

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
May 22, 2017

The Township Committee Meeting 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: Glenn Johnson, Jay Taylor, and Mayor Dave Cook. Susan Goetz and Dan Mulligan were absent. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/Director of Finance; and Kathleen R. Cunningham, Municipal Clerk/Assistant Administrator. Mayor Cook led in the salute to the flag, and Ms. Cunningham 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 5, 2016 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 5, 2016.
- (3) Filed on December 5, 2016 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.

Resolution

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 05-17-059

Mayor Cook and Committee members, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Taylor honored Dr. John Whiteclay Chambers, II for receiving the 2017 "Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award at Rutgers University and acknowledged his many publications, including a book and reference information about Cranbury Township. Dr. Chambers spoke briefly and thanked the Township Committee for the Resolution. On motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Taylor and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was adopted by vote:

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

Nays: (None

WHEREAS, John Whiteclay Chambers, II was recently honored on April 28, 2017 as the 2017 recipient of "The Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award" and;

WHEREAS, this award is affiliated with the Rutgers Oral History Archives and is an honor society established to recognize those who participate in or loyally support the practice of oral history at Rutgers University; and

WHEREAS, some of the past recipients of the Ambrose Award included Tom Brokaw, Steven Spielberg and Ken Burns; and

WHEREAS, John has authored more than a dozen books; including "Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present" (2012); and

WHEREAS, John has taught for 45 years and has received teaching awards at both Barnard College and Rutgers University; and

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Cranbury Township Resolution # R 05-17-059
(Continued)

WHEREAS, John and his wife Amy have lived in Cranbury since 1986; and

WHEREAS, Cranbury is very proud of John and his accomplishments and is honored to call John Whiteclay Chamber, II a resident;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranbury it hereby congratulates John and wishes him continued achievements and success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a duly authenticated copy of this Resolution be presented to John.

Township Committee Minutes of May 8, 2017

On motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cook with Mr. Taylor abstaining due to absence, the Township Committee Minutes of May 8, 2017 were adopted.

Various Closed Session Minutes Released to the Public

On motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried, various Closed Session Minutes were released to the public.

Reports and Communications

--Mayor Cook

Mayor Cook appointed Ms. Lisa Rue as a regular member (from the Second Alternate) to the Recreation Board with a term expiring on December 31, 2019.

Mayor Cook stated safety at the Route 130 Circle has been an issue for a long time and increased traffic and problems will continue due to recent warehouse construction. He reported letters have been sent to Mr. Brian Fineman, Director of Systems Planning, Data and Forecasting at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and to Mr. Richard Hammer, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation to bring awareness to the existing traffic safety problem at the Circle. The Township is requesting that the Circle be addressed as future work is being considered on Route 130.

Reports and Communications

--Members of Committee

--Mr. Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported he attended two (2) Planning Board Meetings at which two (2) warehouses for nationally-known retailers were approved.

--Mr. Taylor

Mr. Taylor congratulated Public Works for a job well done during cleanup, including removing chipping off the roads and getting the parks ready for spring. Mr. Taylor reported the Fire House has two (2) bids under \$10,000 for the painting of the bays.

Mr. Taylor reported he and Mr. Jeff Graydon, Zoning Officer, have had conversations concerning potential violations of local businesses in the Township, which Mr. Graydon is looking into.

Mr. Taylor reported the warehouse being built on Route 571 and Old Trenton Road in East Windsor will be a distribution center, which will further impact the traffic in Cranbury, including the Circle area.

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Reports and Communications

--Subcommittees

There were no reports from Subcommittees.

--Department Heads

Mr. Michael Kervan, Chief of the Cranbury Volunteer Fire Company gave his report for the previous month, as follows: 44 incidents (171 year-to-date) and 193.67 volunteer hours (1,046.49 year-to-date total). Chief Kervan reported two (2) fires in Hightstown; two (2) vehicle fires on the Turnpike; a trash fire in South Brunswick; a mulch fire at Charlie Brown's in East Windsor; and a carport fire in Monroe. Chief Kervan reported there are four (4) students who are finishing Fire School and can ride as qualified firefighters within the next month. He stated the Fire Company is gearing up for the Memorial Day Parades in Cranbury and Hightstown. Mr. Taylor asked Chief Kervan to explain some of the required firefighter training. Chief Kervan stated in addition to Fire School, additional training is offered in extrication and advanced firefighting skills.

Chief Rickey Varga, Chief of the Cranbury Police Department, stated traffic is always a concern in Cranbury. He stated a traffic safety plan was rolled out on May 1st and reported the Police Department relies on messages from the public concerning traffic. He stated the Police Department knows where the problems are and they have used grant monies to increase additional enforcement. He stated the Police Department wants to be more proactive, not reactive when addressing traffic concerns. Chief Varga stated Cranbury did not receive the "Click It or Ticket" grant this year, explaining Federal funding had been cut and monies were allocated to the larger cities. Chief Varga stated the Township had received a \$15,000 "aggressive driving grant," which they used for crosswalk enforcement last year.

Chief Varga spoke briefly about the recent pedestrian hit and run accident and praised the detectives for doing a great job. He stated the search has been narrowed down to a 2008 or 2009 Expedition. He assured the Committee that not only is Cranbury Police using all of their resources; they are also utilizing the resources of the County and State Police as well. Chief Varga urged residents to call in any traffic complaints they see. He stated the Police will be using their officers on bikes as well.

Mr. Taylor stated there were increased patrols before the recent incident. He stated there have been 81 summonses issued (307 for the year). Mr. Taylor stated:

- There was discussion about installing lighted speed signs like the one on Cranbury Neck Road in West Windsor. Mr. Taylor stated when the lighted signs are installed, drivers pay attention at first and then become immune to them. Chief Varga stated unfortunately where the signs should be placed is in residential areas, and residents do not want the blinking lights outside their homes.
- Residents must be proactive in calling the Police if they see traffic violations. He stated the dispatchers are great and the Police respond very quickly.

Mr. Taylor stated he met with Richard Preiss, Township Planner concerning the "McMansion Ordinance," and stated the new tax software system made it easy to access the square footage of homes in Cranbury. He stated they are looking at targeting a McMansion Ordinance that would exempt about 95% of the current homes having to go through the Zoning Board before adding extensions to the homes. Mr. Taylor stated they drove around neighborhoods, and one issue is how close houses are to property lines and the resulting visual impact of a three story home built next to a ranch. Mr. Taylor stated he and Mr. Preiss will have a work session in the fall to further discuss the issue.

Follow-up Items

There were no Follow-up Items this evening.

Agenda Additions/Changes

Ms. Cunningham reported there were no additions or changes to the Agenda.

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Public Comment (For Items on Agenda)

Mayor Cook opened the meeting to public comment for items on the Agenda. Hearing no comments or questions, Mayor Cook closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Resolution

Consent Agenda

Mayor Cook asked the Township Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda. On a motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Taylor, the following Resolutions were adopted by vote:

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

Nays: (None

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 05-17-060

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 05-17-061

RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2017
FOR BLOCK: 20.17, LOT: 1

WHEREAS, Cranbury Township will soon be the owner of Block 20.17 Lot 1 through a donation from D&R Greenway Land Trust, Inc., and;

WHEREAS, the Township will accept the parcel in 2017 and all accrued property taxes for 2017 should be cancelled.

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

1. The Tax Collector is directed to cancel taxes as follows:

2017 1st - \$148.36

2017 2nd - \$148.36

2017 3rd - to be determined

2017 4th - to be determined

2. The parcel is to be exempted on the 2018 tax list.

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Cranbury Township Resolution # R 05-17-061
(Continued)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and the Treasurer for their information and any appropriate action.

Cranbury Township Resolution # R 05-17-062

A RESOLUTION AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to hire the following firm ("Professional") to provide professional services to the Township during the calendar year 2017 as follows:

a). RGA, Inc.

WHEREAS, the costs for the services to be provided by the Professional are set forth in the respective proposal submitted to the Township, which is incorporated herein as if fully restated; and

WHEREAS, the Township has a need to acquire the foregoing services without a "Fair and Open Process" as defined by P.L. 2004, c. 19, the "Local Unit Pay-to-Play Law"; and

WHEREAS, the Professional has completed and filed with the Township Campaign Contributions Affidavits as required by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.2 *et seq.* certifying that she has not made any prohibited contributions to a candidate's committee or municipal committee representing the elected officials of the Township of Cranbury, along with Certifications Regarding Political Contributions as required by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.26; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et. seq.* authorizes the award of this contract without public bidding on the basis that it is a professional services agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Cranbury Township Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available for this purpose and that the value of the Agreement will exceed \$17,500.00;

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

1. The Township of Cranbury hereby approves the following firm to provide professional services to the Township during the calendar year 2017:

a). RGA, Inc.

2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to enter into Professional Services Agreement with the aforementioned professional pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.* This contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as a Professional Services Agreement under the provisions of the aforementioned law because a service will be rendered or performed by a person or persons by law to practice recognized profession and whose practice is regulated by law.

3. A copy of this Resolution, the pay-to-play forms, and the executed Agreement and insurance certificate shall be placed on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

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Cranbury Township Resolution # R 05-17-062
(Continued)

4. A brief notice of this action shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township of Cranbury within ten (10) days of its passage.

Reports from Township Staff and Professionals

--Administrator's Report

Ms. Marabello reported the traffic study for Station Road has been completed and a report was done by the consultants. She stated she is waiting for comments to come back before sending the report to the County and the DOT to impose a 4-ton truck weight limit on Station Road from Route 130 to South Main Street.

--Assistant Administrator

Ms. Cunningham stated she had nothing to report.

--Boards and Commissions

Mr. Richard Kallan, Wynnewood Drive and a member of the Clock Winders Committee, reported the purchase order for getting the Town Hall clock repaired has been signed. He stated we should know in a few days when the clock will be scheduled to be moved, probably in the next few weeks. Mr. Kallan stated to protect the investment of having the clock repaired, a canopy or some type of shield needs to be installed to stop the dust from falling into the movement. Mr. Taylor inquired if the meeting room clock was looked at, and Ms. Cunningham explained the Township Committee decided to delay the cleaning of the clock until November, at which time, Mayor Cook stated the Committee would have a better idea if funds were available in the budget to have the clock cleaned.

Public Comment

Mayor Cook opened the meeting to public comment. Ms. Claudette Guy, North Main Street, stated she has lived in Cranbury for 18 years and in the last several years, three (3) people have been struck by cars in the village, one near her home in the crosswalk of North Main Street and Plainsboro Road. She stated she has two boys, ages 11 and 14, who are becoming more independent and are spreading their wings and she is very concerned. Ms. Guy stated every single day at every hour she sees cars speeding and running the red light on Main Street. She stated she is concerned about the intersection near her home, however, she stated every mother in the Village has their own corner, crosswalk or street that they worry about. Ms. Guy complimented the Police Department, stating they are doing a great job with all the territory they have to cover on Route 130 and in the Village. Ms. Guy stated there were many comments on Face Book concerning the lack of crosswalks on Plainsboro Road and Station Road (east of Main Street). She stated she understands the Township Committee is very busy; however, she respectfully requested a comprehensive plan be developed to make systematic/physical changes (lights, signs or bumpouts) to address the issues. She stated the Police Department can only do so much.

Mayor Cook agreed, stating the Police are trying to assess where the hot spots are. Mayor Cook stated the process is two (2) phased: knowing where the issues are happening and assessing those points. Ms. Guy stated some of the locations are very obvious. Mayor Cook stated it may be necessary to add more Police. Ms. Guy stated her point was to see a comprehensive plan to address safety that would be Police as well as lit crosswalks or additional bump outs. She stated she would like to see funding being allocated in the budget to make those things happen. She stated again the Police do a good job; however additional physical deterrents would also help. Ms. Guy stated it is not fair to have the Police be the only system in place; a comprehensive plan must be developed.

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Public Comment (cont'd.)

Mr. Taylor stated it might be helpful for the public to understand what systematic approaches have been addressed in the past:

- Discussions about a crosswalk at Cranbury Neck Road and Main Street
- Lowered speed limits in a number of locations, including extending the 25 mph speed limit on North Main Street
- Installed a 35 mph speed gap zone on Cranbury Neck Road and Plainsboro Road to encourage traffic to slow down coming into the Village
- Discussed putting in lighted crosswalks; however, that it difficult in front of residences.
- Investigated bump outs based on engineering studies that stated narrow roadways slow traffic.
- Installed "green men" signs in the street to alert drivers to upcoming crosswalks.
- Looked at installing speed bumps on Main Street; however it is a County road and snow plows would tear up those bumps.

Mr. Taylor assured the public that in the nine (9) years he has been on Committee, traffic and the tools to address the traffic have been looked at. He stated it may be necessary to bring in another officer to operate the Traffic Bureau again. Mr. Taylor stated in the past Lt. DeChiara and Officer Cipriano worked the Traffic Bureau; though recently those resources had to be reallocated. Mr. Taylor stated the Township has had a systematic plan; however, what is instituted works for some residents and not for others. Residents requested a reduced speed limit for Old Trenton Road and others are now complaining about the slow speed. Mr. Taylor stated he has heard numerous times from Cranbury residents that they are not concerned about receiving a speeding ticket. He encouraged residents to set an example by following the speed limits. Ms. Guy agreed and stated residents need to "lead the charge" by following and not exceeding the speed limit. She stated she was running late and was driving a little fast when she saw a Police car, and while she did not want or get a ticket, she stated it made her slow down and accept she may arrive late to her destination. Ms. Guy stated she would hate to have Cranbury known for its traffic. She said a little girl was struck by a hit and run driver and luckily was not killed. She worries about the next little boy or girl that may not be so lucky. She urged the Committee to keep working on the issue and come up with a solution, and while blinking lights might be annoying, she is sure there is some solution to the problem.

Mayor Cook assured the public that the Committee is working on the traffic issue. Ms. Guy inquired if there was a way they could stay "in the know" about this, and Mayor Cook responded they would be kept in the loop.

Mr. Richard Kallan, Wynnewood Drive, inquired if the Township has considered installing video cameras at three (3) locations on Main Street: Plainsboro Road, Cranbury Inn and Cranbury Neck Road. He stated the camera would scan north and south. He stated the video cameras would deter speeding and would have assisted in finding the hit and run driver. Chief Varga stated there are many types of cameras, and the Mayor stated many resist the idea of "big brother" knowing what they do. Mr. Kallan stated he has lived in Wynnewood for 40 years and he inquired why a stop sign was recently installed at Woodview and Wynnewood Drives. Chief Varga reported the Police Department had received complaints that cars were not stopping so a stop sign was installed.

Ms. Chivon MacMillan, Plainsboro Road, reported she moved to Cranbury about six (6) years ago and knew Plainsboro Road was not in a quiet development; however, she did not anticipate having cars drive in excess of 50 mph at all times of the day. She stated she works in sales and knows many towns out of state and in New Jersey that she would be ticketed if she drove over the speed limit. She stated she would like to see that response in Cranbury. Mayor Cook stated 35 mph speed limit signs were installed on Plainsboro Road and the hope was the signs would slow drivers down; however, it has not worked as hoped and additional measures will need to be looked into. Mayor Cook discussed the problem of plows hitting speed bumps and stated other options are being looked at. He stated the Police Department is looking into speeding as well as distracted driving. Mr. Taylor reported he lived in a development that had speed bumps and the noise from cars not aware of them was terrible. He stated many of the homes here on Main Street have sandstone

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Public Comment (cont'd.)

foundations, which is why in the late 1970's and early 1980's there was a push to get trucks off Main Street. Over time, the vibrations of trucks would destroy the foundations.

Ms. Judy Rougas, Bergan Drive, stated she has a seventh-grade daughter, and it was her friend who was struck. She stated something has to be done now and is happy to hear research is being done. However, she stated there is a sense of urgency for action to be taken now, stating she wants Cranbury to be known as a town not to speed in. She commended Chief Varga for the work the Police have done so far and suggested some type of neighborhood watch putting up signs "Drive like your kids live here" all over Town as an awareness campaign. She stated she is not as worried about Cranbury residents because they would know better where children walk; she is more concerned with out-of-towners speeding through. She admitted she does not always go the speed limit and maybe she should be ticketed too, though she knows where kids walk and which corners have overgrown trees. She stated it is the people who do not live here that we have to worry about. Mayor Cook stated people should call in complaints to the Police. She asked what number would be called for the Police and Mayor Cook stated the 395-0031 number could be posted on a message board. Chief Varga stated the e-mail address for the Traffic Complaint System is traffic-pd@cranbury-nj.com. Ms. Rougas stated she challenges the Police to give out a lot of tickets over the next month because that works.

Mr. Taylor asked Chief Varga if the Township has any more of the "Slow Down in Our Town" lawn signs, that were used about four (4) years ago. Chief Varga reported the County is not making more signs; however, he will check to see if the Township has any in storage. He stated the signs would be installed at different locations for two (2) week periods and stated drivers become immune to them. Mr. Taylor suggested the Township subsidize five (5) or (6) signs, if necessary, depending on the cost. Mayor Cook stated Ms. Guy would be a point of contact for a neighborhood watch subcommittee.

Mayor's Notes

Mayor Cook stated he had nothing further to report. However, he did want to reiterate Chief Varga has incorporated a traffic safety plan to identify or confirm locations of problems.

Township Committee Members' Notes

There were no additional comments from the Township Committee.

Mayor Cook requested a motion to adjourn. On motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mayor Cook and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Kathleen R. Cunningham
Municipal Clerk