

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
March 08, 2021

The Township Committee Regular Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:00 pm. by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Barbara Rogers, Matthew Scott, Evelyn Spann, Jay Taylor and Mayor Michael Ferrante. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO; Thomas Decker, Township Engineer; Steve Goodell, Township Attorney; and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Ferrante led in the salute to the flag, and 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 provided:

Posted 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 8, 2020 and remote access information added on April 24, 2020, updated on June 18, 2020.

Filed on January 8, 2021 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. Township website was updated with remote access information on April 24, 2020, and updated June 18, 2020.

Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Ms. Rubin read the following additional statement:

Cranbury Township

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.

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.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Ferrante asked if any members of the Township Committee would like to address changes or amendments to the following minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to adopt the following minutes as presented:

--Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021

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On a motion by Mrs. Spann, seconded by Mr. Taylor, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (Rogers
(Scott
(Spann
(Taylor
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021 were adopted.

Reports and Communications
Members of Committee

- Dr. Rogers – Dr. Rogers attended the Board of Health meeting and reported on the first Community Health and Wellness Program featured on Zoom. Dr. Rogers gave a brief description of an article she wrote for the Chronicle which included information on the township's walking trails. She added the Parks Commission is researching grant options for upcoming projects.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott met with the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) which requested to be placed on an upcoming agenda. Mayor Ferrante will discuss scheduling directly with Mr. Scott. Mr. Scott reported on his attendance at the Board of Education meeting.
- Mrs. Spann – Mrs. Spann reported on the Zoning Committee plans to amend the Scenic Overlay ordinance which was adopted last year. She plans to have the amended ordinance complete for introduction at the March 22nd meeting. She also attended the Historic Preservation Commission meeting and reported they are scheduled to be present at the April 12th Township Committee meeting to give their report.
- Mr. Taylor – Mr. Taylor discussed Village Park and the need for surveys and topography to further discuss walking trail. It was suggested that all the work be budgeted and completed in 2022. Mr. Taylor discussed his concerns with a new law, recently passed, that stops the notification of parents by law enforcement when a minor child is found with marijuana. He requested the Chief of Police be invited to speak to residents to explain the law and hear concerns. Mayor Ferrante will follow up the with Chief of Police.

Mayor

- Mayor Ferrante – Mayor Ferrante announced the first Community Health and Wellness Zoom Session was successful and the next program was scheduled for March 17th. He then reported on the Library bid opening recently held at Town Hall. Mayor Ferrante virtually participated in Reading by the Mayor sponsored by the Public Library.
- Mayor Ferrante stated the snow removal ordinance currently includes no enforcement. This will be addressed and discussed with each committee member on how to amend, with adding enforcement
- Mayor Ferrante will schedule a Work Session for next meeting regarding Cannabis Recreational Use and the timeframe for the township's ordinance. He announced all questions from the members should be sent to the Township Attorney and all public questions should be sent to Township Clerk, Debra Rubin, by the end of week for inclusion in Work Session.

Department Head

- Mayor Ferrante gave report from Fire Chief Sam DiStasio. He reported 20 calls in the month of February.

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Follow up Items –

- Walking Trail – Work Session scheduled this evening.

Agenda Additions/Changes – None

Boards and Commission – Vacancies – None

Ordinances –

First Reading – None

Second Reading – None

Resolutions – Consent

Mayor Ferrante asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adopt the following Consent Resolutions. On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Rogers the following Consent Resolutions were adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: (Ferrante
(Rogers
(Spann
(Scott
(Taylor

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

Cranbury Township Resolution #R 03-21-053

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 03-21-054

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, NJ

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDUCTION OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR ALFIERI – HALF ACRE PARK NORTH

WHEREAS, Alfieri has requested the reduction of their performance guarantee previously posted with the Township in accordance with Planning Board approval and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has, in a letter dated February 23, 2021 (attached hereto as "Exhibit A") recommended that the performance guarantee be reduced and the amount that shall be **released** is as follows:

Cash Deposit	\$ 63,966.38
Performance Bond	\$ 575,697.40

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WHEREAS, the amount that shall be **retained** until all bonded items are complete as follows:

Cash Deposit	\$ 27,414.16
Performance Bond	\$ 246,727.46

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury as follows:

1. It has reviewed, agrees with and hereby accepts all recommendations of the Township Engineer as set forth in "Exhibit A".
2. It hereby authorizes the reduction of performance guarantees set forth in the Township Engineer's letter referenced above.
3. The Township hereby accepts the public improvements, if any so designated pursuant to the Planning Board's approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk to be a true copy and forwarded to each of the following:

- (a) Township Engineer
- (b) Township Chief Financial Officer
- (c) Alfieri

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 03-21-055

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE
UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S
"Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment
Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"**

FORM OF RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

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Work Session

Tom Decker, Township Engineer discussed options A-E for walking trails to connect MBID to CHA. Michael Kaiser also assisted in discussing the options for connecting the pathways between the two sites. It was made clear that the goal this evening was for the Township Committee to discuss the various options and the pricing. Mayor Ferrante provided visual aids of current state with each option shown to present the various pathways and their locations. After a detailed discussion of each option, the consensus of the committee was to pursue Option "E" as presented. A discussion regarding an easement will need to follow and the cost will need to be presented for final determination.

Public Comment

Mayor Ferrante opened the meeting to general public comment.

- Darek Hahn – Mr. Hahn stated residents are ignoring the snow removal ordinance. He added it is a safety hazard for people attempting to walk their dogs which forces them to walk into the roadways. He is glad to see the Township Committee members are discussing adding enforcement to the ordinance.
- David Schatz – Mr. Schatz requested an update on the Highpoint Redevelopment Project. He questioned information found in 2018 minutes regarding two phases. He was advised to complete an OPRA request for the records regarding the development plan and any other records he wished to review.

Hearing no other public comment, Mayor Ferrante closed the meeting to public comment.

Action Items:

- Historic Preservation Commission – Agenda 4/12
- Economic Development Advisory Commission – Schedule meeting date
- Cannabis - Chief of Police – Discussion with residents

Mayor Ferrante closed the meeting to public comment.

Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adopt the resolution to move into Closed Session. On a motion by Mrs. Spann, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted by a vote:

Ayes: (Rogers
(Spann
(Scott
(Taylor
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 03-21-056

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, Middlesex County, New Jersey as follows:

The general nature of the subject to be discussed in this session is as follows:

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--- **N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b** (7) Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in subsection b. (4) herein in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.

It is unknown at this time precisely when the matters discussed in this session will be disclosed to the public. Matters involving contract negotiations or the acquisition of land will be disclosed upon conclusion of the negotiations or upon approval of the acquisition. Matters involving personnel will be disclosed when the need for confidentiality no longer exists. Matters concerning litigation will be announced upon the conclusion of trial or settlement of that litigation or when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Adjourn

Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Spann and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk