

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24, 2014

The regular meeting of the Township Committee 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: David Cook, Glenn Johnson, and Mayor Susan Goetz. Mr. Dan Mulligan arrived at 7:02, and Mr. Jay Taylor was absent. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/Director of Finance; and Jean Golisano, Deputy Clerk. Mayor Goetz led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Golisano 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:

- (1) Posted on December 4, 2013 on the Bulletin Board of the Municipal Office at 23-A North Main Street, Cranbury, New Jersey and remains posted at that location.
- (2) Communicated to the Cranbury Press, Home News Tribune and Trenton Times on December 4, 2013.
- (3) Filed on December 4, 2013 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.
- (4) Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

Regular Township Committee Minutes of March 10, 2014

On motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cook and unanimously carried (with Mr. Taylor being absent), the Regular Township Committee Minutes of March 10, 2014 were adopted.

Agenda Additions/Changes

Ms. Golisano reported there were no Agenda additions or changes.

Reports and Communications

--Mayor

Mayor Goetz reported the Downtown Beautification Project is underway. She stated the contractor agreed to start working one (1) week early on the corner of School House Lane while students were on spring break. She reported work will most likely continue next on the four (4) corners of Park Place and North Main Street to straighten the crosswalks and create bump outs, followed by the installation of brick sidewalks from the Post Office down to School House Lane. She reported the 60-day Project is on schedule.

Mayor Goetz reported at a Budget Meeting, Cranbury Township Police Officer Paul Lindenfeld spoke about mobile intensive care units. She stated Mr. Johnson has been doing research on the subject and a presentation will be made to the public in the future.

--Township Committee

Mr. Johnson reported he attended a Municipal Alliance meeting and a Library Facilities meeting.

Mr. Mulligan reported the Environmental Commission would like to apply for an American Water Company Environmental Grant for a Watershed Protection Project consisting of the establishment of a rain garden in Village Park. The rain garden would allow storm water runoff to percolate into the ground thereby reducing the pollutants flowing into Brainerd Lake. Mr. Mulligan reported the Parks Commission agreed the location selected for the rain garden is good and stated the vegetation will also help deter erosion. He stated the set back of the rain garden would be 8 feet to 12 feet from the Lake. Mr. Mulligan stated the EC will apply for the non-matching grant and will need a letter of support from the Township. The Township Committee agreed to support the application, and Ms. Marabello will send a letter of support.

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Reports and Communications (Continued)

--Township Committee

Mr. Mulligan (cont'd.)

Mr. Mulligan reported the Recreation Commission and Cranbury Plainsboro Little League (CPLL) are working together on improvements on the ball fields. Three quotes have been received for masonry work on Field C1, and the costs will be split between the two (2) organizations. The mason who did the work on the Pavilion was selected to do the work. The Recreation Commission is aware that Public Works will not be able to bring in dirt for the Project. Mr. Mulligan stated the goal is to complete the Project before the season starts.

Mr. Cook reported he received a request from Ms. Norma Swale to remove the construction sign near the crocus patches on South Main Street. Mr. Cook stated he thought it would be difficult to have the sign removed since it was placed for a County/Township project; however, Chief Varga called and the signs on both North and South Main Street have been removed. Mr. Cook reported Public Works also cleaned up road debris near the flowers.

Mr. Cook reported the Bridge and Dam Project is now at Day 136 of the 300-day Project and stated 120 feet of the Lake-side wall was refitted and poured and will be stone faced to be similar in look and color.

Public Comment for Agenda Items

Mayor Goetz opened the meeting to public questions and comments for items on the Agenda.

There being no comments, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cook and unanimously carried (with Mr. Taylor being absent), the following Resolution was passed by vote:

Ayes:	(Cook	Abstain:	(None
	(Johnson	Absent:	(Taylor
	(Mulligan		
	(Goetz		
Nays:	(None		

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 03-14-044

Resolution Calling on the Legislature to Make Permanent
the 2% Cap on Interest Arbitration Awards

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2010, Governor Christie signed into law reforms to the Arbitration process that took effect January 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the reforms capped arbitration awards on economic factors to no more than 2%, provided for random selection of arbitrators, expedited the determination of awards, required the arbitrator to provide a written report detailing the weight accorded to each of the required considerations and expedited the appeal process; and

WHEREAS, these reforms marked a dramatic change to the arbitration process and have helped Municipalities to control the never-ending rise in public safety personnel costs; and

WHEREAS, a key element of the reforms, capping arbitration awards on economic factors to no more than 2% of the property tax levy will expire on April 1, 2014; and

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Cranbury Township Resolution # R 03-14-044
(Continued)

WHEREAS, while municipalities are statutorily limited to raise their property tax levy by no more than 2%, with very limited exceptions, failure to extend the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards will force municipalities throughout the State to further reduce or even eliminate crucial services, personnel, and long-overdue infrastructure improvement projects in order to fund an arbitration award; and

WHEREAS, the 2% Interest Arbitration cap has controlled one of the largest municipal expense, public safety salaries, not only through arbitration awards but through contract negotiations; and

WHEREAS, absent further action by the Legislature, any contract that expires on or after April 1, 2014, will be subject to all new procedures and requirements, EXCEPT the 2% awards cap; and

WHEREAS, without those limits, arbitrators will be able to impose awards that do not account for the 2% limit on the property tax levy, which would immediately threaten funding for all other municipal services; and

WHEREAS, without the 2% cap on Interest Arbitration Awards but with the 2% cap on property tax levy local budget makers could be forced to reduce other essential municipal services to fund arbitration award;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the (insert name of municipality) strongly urges the Legislature to permanently extend the 2% cap on interest arbitration awards prior to the April 1, 2014 sunset; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a that a copy of this duly adopted resolution be forwarded to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, the legislators of the 14th State Legislative representatives, Governor Chris Christie, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Goetz asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda, or if any Resolutions should be addressed separately. A motion was made by Mr. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried, the following Resolutions were passed by vote:

Ayes: (Cook
(Johnson
(Mulligan
(Goetz

Abstain: (None
Absent: (Taylor

Nays: (None

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 03-14-045

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 03-14-046

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community,

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Cranbury Township Resolution # R 03-14-046
(Continued)

parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages, and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Cranbury, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Cranbury Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2014 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 5,931.00
Cash Match	\$ 1,482.75
In-Kind	\$ 4,448.25

2. The Township Committee acknowledges in the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Reports from Township Staff and Professionals

-- Administrator's Report

Ms. Marabello stated she had nothing to report.

Reports from Township Boards and Commissions

Parks Commission

Mr. Tom Weidner, Chairman of the Parks Commission presented and discussed with the Township Committee the Commission's Annual Report. Mr. Weidner reported the Parks and Open Space website was up and running. He distributed copies of the website and gave a brief explanation of the site and associated links.

He reported the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society approved the sign for Memorial Park. Mr. Weidner stated the sign will be similar to the signs at the First Presbyterian Church and former site of the Second Presbyterian Church and will provide the history of Cranbury down by the Lake. Mr. Weidner stated each year the Parks Commission makes a list of recommendations (short-term and long-term) for the Public Works Department. He stated the recommendations have been helpful over the years, and reported Mr. Jerry Thorne, Public Works Manager appreciates having the "to do list." Mr. Weidner complimented Mr. Thorne and the Public Works Department for the great job keeping the Parks clean. He stated the Township has about 230 acres of open space, which requires a lot of hard work to keep the areas attractive. He recommended adding signs to identify Heritage Park and Barn Park and also adding enclosures around port-a-johns.

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Reports from Township Boards and Commissions
Mr. Weidner (cont'd.)

Mr. Weidner reported 2014 goals include erecting the historical sign near the Lake and working with the Environmental Commission on open space. He stated it will be exciting to see how the Reinhardt Preserve turns out. He stated Parks is hoping to identify a walking path from the center of Cranbury to the center of Plainsboro. However, he reported there are three (3) parcels of land the Township does not have access to. He stated Parks will continue to work on enhancing the attractiveness of the Township's Parks' entrances and look for ways to make detention basins look better.

Mayor Goetz thanked Mr. Weidner for his report and asked if the Parks Commission and Environmental Commission will have a joint meeting this year. Mr. Weidner stated it has not yet been planned, however, Ms. Barbara Rogers, Chair of the EC, is also on the Parks Commission. He stated Parks and EC share many common goals and work well together.

Reports from Township Boards and Commissions
Cranbury Public Library

Ms. Kirstie Venanzi, President of the Cranbury Library Board of Trustees, and Ms. Marilynn Mullen, Director, presented and discussed with the Township Committee the Library's Annual Report. Ms. Venanzi gave a brief summary of how Libraries are funded in the State of New Jersey. She explained the State decides on the amount and it is based on the property values of the town. Mayor Goetz asked for an update on the fundraising of the new Library. Ms. Venanzi stated the Cranbury Foundation hopes to raise \$600,000 by June to get to the \$2 million mark. She stated the Foundation will be working hard to educate residents on the new Library. She stated they will be reconfirming how much the new facility will cost and stated they hope to meet soon with the Township to discuss the parking at the new facility.

Ms. Mullen gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Library's 2014 budget. She explained how Library hours were cut slightly last year to stay within the budget and stated staff did not receive raises. Ms. Mullen briefly described the many programs offered at the Library, including the number of patrons and books loaned, and computer and room usage. Ms. Mullen stated the Summer Reading Program is always popular, and the knitting program, book clubs, and lectures are also well attended. Ms. Mullen stated the program where senior citizens read to kindergarteners has been very successful. She stated another new program being introduced, "Quilting with Friends" promises to be popular.

Ms. Mullen reported the Friends of the Library are celebrating their 20th anniversary. She stated over the years the Friends have raised funds for the Library by holding book sales. She stated the Friends sponsor museum passes for the Library. Ms. Mullen stated efforts are currently being channeled towards fundraising for the new Library, but stated it is a great organization for residents to join once the fundraising is complete.

Ms. Mullen and Ms. Venanzi stated an Open House will be held on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate National Library Week. They stated they hoped the Township Committee would consider stopping at the Open House to thank the Friends of the Library for this support and to recognize Ms. Beth Ann Kafasis for her 25 years of service to the Library. Ms. Mullen stated the staff at the Library is fantastic and hoped the public would attend the Open House. She stated so much of the Library is volunteers and community. The Township Committee thanked Ms. Mullen and Ms. Venanzi for their presentation.

Public Comment

The Mayor opened the meeting to public questions and comment. There being no comment, the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

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Mayor's Notes

Mayor Goetz stated she had nothing additional for the Mayor's Notes.

On a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Mulligan and unanimously carried (with Mr. Taylor being absent), the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Jean Golisano, RMC
Deputy Clerk