

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
December 12, 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 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 28, 2022;**

On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, 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 28, 2022 were unanimously adopted.

**Cranbury Township Resolution # R 12-22-127 – In Appreciation of Marilyn Mullen, Library Director**

Mayor Rogers asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on Cranbury Township Resolution # R 12-22-127. Members of the Township Committee thanked Ms. Mullen on her service and dedication to the Cranbury Township Public Library. On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Ms. El-Badawi the following Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

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**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 12-22-127**

***Recognizing the Retirement of Marilynn Mullen after 24 years at the Cranbury Public Library***

- WHEREAS, Marilynn Goedecke Mullen grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and has called Cranbury home since 1986, with husband Paul and now-grown children Sara, David and Andy.
- WHEREAS, Marilynn has worked at the Cranbury Public Library since 1998 when she began as a Library Assistant, earned a Master's degree in Information and Library Science from Rutgers University in 2003, and served as the Library Director since 2008, where she led the extremely capable team at the library, and where for many, Marilynn *is* the face of the Cranbury Public Library.
- WHEREAS, Marilynn, in partnership with the library board, recognized the importance of a free-standing library for Cranbury, and worked to form the Cranbury Public Library Foundation in 2009, which eventually went on to raise over \$2.0 Million in donations for the new public library building.
- WHEREAS, Marilynn worked tirelessly from 2008 through 2017 to support the new library building effort through a feasibility phase, the fundraising campaign, and the capstone "Walk of Knowledge" brick program; Marilynn served as the bridge to the public library, a leader in the campaign, and a tireless advocate for the project, all in addition to her responsibilities as Director.
- WHEREAS, Marilynn was instrumental in advocating with local legislators to insert the NJ Library Construction Bond Act onto the 2017 general election ballot as a referendum, where it passed statewide and by an overwhelming margin in Cranbury.
- WHEREAS, Marilynn worked to prepare the grant submission for the Bond Act, which was submitted in April 2020 and awarded in November 2020, leading to a groundbreaking in 2021 and completion in November 2022; Marilynn served as a constant throughout the process to ensure the project was completed in a timely fashion and within budget.
- WHEREAS, Marilynn has earned the trust and respect of her staff, "leading by doing" and serving as Director with energy, enthusiasm, and compassion, as she and her staff navigated two site changes and a move into the new building at 30 Park Place West.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the Township Committee, do hereby thank Marilynn for her many years of dedication to the Cranbury Public Library and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

Ms. Mullen thanked the Township Committee for their kind words. She stated that it was great working with members of the Township Committee over the years. She enjoyed working on *The Quill* which prompted her working at the Cranbury Public Library.

**Reports and Communications  
Members of Committee**

- Ms. El-Badawi – Ms. El-Badawi reported on her attendance at the Cranbury Historical Preservation Society meeting. She reported on the Mayors Wellness Campaign in which Cranbury was selected to utilize the dashboard. She additionally reported that Laura Zurfluh was runner-up as a champion in health.

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- Mr. Ferrante – Mr. Ferrante reported on his attendance at the Planning Board and Library Board of Trustees meetings. He reported that it was the first Library Board of Trustees meeting in the new Cranbury Public Library. He provided an update regarding the new auxiliary gym located at Cranbury School. He additionally reported on the upcoming winter play hosted by Cranbury Arts Council in which he and Ms. Spann are participating in.
- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott had no liaison meetings scheduled since his last report.
- Ms. Spann – Ms. Spann reported on her attendance at Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings. She reported on the progress of traffic subcommittee matters. She provided an update to the Municipal Alliance 988 mailing and confirmed the letters had been sent.

**Mayor**

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

**Reports & Communications:**

- Mayor Rogers reported on her attendance at the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and 325<sup>th</sup> Celebration with the Women's Club and Scouts at the Fire Station
- She reported on her attendance at the Christmas Tea Event at the Cranbury Museum
- She attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at Hearth & Home, a new business in Cranbury
- She attended the Cranbury Lions Club 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast was served by Lions Members and BSA Troup 52

**Reminders:**

- **December 16** – Cranbury Village Luminaries Walk and A Christmas Carol Performance hosted by the Cranbury Arts Council and the Cranbury Chamber of Commerce
- **December 18-26** – Mayor Rogers reported on the menorah lighting dates and times for the eight nights of Chanukah

**Department Heads – Fire Company:**

Chief Charlie Smith gave the Fire Company Report for October and November 2022. He confirmed the number of calls is on par with last year's calls. Chief Smith reported on fire prevention safety training at Cranbury School. Chief Smith added that he endorses the amendments to the ordinance that was mutually agreed upon by the township and the Fire Company.

**Agenda Additions/Changes – None.**

**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**

**Second Reading –** Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only: **An Ordinance Creating the Code of the Township of Cranbury, Middlesex County, NJ, Chapter 14 Entitled "Volunteer Fire Company"**

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Prior to opening the Ordinance to public comment, Mayor Rogers announced additional amendments to the ordinance will be read in their entirety by Mr. Ferrante. She reported that the Township Committee and Fire Company have come to a mutual agreement and the newly amended ordinance reflects the changes requested. On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Scott the following ordinance was opened to discussion by the following vote:

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

**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”**

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

- Bonnie Larson – Expressed her disappointment in the ordinance. She objected to the need for such ordinance.

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

Mayor Rogers opened for township committee members to comment on the ordinance only. Mr. Ferrante read the amendments in their entirety. Township committee members discussed working with the Fire Company and coming to a mutual agreement. 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 unanimously introduced.

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

The ordinance is scheduled for final public hearing and adoption on December 19, 2022.

**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

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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 11-22-128**

**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 NO. 12-22-129**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT  
WITH THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX FOR SPECIALIZED  
EQUIPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Middlesex Department of Public Safety and Health is interested in supporting municipalities and government entities within the County of Middlesex in their efforts to serve, protect, and provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors by ensuring that said municipalities and government entities have access to state-of-the-art equipment owned by and in the possession of the County of Middlesex Department of Public Safety and Health; and

**WHEREAS**, specialized equipment has been purchased for and by the County of Middlesex with funding derived from its Federal, State, County and local partners that will support our collective efforts to provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Middlesex County Department of Public Safety and Health concurs that the strategic deployment of specialized equipment based upon need and risk assessment is a significant step in reaching the goal of providing for the safety and welfare of the citizens of Middlesex County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of the Middlesex County Department of Public Safety and Health, with the approval and/or consensus of the respective County officials to which the specialized equipment is assigned, reserves the right to approve the loaning of said specialized equipment to a specific municipality or entity that enters into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as well as the right to re-direct the assignment of specialized equipment previously committed for use by one municipality or entity for a particular event to a different municipality or entity based upon need and risk assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, any municipality or entity that wishes to be considered to have this specialized equipment made available for use within their respective jurisdictional area, hereinafter referred to as "participating municipalities or entities", are hereby required to execute and comply with all aspects of the MOU.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury authorizes the Township Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the Agreement with the County of Middlesex Department of Public Safety and Health, attached hereto.

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**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 12-22-130**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIDDLESEX COUNTY AND THE  
TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Township is authorized to enter into an Agreement with Middlesex County, regarding the "Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" in the agreement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the Agreement.

**Public Comment**

Mayor Rogers then opened the meeting to general public comment.

- Mark Berkowsky – Mr. Berkowsky commended the Fire Company and Township Committee for working together and establishing a mutual agreement.
- Laura Zurfluh – Ms. Zurfluh requested the Township Committee support a resolution against the proposed Keasbey power plant in Woodbridge.

Mayor Rogers closed the public comment portion at 7:55 p.m.

**Action Items –**

- Ms. Spann inquired if the Board of Health had power to pass their own resolution. Mr. Goodell suggested the Chair confirm with their legal counsel.
- Mayor Rogers to present a year-end power point presentation at the upcoming Township Committee meeting.

**Adjourn**

Mayor Rogers requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Scott and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**Debra A. Rubin**

Debra A. Rubin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk