at that time.

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Wayne Wittman – Expressed his disappointment that the volunteer/paid topic was not placed on the agenda or that this issue did not get worked out prior to the meeting. Mayor Johnson advised the agenda was finalized prior to this topic being discussed by residents on social media. Mr. Wittman inquired why this was being discussed many months after the initial incidents. Mr. Wittman further added that this topic needs to be addressed again at a later date and as elected officials they need to get to the root cause. Mr. Mulligan agreed that in the future consideration of a proper work session may be in order to better discuss moving the concerns. All Township Committee members agreed to have the topic placed on the agenda at a later date for further discussion.

Mr. Wittman advised Mr. Scott that he would be happy to help with the lighting upgrade in the township as he is retired from PSE&G and is knowledgeable in that field.

Richard Kallan – Stated that many come to meetings when there is an issue and want immediate resolve. He suggested going to a township official first for resolution, and if no resolution, then bring it to the public forum.

Andrew Huang – He wanted to discuss the safety of Cranbury residents and how to provide solutions quickly. He explained why he chose to campaign as a write in for the primary election. Mr. Huang discussed the incident that occurred with his daughter on May 10, 2017. Mr. Huang and his family came to the May 14th committee meeting to plead for immediate action on the traffic issues in the area. Mr. Huang advised the members that if a traffic task force is formed he can be counted on to help.

Alex Jost – Cranbury Volunteer First Aid Squad – Invited any residents to come to the squad or call to discuss any issues or concerns instead of initiating the conversation at a committee meeting.

Brian Barry – Thanked all the volunteers for their dedication. He wants to remind everyone that this is not an attack on the squad or residents who are unable to volunteer. But the township must recognize there is an issue and all should come together to solve.

Elisa Ross – Ms. Ross encouraged the audience to keep themselves educated on all subjects and ask questions to stay involved.

Ron Howarth – Expressed that volunteers do a miraculous job and provide the community a great service and are owed a great deal of debt. He added that the members are true heroes and this should be kept in mind when making the decision. It should not be determined solely on money and budget.

Mayor Johnson closed the meeting to public comment.

--Mayor's Notes

Mayor Johnson stated he had no additional information.

--Township Committee Members' Notes

There were no additional Township Committee Members' Notes.

Mayor Johnson requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk