

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
April 24, 2023

The Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Eman El-Badawi, Lisa Knierim, Dr. Barbara Rogers, Matthew Scott and Mayor Michael Ferrante. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO, Chief Michael Owens 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 6, 2023.

Filed on January 6, 2023 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.

Proclamation – A Proclamation Designating National Library Week April 23rd-April 29th – Mayor Ferrante read the following Proclamation in its entirety:

National Library Week

Proclamation

WHEREAS, libraries provide the opportunity for everyone to pursue their passions and engage in lifelong learning, allowing them to live their best life;

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status;

WHEREAS, libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all;

WHEREAS, libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services, and partnerships;

WHEREAS, libraries play a critical role in the economic vitality of communities by providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs;

WHEREAS, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals;

WHEREAS, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all;

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, and library workers are joining library supporters and advocates across the nation to celebrate National Library Week;

WHEREAS, be it resolved that I, Michael Ferrante, Mayor of Cranbury Township, proclaim National Library Week, April 23-29, 2023. During this week, I encourage all residents to visit their library to explore the wealth of resources available.

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On motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Ms. Knierim, the "Proclamation Designating National Library Week April 23rd-April 29th" was passed unanimously by Township Committee members present.

Proclamation – A Proclamation Designating April 28th, 2023 as Arbor Day – Mayor Ferrante read the following Proclamation in its entirety:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitats for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, trees, whenever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

Now Therefore, I, Michael J. Ferrante, Mayor of the Township of Cranbury, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2023 as

Arbor Day

in the Township of Cranbury, I urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodland to support our Township's forestry program, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden hearts and promote the well being of present and future generations.

On motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. El-Badawi, the "Proclamation Designating April 28th, 2023 as Arbor Day" was passed unanimously by Township Committee members present.

Proclamation – A Proclamation Recognizing The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society and Its Effort to Save and Restore the 1713 East Jersey Cottage – Mayor Ferrante read the following Proclamation in its entirety:

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society and Its Effort to Save and Restore the 1713 East Jersey Cottage

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society was organized 56 years ago in June 1967, as an independent, historical organization committed to preserve Cranbury's land, historic buildings and artifacts and to promote Cranbury's history through research, education, exhibits and publication and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society intervened in September 2018 and saved the 1713 East Jersey Cottage from demolition by agreeing to relocate the historic building and

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WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society agreed to move the 1713 East Jersey Cottage when the Peter Camamis Family donated the historic building to the Historical Society and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society petitioned Cranbury Township to permit the 1713 East Jersey Cottage to be relocated to the Millstone Park and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society provided funds and volunteers to arrange for the 1713 East Jersey Cottage to be professionally moved, utility and cable lines to be repositioned and a new foundation and basement to be constructed and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society relocated the 1713 East Jersey Cottage onto its original 1693 Fullerton tract, the 1752 Philipse property and the 1760 Bodine farm, while the building retained its intact hand-hewn post and beam structure with pegged mortise and tenon joints and rubble nogging, typical of 18th century construction and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society has restored the exterior of the 1713 East Jersey Cottage by repairing its sill plate, exterior walls and shingles, painting the exterior walls and placing the original foundation rocks onto the new, exposed foundation wall and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society has conducted extensive research on the 1713 East Jersey Cottage and achieved eligibility status to be individually listed on the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places as well as featured in the 2022 *Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group Journal* and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society plans to restore and furnish the interior of the 1713 East Jersey Cottage, creating a seasonal museum to tell its story about the early settlement, the diverse group of families who lived in the cottage, the neighboring Lenni Lenape, the American Revolution and the Marquis de Lafayette.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Michael Ferrante, Mayor of the Township of Cranbury, along with the Township Committee members, do hereby proclaim that the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society and its dedicated effort to save, restore and transform the 1713 East Jersey Cottage into a seasonal museum will be celebrated this year in honor of their on-going, excellent service to this community and beyond.

On motion by Ms. Knierim, seconded by Dr. Rogers, the Proclamation "Recognizing The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society and Its Effort to Save and Restore the 1713 East Jersey Cottage" was passed unanimously by Township Committee members present.

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:

-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes April 10, 2023

On a motion by Ms. Knierim, seconded by Mr. Scott, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Knierim
(Rogers
(Scott
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

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the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2023 were unanimously adopted by members present.

Reports and Communications:

Members of Committee

- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott reported on his attendance at the Parks Commission and Traffic Subcommittee meetings. He reported on his anticipated attendance at the upcoming Recreation Commission meeting.
- Ms. Knierim – Ms. Knierim reported on her attendance at the EDAC meeting and her anticipated attendance at the upcoming Board of Health meeting. The Historic Preservation Commission meeting was cancelled.
- Dr. Rogers – Dr. Rogers reported on her attendance at the Environmental Commission and Traffic Subcommittee meetings. Dr. Rogers reported on discussions from the Traffic Subcommittee meeting that included lighted crosswalks, gateway signage, bike lanes and permanent speed signage in the Township.
- Ms. El-Badawi – Ms. El-Badawi reported that she could not attend the Municipal Alliance meeting, however, she reported on their request to be placed on an upcoming Township Committee meeting agenda.

Mayor

Mayor Ferrante – Mayor Ferrante reported on his attendance at the Library Board of Trustees meeting and his attendance at the dedication of the Cranbury School Auxiliary Gym, Annual Stream Clean-Up, and his liaison work with Cranbury Housing Association. He additionally reported on Cranbury being named a 2022 Up-and-Coming Healthy Town.

Reminders:

- **April 24th-30th** – Cranbury School's 125th Anniversary Celebration Week
- **April 26th** – Mayor's Walk to School
- **April 28th** – Arbor Day
- **April 28th** – Cranbury School 125th Anniversary Alumni & Community Dance
- **April 30th** – Cranbury School 12th Anniversary Community Day
- **April 29th** – Town-wide Garage Sale
- **May 6th** – Praise in the Park
- **May 6th and 7th** – Clean-Up Day
- **May 7th** – Tour de Cranbury Biking Event and 1713 House Colonial Fair
- **June 3rd** – The 30th Annual Health and Wellness Fair
- **September 23rd** – Rabies Clinic
- **TBD** – Arts in the Park/Walking Trail Celebration Event

Department Heads:

Administrator/Director of Finance

Ms. Marabello reported that the bid received for the Village Park Walking Trail Project came in higher than originally budgeted for. She provided two options for the Township Committee to consider: shorten the length of the walking trail or move monies currently budgeted to address low spots at Heritage Park and put towards the Walking Trail Project. The Township Committee unanimously agreed to move the funds from Heritage Park to the Village Park Walking Trail Project. This decision was taken after consultation with the Chair of the Parks Commission and Township Engineer.

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Cranbury Public Library

Library Director Brooke Basista thanked the Township Committee for the Proclamation of National Library week. She highlighted upcoming programs offered to the library, as well as, facilities available to the public.

Police Department

Chief Michel Owens, Chief of Police, gave his April report. He reported that the mobile speed enforcement message board will be placed in the township for traffic calming measures. Chief Owens invited Township Committee members to the upcoming swearing in of the new officer.

Boards – Economic Development Advisory Committee

Darek Hahn, Member, presented EDAC's 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals. He highlighted more business communication and public outreach for 2023. Mr. Hahn announced his upcoming resignation. The Township Committee members expressed their gratitude for his positive attitude and dedication to the EDAC.

Follow-up Items: None.

Agenda Additions/Changes: None.

Boards and Commissions – Mayoral Appointments/Vacancies

Mayoral Appointments: None.

Vacancies:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee:
 - Member, expiring 12/31/24
- Parks Commission:
 - 2nd Alternate, expiring 12/31/23

Ordinances:

First Reading –

Prior to Ms. Rubin reading the following ordinance by title only, Mayor Ferrante summarized the ordinance for the public. Ms. Rubin then read the following ordinance by title only:

a). Township of Cranbury Ordinance # 04-23-09 – Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements of the Township of Cranbury, Appropriating \$428,990.00 Therefore, Funding \$21,450 From Capital Improvement Fund and Authorizing the Issuance of \$407,540 Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof.

Mr. Scott made a motion to introduce the following ordinance. Ms. Knierim seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously by those present. Second reading will be held on May 8, 2023.

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Knierim
(Rogers
(Scott
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

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Second Reading – None.

Resolutions – Consent

Mayor Ferrante asked the Committee if there were any questions or if any items on the Consent Agenda should be addressed separately. Hearing none, Mayor Ferrante asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. On motion by Ms. Knierim, seconded by Mr. Scott, the Consent Resolutions were passed unanimously by Township Committee members present.

Ayes: (El-Badawi
(Knierim
(Rogers
(Scott
(Ferrante

Abstain: (None
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 04-23-057

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 04-23-058

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A BID WITH
TOP LINE CONSTRUCTION, CORP. FOR PLAINSBORO ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranbury solicited bids for Plainsboro Road Improvement Project and;

WHEREAS, four (4) bids were received and opened on April 18, 2023: and

WHEREAS, the low responsible bid was received from Top Line Construction, Corp., Somerville, NJ has offered to provide these services to the Township for cost of \$302,855.05; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to enter into an agreement with Top Line Construction, Corp., to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-4.1 et seq., authorizes the award for purposes for which a competitive bid may be used by local units; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there will be sufficient funds for this contract;

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Top Line Construction, Corp. for Plainsboro Road Improvement Project \$302,855.05; and
2. A copy of the Agreement shall be available for public inspection in the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

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Work Session – Requests for Contributions

Ms. Knierim reported on the following events/organizations requesting additional funding from the Township: Cranbury History & Preservation Commission for the 1713 House Colonial Day Celebration, The Lion's Club for the Memorial Day Parade and Cranbury Business Association for Cranbury Day. These organizations requested monies from the Township due to hardship on their side (from Covid or years of not being able to fundraise). The Township Committee unanimously approved funding for all three events with the understanding that organizations conduct fundraising efforts and that this is not funding to be expected each year.

Public Comment

Mayor Ferrante reminded the public of the three (3) minute time limit for public comment. Mayor Ferrante then opened the meeting to public questions and comment.

- Darek Hahn – Mr. Hahn reported on speeding on Cranbury Neck Road. He requested more police presence.

Hearing and seeing no one else, Mayor Ferrante closed public comment.

Action Items –

- Historic Preservation Commission to present their 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals at the May 8th Township Committee meeting.
- Municipal Alliance to present their 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals at the May 22nd Township Committee meeting.
- Dr. Rogers and Ms. Knierim to begin organizing a volunteer appreciation event.
- Township Committee to prepare guidelines for requests for 2024 event contributions in October.

Adjourn

Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Scott and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin

Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk