

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
November 28, 2022

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, Michael Ferrante, Matthew Scott, Evelyn Spann, and Mayor Barbara Rogers. Also present were Stephen Goodell, Township Attorney, Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO, Chief Michael Owens, Chief of Police and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor Rogers 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 5, 2022 and August 12, 2022.

Filed on January 5, 2022 and August 12, 2022 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.

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

**-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes November 14, 2022;**

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

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2022 were unanimously adopted.

**Reports and Communications  
Members of Committee**

- Mrs. El-Badawi – Mrs. El-Badawi reported on her attendance at the Historic Preservation Commission and Recreation Commission meetings.
- Mr. Ferrante – Mr. Ferrante reported on his attendance at the Grand Opening of the new Cranbury Public Library.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott reported that Mrs. El-Badawi attended his remaining board meetings in his absence due to work conflicts.
- Mrs. Spann – Mrs. Spann congratulated Mayor Barbara Rogers and incoming township committee person Lisa Knierim for their win in the 2022 General Election. Mrs. Spann reported on the Municipal Alliance meeting. During her Traffic Subcommittee report, she and Mr. Ferrante discussed the gateway sign and which wording should be included. She further discussed the

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upcoming Planning Board meeting and Planning and Zoning Board RFP subcommittee meeting to discuss 2023 professionals.

**Mayor**

Mayor Rogers – The following items were covered under the Mayor's Updates and Upcoming Events;

**Reports & Communications:**

- **Sustainable New Jersey** – Mayor Rogers reported on her attendance at the League of Municipalities wherein Cranbury was awarded Silver Status. Cranbury is only one of 69 other municipalities in the State to hold Silver Status.
- **Library Grand Opening** – Mayor Rogers reported on her attendance at the Grand Opening of the new Cranbury Public Library.
- **Southern Middlesex County Freight Movement Study** – Mayor Rogers reported on her attendance at the technical assistance meeting. She reported on an interactive map and survey residents may utilize to report traffic and road issues to the County.

**Reminders:**

- **December 2** – Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony with the Women's Club and Scouts.
- **December 4** – Tea Event at the Cranbury Museum.
- **December 11** – Cranbury Lions Club 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast
- **December 16** – Cranbury Village Luminaries Walk and A Christmas Carol Performance hosted by the Cranbury Arts Council and the Cranbury Chamber of Commerce
- **December 18** – Annual Lighting of the Menorah

**Department Heads**

**Police Department:**

Chief Michael Owens, gave his October to November 14<sup>th</sup> report. Chief Owens reported on traffic and safety measures officers have in place. Officers have been active with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) safety enforcement. Chief Owens reiterated the 988-phone number for mental health services available to the public. Ms. Spann confirmed the 988-phone number could be accessed via text, call or online chat. Chief Owens provided an update to the investigation of a deceased individual found at Village Park in August. The investigation is ongoing. Chief Owens additionally reported on the success of Halloween and thanked the County for the added signage and lights.

**Agenda Additions/Changes** – Ms. Rubin reported an edit to Resolution # R 11-22-126. The Resolution should reference a tax overpayment, not a sewer overpayment.

**Boards and Commissions –**

**Mayoral Appointments:** None.

**Vacancies:**

- Clock Winding – Member, expiring 12/31/22;
- Parks Commission – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate, expiring 12/31/22;
- Municipal Alliance – There are two vacancies:
  - Member expiring 12/31/22; and
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate expiring 12/31/22.

**Ordinances –**

**First Reading – None**

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**Second Reading –**

Prior to opening the Ordinance to public comment, Mayor Rogers summarized the purpose of the ordinance. Township Attorney, Stephen Goodell, additionally explained the hearing and adoption process. Mr. Goodell explained that as the ordinance has been amended since originally introduced with substantive amendments, the Township Committee will vote to accept the amendments and readvertise the ordinance for adoption at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Ferrante summarized the amendments.

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE 11-22-10**

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE  
CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, MIDDLESEX COUNTY,  
NJ, CHAPTER 14 ENTITLED  
“VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY”**

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Township Code does not currently include a chapter to address the contract between the Cranbury Volunteer Fire Company and the Township; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:14-68 provides for the means by which a township is to enter into an agreement with a volunteer fire company; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds it not only necessary but a requirement to have such an agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that the Code of the Township at Cranbury be hereby supplemented as set forth below.

SECTION 1. Chapter 143 is created as follows:

**§ 14.1. Establishment**

There is, and has been established, within the Township of Cranbury a fire company, known as the Cranbury Volunteer Fire Company (hereinafter referred to as “CVF”) which was created and established and is hereby continued to be recognized by the Township of Cranbury. No other firefighting organization is to be formed within the Township without consent of the Township Committee. CVF must comply with all the requirements of this article and any rules or regulations promulgated hereunder.

**§ 14.2. Line Officers.**

The line officers of the CVF shall consist of Chief, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief and Captain.

**§ 14.3. Reports to Township Committee.**

It shall be the responsibility of the Chief of the CVF or his designee to make all reports to Township Committee.

**§ 14.4. Ownership of quarters.**

The Township of Cranbury shall retain ownership and control over the firehouses at 2-4 South Main Street which have been entrusted to the CVF. Routine maintenance of the firehouses shall be the responsibility of the members of the CVF. Maintenance that involves capital expenses, infrastructure investment or is of a large scale shall be the responsibility of the Township of Cranbury.

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§ 14.5. Expenses.

The Township Committee shall supply to the CVF funding at its discretion, based upon the needs of CVF, taking into account cumulative funds raised by this volunteer organization over the years and upon review of the previous year's financials.

§ 14.6. Purchasing and title of equipment and vehicles.

The Township of Cranbury shall retain title to all equipment and vehicles purchased with funds supplied by the Township for the purpose of purchasing such equipment or vehicles. However, nothing shall preclude the CVF from purchasing its own fire equipment, vehicles or other personal property and retaining title thereof; provided, however, that if the Township shall have a financial responsibility toward the purchase, operation or maintenance of such items, prior formal approval of the Township Committee for such purchase shall be required and the purchase will adhere to the state bid laws.

§ 14.7. Duties of Fire Chief and Officers.

- A. The Chief shall be in full command and complete control of all fires during the period of all alarms and shall be held accountable for his/her actions to the Township Committee and shall make written and verbal reports as the Township Committee may require. All other line officers shall be accountable to the Chief except when any officers are acting as Chief in his/her absence.
- B. The Chief and Officers shall formulate rules and regulations to govern the operation of the CVF, such rules and regulations being subject to review by the Township Committee. The Chief and Officers shall be responsible to the Township Committee for the morale and general efficiency of the CVF.
- C. The Chief or line officer designated by him/her shall, at least once a month, conduct suitable drills or instructions in matters generally considered essential to good firemanship and safety of life and property from fire.
- D. The Chief and Officers shall cause to be kept complete records of all fires, apparatus and minor equipment, personnel and other information about the work of the CVF.
- E. The Chief shall report monthly to the Township Committee the number and type of fires during the month, the number and purpose of all other runs made.
- F. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the Township Committee, such report to include information as specified in Subsection E of this section, as well as an annual consolidated financial report and an audit every other year for the prior two years.
- G. The Chief shall be responsible to transmit to the Chief Financial Officer of the Township, on or before November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, a proposed capital budget including estimated costs for items requested.

§ 14.8. Membership.

- A. Every person seeking to join the CVF shall make application to the CVF in accordance with the rules and regulations thereof, and the bylaws of the CVF. Upon obtaining membership in the CVF said person shall become a member in good standing of the CVF, subject to appointment thereto by the Township Committee.

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- B. All members of the CVF shall serve without compensation except for an annual volunteer fee of \$25 per member and \$50 for the Chief. This is separate and distinct from the township's obligation under Township Code Chapter 18 Article II Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).
- C. Junior Firemen's Auxiliary membership is established and regulated per Township Code Chapter 18 Article I.

§ 14.9. Equipment.

- A. Recommendations for the purchase of apparatus and equipment needed to maintain the effectiveness of the CVF and property to protect life and property from fire greater than the current state bid threshold shall be made by the Fire Chief to the Chief Financial Officer.
- B. All Township equipment of the CVF shall be safely and conveniently housed by the CVF at the firehouse and maintained by the members of the CVF, excluding the Fire Chief vehicle, which may be housed at the Fire Chief's residence.
- C. Except as may be authorized by the Township Committee, no person shall use any fire apparatus or equipment of the Township for any private purpose. No person shall willfully and without authority take away or conceal any article used in any way by the CVF.
- D. No person except authorized employees of the Township of Cranbury shall enter any place where fire apparatus is housed or handle any equipment belonging to the Township unless accompanied by or having the special permission of an officer or authorized member of the CVF.
- E. The Chief is hereby authorized to extend aid to neighboring communities upon request for fire protection or to establish a mutual aid system.
- F. No apparatus, excluding the Fire Chief vehicle, of the Township shall be hired out or permitted to leave the Township of Cranbury without consent of the Township, except in response to a call for aid in a neighboring community or on official business including festivals, parades and similar public events. No apparatus is to leave the Township on official business without the consent of the Chief or highest- ranking line officer available. The line officer in charge of the CVF shall have power to assign equipment for response calls for outside aid in accordance with Subsection E of this section, and in other cases, only when the absence of such equipment in his judgment will not jeopardize fire protection in the Township of Cranbury.

§ 14.10. Removal of officers and members.

The Township Committee may reprimand, suspend or remove from office the Fire Chief, any line officer of the CVF or member of the CVF for sufficient cause.

SECTION 2. Repealer. All ordinances and resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Ordinance, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication, as required by law.

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--Mayor Rogers opened for public comment on the ordinance only.

- Richard Kallan – Expressed his desire for a new ordinance to be drafted after the Township Committee and Fire Company meet. He suggested additional agreements with Cranbury First Aid Squad and the Cranbury Public Library.
- Bonnie Larson – Expressed her opinion against the ordinance.
- Mark Berkowsky – Expressed his desire for a new ordinance to be drafted after the Township Committee and Fire Company meet.
- Kent Marshall – Expressed his desire for a new ordinance to be drafted after the Township Committee and Fire Company meet.
- Richard Shaklee – Attorney for the Volunteer Fire Company, requested another meeting between the Fire Company and Township Committee to draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Michael Kervan – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Robert Allen – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Jay Taylor – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Charlie Smith – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Richard Zimmer – Expressed his opinion against the ordinance.
- John Nichols – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Timothy Brennan – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Mike Dulin – Expressed his support for the ordinance.
- Tim Brennan – Mr. Brennan clarified a previous resident's statement that the Township Committee is volunteer based. Members of the Township Committee are salaried.
- Jeffrey Kraws – Expressed his opinion against the ordinance.
- Gerald Laughlin – East Windsor Fire Chief of Fire Company #1, expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Michele Gittings – Expressed her desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Bill Gittings – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Keith Shaw – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Greg De Angelis – Expressed his desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Linda Bowker – Expressed her desire for the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together and draft a mutual agreement and ordinance.
- Oleg Brennan – Inquired the need for paid firefighters as opposed to already established volunteers.

Hearing no further public comment, Mr. Scott motioned to close public comment and Mr. Ferrante seconded.

Mayor Rogers opened for township committee members to comment on the ordinance only. Township committee members discussed the need for the ordinance. Ms. Spann requested the ordinance to be tabled until a new ordinance and agreement may be drafted with the Fire Company. Mr. Ferrante reread the proposed amendments to the ordinance in their entirety. Mr. Goodell advised the township committee on the ordinance adoption timeline and process. Hearing no further comment, Mayor Rogers closed the township committee comment portion on the ordinance.

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to move on the amended version of ordinance. Mr. Scott seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance as amended was introduced by the majority.

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

Abstain: (None

Absent: (None

Nays: (Spann

**Resolutions – Consent**

Mayor Rogers asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda items. On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Ms. Spann the following Consent Agenda Resolution(s) were unanimously adopted by the following vote:

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

Abstain: (None

Absent: (None

Nays: (None

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 11-22-126**

**WHEREAS**, The Tax Collector, Tanyika L. Johns has certified that the following taxpayers overpaid their taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tax Collector is requesting that the overpaid taxes be refunded,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury that the following overpayment be refunded:

<u>Rate Payer</u>	<u>Refund</u>
<b>OWNER:</b> MOHIUDDIN, SOHAIB & MALIK, SANA	\$4,455.25

**Make check payable to:** WEATHERVANE ABSTRACT,  
110 MAIN STREET, FLEMINGTON, NJ 08822

**LOCATION:** 7 SILVERS LANE SOUTH

**BLOCK:** 26.01 **LOT:** 29.26 **QUALIFIER:**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Rogers then opened the meeting to general public comment.

- Laura Zurfluh – Ms. Zurfluh requested the Township Committee support a resolution against the proposed Keasbey power plant in Woodbridge.
- Michael Keravan – Expressed his displeasure with the amended ordinance.
- Jeffrey Kraws – Expressed his displeasure with the amended ordinance.
- Richard Kallan – Expressed his displeasure with the amended ordinance.
- Mark Berkowsky – Expressed his displeasure with the amended ordinance.
- Linda Schiling – Expressed her displeasure with the amended ordinance.
- Jay Taylor – Expressed his displeasure with the amended ordinance. He requested the Fire Company and Township Committee to work together on a mutual agreement.

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Mayor Rogers closed the public comment portion at 9:23 p.m.

**Action Items – None**

**Adjourn**

Mayor Rogers requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

*Debra A. Rubin*

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Debra A. Rubin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk