

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING  
January 9, 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 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.

**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 December 19, 2022;**

On a motion by Ms. El-Badawi, seconded by Dr. Rogers, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

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

Abstain: (Knierim  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2022 were adopted by the majority.

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 Re-organization Meeting Minutes January 3, 2023;**

On a motion by Dr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. El-Badawi, 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 Re-organization Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2023 were unanimously adopted.

**Cranbury Township Resolution # R 01-23-016 – Honoring Tim Brennan’s 40 Years of Scouting Service**

Mayor Ferrante read the following Resolution in its entirety. After reading, he asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on Cranbury Township Resolution # R 01-23-016. Members of the Township Committee thanked Mr. Brennan for his service and dedication to the Township of Cranbury and Troop 52. On a motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Dr. Rogers the following Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 01-23-016**

***Honoring Tim Brennan’s 40 years of Scouting Service***

**WHEREAS**, Timothy “Tim” Brennan has been a dutiful member of the Boy Scouts of America for a notable period of 40 years.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has demonstrated service both as a youth and adult member of Troop 52 in Cranbury, New Jersey earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1985.

**WHEREAS**, Tim led the Muskingum College Eagle Scout Association from 1992 to 1993, and then joined Cranbury Troop 52 immediately upon his return to the area after college.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has maintained a family legacy of Eagle Scouts, including his late father Frank Brennan Jr, his three brothers, Frank, Patrick, and Kevin, and his three sons Timmy, Paul, and Oleg Brennan (who is a 2023 Eagle Scout candidate).

**WHEREAS**, Tim has volunteered as an adult leader in Troop 52 since 2000, first serving as Assistant Scoutmaster for seven years, then serving as Scoutmaster for Troop 52 for the past 10 years.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has mentored hundreds of boys and young men toward becoming leaders of character committed to greater citizenship.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has led merit badge sessions, hikes, and campouts to a generation of Cranbury youth, teaching life skills and an appreciation of the great outdoors.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has guided over 30 Scouts to reach the rank of Eagle Scout during his time as Scoutmaster.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has grown Troop 52 into a thriving service-driven organization with over 60 Scouts actively involved in the Cranbury community.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has gone the extra mile to support Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts alumni after they finish the program by writing numerous letters of recommendation to colleges and employers,

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facilitating army fitness tests for scholarships and entrance requirements, offering first jobs of employment at summer recreation camp, and counseling Scouts in need of encouragement and advice.

**WHEREAS**, Tim has led and operated with a perpetual smile and friendly demeanor to successfully meet the goals and mission of the Boy Scouts of America, living his life by the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

**WHEREAS**, Timothy Brennan being a true gentleman who wholeheartedly gives freely of his time and talents and has demonstrated exemplary service for the betterment of Cranbury, we resolve to honor his remarkable contribution to BSA Troop 52 and the Cranbury community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we, the Township Committee, do hereby thank Tim for his years of service to BSA Troop 52 Cranbury and his dedication to Cranbury

Mr. Brennan thanked the Township Committee for their kind words. He additionally thanked his mother, Peggy Brennan, for her support and the support of other members of the public for their support and help over the years to make Troop 52 a success.

**Reports and Communications  
Members of Committee**

- Mr. Scott – Mr. Scott had no liaison meetings scheduled since his last report.
- Ms. Knierim – Ms. Knierim reported on her attendance at the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meeting. She plans to attend the upcoming Board of Health and Historic Preservation Committee meetings.
- Dr. Rogers – Dr. Rogers reported on her attendance at the School Board of Education re-organization meeting. Dr. Rogers reported on presenting the Township Committee year-end power point presentation to the Cranbury Lions Club at their end of year celebration.
- Ms. El-Badawi – Ms. El-Badawi reported on her attendance at the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment re-organization meetings.

**Mayor**

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

**Reports & Communications:**

- Mayor Ferrante reported on behalf of the Fire Company's December and Year-End reports.
- He reported on his attendance to the Planning Board and School Board Re-organization meetings.
- Mayor Ferrante additionally gave a brief synopsis of the budget process.

**Reminders:**

- **January 14<sup>th</sup>** – Coffee with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the Cranbury Public Library
- **January 21<sup>st</sup>** – Annual Budget Meeting at Town Hall

**Department Heads** – None.

**Agenda Additions/Changes** – None.

**Boards and Commissions** – Mayoral Appointments/Vacancies

**Mayoral Appointments:**

- Historic Preservation Commission
  - David Szabo to 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate (term expiring 12/31/2024)
  - Chirag Ponnada to 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate (term expiring 12/31/2023)

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**Vacancies:**

- **Parks Commission:**
  - Member, expiring 12/31/25;
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate, expiring 12/31/23;
- **Economic Development Advisory Committee:**
  - Member (CBA Representative), expiring 12/31/24;
  - Member, expiring 12/31/24
- **Municipal Alliance:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate, expiring 12/31/23; and
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate expiring 12/31/23.

**Ordinances –**

**First Reading –**

Prior to Ms. Rubin reading the following ordinances by title only, Mayor Ferrante summarized the ordinance adoption process. Ms. Rubin then read the following ordinance by title only:

**a). Township of Cranbury Ordinance # 01-23-01 – An Ordinance Amending The Code Of The Township Of Cranbury, Middlesex County, Nj, Chapter 42 Entitled “Economic Development Advisory Committee”**

Dr. Rogers made a motion to introduce the following ordinance. Ms. Knierim seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously. Second reading will be held on January 30, 2023.

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

**b). Township of Cranbury Ordinance # 01-23-02 – Calendar Year 2023 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40a: 4-45.14)**

Mr. Scott made a motion to introduce the following ordinance. Dr. Rogers seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously. Second reading will be held on January 30, 2023.

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

**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

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Consent Agenda. On motion by Ms. El-Badawi, seconded by Dr. Rogers, the Resolutions 01-13-017 through 01-13-019 were passed by unanimous vote:

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

Abstain: (None  
Absent: (None

Nays: (None

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 01-23-017**

**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-01-23-018**

**SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the *Cranbury Township* has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2023 budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the *Cranbury Township* that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:

- a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
- b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
- c. Cash deficit of preceding year
- d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
- e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
- f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.

2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).

3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.

4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:

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- a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
- b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
- c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.

5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.

6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

**CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 01-23-019**

**Resolution Opposing Construction of CPV Keasbey Power Plant in Woodbridge, NJ**

**WHEREAS**, Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) has proposed to build a gas-fired power plant ("CPV Keasbey") in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge, in Middlesex County New Jersey, in a densely populated region within the most densely populated state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranbury is less than eighteen miles away from the proposed plant, and would be negatively impacted by its operation; and

**WHEREAS**, Middlesex County is already home to at least six major fossil-fuel power plants<sup>1</sup> with a total generation capacity that far exceeds its existing needs, and Central New Jersey already suffers high levels of air pollution from fossil-fuel power plants, which are among the largest pollution sources in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Edison, the Borough of Highland Park, the Highland Park Board of Education, the City of Hoboken, the City of Perth Amboy, the Township of Franklin, the Borough of Sayreville, the City of Rahway, the County of Somerset, and the Township of South Brunswick have each opposed the construction of this gas-burning power plant proposed by CPV; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cranbury Environmental Commission has reviewed this proposal and called on Governor Phil Murphy and the Department of Environmental Protection to oppose, not just the proposed power plant in Keasbey, but the creation of all fossil-fuel power plants throughout the state of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has a principal responsibility to protect the health and safety of its residents and businesses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of Cranbury, in the interest of protecting its residents and businesses, opposes construction of this gas-burning power plant proposed by CPV; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we join the Cranbury Environmental Commission and the Cranbury Board of Health in calling on Governor Murphy and the Department of Environmental Protection to oppose, not just the proposed power plant in Keasbey, but the creation of all fossil-fuel power plants throughout the state of New Jersey; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk shall forward this Resolution to Governor Phil Murphy, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental

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Protection Shawn LaTourette, US Senator Robert Menendez, US Senator Cory Booker, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, State Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblyman Daniel Benson, Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo, and the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners.

**Work Session – 2023 Goals**

Mayor Ferrante explained the Township Committee will produce a list of 2023 Goals. The following is the 2023 Goals for Township Committee.

**2023 Township Committee Goals**

- Build a 2023 budget that keeps municipal portion of taxes as stable as possible while maximizing resident value
- Successfully implement the Village Park walking path [TC Engineer]
- Successfully complete the Plainsboro Road resurfacing project funded through DOT grant [TC Engineer]
- Monitor the Petty Road resurfacing [TC Engineer]
- Partner with CHA and Ingerman on the walkway connection to Bennett Way [TC Decision to proceed]
- Partner with CHA on deeding the Park Place West connector road to the township [TC Engineer]
- Implement holistic, consistent signage program, including gateway signs [HPC]
- Ensure the success of the new municipal library building [Library Board]
- Support the Board of Education in their long-term construction project [Board of Education]
- Support business organizations in welcoming new businesses to town [EDAC]
- Complete community priorities survey [EDAC]
- Fill all open board positions within one month of vacancy [TC]
- Review other informal agreements that need to be formalized [TC]

**Things Township Committee needs to continue:**

- Continue to partner with county/neighboring towns on regional truck strategy
- Continue to partner with county/neighboring towns on regional flood resiliency study
- Continue on bikeway safety action items
- Continue on Sustainable Jersey items
- Continue to partner with DOT on Cranbury Circle / Brickyard Road
- Continue to improve communications between TC members, boards and commissions, and with residents

**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.

Hearing and seeing none, Mayor Ferrante closed public comment.

**Action Items**

- Mayor Ferrante to edit and update the 2023 Township Committee Goals list for all members.
- Dr. Rogers to report after Board of Education meeting regarding the auxiliary gym project.
- Mr. Scott requested the Traffic Subcommittee meeting be scheduled.
- Ms. Knierim to clarify CBA and Chamber of Commerce roles on EDAC.

**Adjourn**

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With no further comments, Mayor Ferrante requested a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Scott, seconded by Dr. Rogers and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

*Debra A. Rubin*

Debra A. Rubin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk