

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
March 25, 2024

The Township Committee Meeting of the Township of Cranbury was held at 7:04 p.m. in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Answering present to roll call were Township Committee members: Michael Ferrante, Lisa Knierim, Dr. Barbara Rogers, and Mayor Eman El-Badawi. Excused absent was: Matthew Scott. Also present were Denise Marabello, Township Administrator/CFO, Chief of Police Michael Owens and Debra Rubin, Municipal Clerk. Mayor El-Badawi 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, 2024.

Filed on January 5, 2024 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.

Agenda Additions/Changes: None

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

-- Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes March 11, 2024

On a motion by Mrs. Knierim, seconded by Dr. Rogers, along with the following roll call vote of the members of the Township Committee;

Ayes: (Knierim
(Rogers
(El-Badawi

Abstain: (Ferrante

Absent: (Scott

Nays: (None

the Township Committee Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2024, were adopted.

Members of Committee

- Mrs. Knierim – Reported on HPC, CHPS, Preserve NJ and confirmed Cranbury Township is now recognized by Revolution NJ. Mrs. Knierim discussed animal licensing and suggested the township could do more to make the licensing process more successful in the future.
- Dr. Rogers – Reported on her attendance at the Parks and Environmental Commission meetings. She additionally reported the construction on the school has begun. She concluded with the clock in Town Hall had recently been repaired.
- Mr. Ferrante – Reported on his attendance at the volunteer First Aid and Fire annual banquet, DRC, Library, Planning and Recreation Board meetings.

Mayor

Mayor El-Badawi - Reported on Municipal Alliance and Traffic Subcommittee meetings. She recently attended the Middlesex County Leadership Forum for a public safety roundtable discussion with the

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Attorney General, prosecutor and assistant prosecutor. Through the Mayor's Wellness Campaign an arrangement was made with the Cranbury Library to post senior interests on their calendar. She announced the township received the recycling tonnage grant and the construction on the school has begun. She offered congratulations to two Cranbury residents on their recent accomplishments; (1) winning the 2024 NJ Affiliate winner of the Aspirations in Computing Award and (2) winning the boys state championship in fencing.

The Mayor added that she attended the Firehouse annual banquet where two members were awarded 65 and 45 years in service.

The following will be included in the upcoming Mayor's Update:

In Community News:

- April 6 (Saturday)- 100+ Tips for Running a Highly Successful Garage Sale
- April 6 (Saturday)- Meet the Mayor and Police at Lyberry Coffee Company
- April 7 (Sunday)- Sowing Sustainability: Wildlife Conservation in Our Own Backyards
- April 13 (Saturday)- Holi Celebration at Cranbury Library
- April 20 (Saturday)- Cranbury Stream Cleanup
- April 20 (Saturday)- Cranbury Tour
- April 25 (Thursday)- Trauma and Opioid Use Disorder webinar
- April 27 (Saturday)- Library Foundation Accepting Book Donations
- April 27 (Saturday)- Community Garage Sale
- Registration for Cranbury Summer Camp
- Kindergarten Registration
- High School Seniors - The Woman's Club of Cranbury Scholarship
- Mayor's Wellness Campaign- Volunteers Needed
- Free Virtual Naloxone (Narcan) Training Session

Department Heads –

Police Department:

Chief Michel Owens, Chief of Police, gave his February report which provided statistics to include February 2023 versus February 2024. The Chief also provided information from the Middlesex County Chiefs Association meeting regarding recommendations on how not to be a victim during the increased trend of home burglaries and car thefts. He added the speed signs have been deployed throughout the township and their locations will be changed periodically.

Boards – Historic Preservation Commission – Susan Ryan, 2023 Chair reviewed the year end accomplishments and goals for 2024.

Follow-up Items: Mrs. Knierim reported the Luminaries event responsibility has been returned to the CBA, beginning in 2024.

Boards and Commissions – Mayoral Appointments/Vacancies

Mayoral Appointments: Mayor El-Badawi made the following appointment to the Environmental Commission:

- Steven Hellstern to 2nd Alternate (Unexpired Term expires – 12/31/25)

Vacancies: Mayor El-Badawi noted the following vacancies:

- **HPC** – 2nd Alternate Class C (Expire 12/31/25) (Mayoral Appointment)
- **Municipal Alliance** – 1 Full Member (12/31/26) (Township Committee Appointment)

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Ordinances:

First Reading(s) – Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 03-24-06

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY,
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AMENDING CHAPTER 5 “POLICE DEPARTMENT” TO
CREATE A POSITION FOR POLICE CHAPLAIN**

Mrs. Knierim made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Dr. Rogers seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously by those present. Second reading to be held April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: (None

Abstain: (None

Absent: (Scott

– Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 03-24-07

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING THE PARKS COMMISSION CHAPTER 32 AND RECREATION
COMMISSION CHAPTER 36**

Dr. Rogers made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Ferrante seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously by those present. Second reading to be held April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: (None

Abstain: (None

Absent: (Scott

– Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 03-24-08

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING IN THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY,
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ, CHAPTER 31 ENTITLED “PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION”**

Dr. Rogers made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Mr. Ferrante seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously by those present. Second reading to be held April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: (None

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Abstain: (None

Absent: (Scott

– Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 03-24-09

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY,
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ, CHAPTER 108 ENTITLED “PARKS AND RECREATION”**

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to introduce the ordinance. Dr. Rogers seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was introduced unanimously by those present. Second reading to be held April 8, 2024.

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

Nays: (None

Abstain: (None

Absent: (Scott

Second Reading - Ms. Rubin read the following ordinance by title only:

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 03-24-05

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX,

NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$2,739,823.00 THEREFORE, FUNDING \$350,000

FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, \$450,000 FROM SEWER FAIR SHARE,

REAPPROPRIATING \$1,028,127.00 FROM EXISTING CAPITAL ORDINANCES

AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$911,696.00 BONDS OR

NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

Be It Ordained By The Township Committee Of The Township Of Cranbury, In The County Of Middlesex, New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The several improvements described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Township of Cranbury, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the “Township”) as a general improvement. For the several improvements or purposes described in Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$2,739,823.00, including the sum of \$350,000.00 as the down payment required by the Local Bond Law. The down payment is now available by virtue of provision for down payment or for capital improvement purposes in one or more previously adopted budgets.

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Section 2. In order to finance the cost of the improvement or purpose not covered by application of the down payment, negotiable bonds are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$911,696.00 pursuant to the Local Bond Law. In anticipation of the issuance of the bonds, negotiable bond anticipation notes are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

Section 3. (a) The several improvements hereby authorized and the several purposes for which the bonds are to be issued, the estimated cost of each improvement and the appropriation therefore, the estimated maximum amount of the bonds or notes to be issued for each improvement and the period of usefulness of each improvement are as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Appropriation And Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Estimated Maximum Amount of Bonds or Notes</u>	<u>Period of Usefulness</u>
a) Replacement of pistols	\$9,000	\$9,000	15 years
b) Police Computers & Equipment	\$29,500	\$29,500	5 years
c) Police Axon Enterprise	\$72,300	\$72,300	10 years
d) County Radio Warranty	\$14,000	\$14,000	10 years
e) Parks Improvements	\$5,500	\$5,500	5 years
f) Historic Sign Replacement Project	\$11,898	\$11,898	15 years
g) Old & New Firehouse Repair	\$198,000	\$198,000	20 years
h) Fire Official Mobile Radio	\$6,000	\$6,000	10 years
i) Public Works Building Repair	\$180,000	\$0	20 years
j) All Inclusive Playground	\$100,000	\$0	15 years
k) Refurbish Tennis Courts including Pickleball	\$375,000	\$375,000	15 years
l) Various Road Mill & Pave	\$675,125	\$0	40 years
m) Misc Road Repairs	\$20,000	\$20,000	40 years
n) So Bruns Sewer Improvements	\$620,000	\$0	40 years
o) Cranbury Sewer Improvements	\$50,000	\$0	40 years

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p) Police Buildings & Grounds	\$29,000	\$29,000	5 years
q) Police SUVs & Equipment	\$191,500	\$78,498	5 years
r) Bike Network Plan-Signs	\$20,000	\$20,000	5 years
s) Small Dump Truck w/Plow	\$90,000	\$0	5 years
t) Lighted Crosswalk	\$25,000	\$25,000	10 years
u) Wyckoff Mills Rd Engineering	\$18,000	\$18,000	40 years

Section 4. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the chief financial officer; provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the chief financial officer. The chief financial officer shall determine all matters in connection with notes issued pursuant to this ordinance, and the chief financial officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of the Local Bond Law. The chief financial officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The chief financial officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 5. The Township hereby certifies that it has adopted a capital budget or a temporary capital budget, as applicable. The capital or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. To the extent that the purposes authorized herein are inconsistent with the adopted capital or temporary capital budget, a revised capital or temporary capital budget has been filed with the Division of Local Government Services.

Section 6. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The improvements or purposes described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance are not a current expense. They are all improvements or purposes that the Township may lawfully undertake as a

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general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of the improvement or purpose within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the bonds authorized by this ordinance, is 17 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Clerk, and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. Such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in the Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided in this bond ordinance by \$911,696.00 and the obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by that Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$25,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20 is included in the estimated cost indicated herein for the purpose or improvement.

Section 7. Any grant moneys received for the purpose described in Section 3 hereof shall be applied either to direct payment of the cost of the improvement or to payment of the obligations issued pursuant to this ordinance. The amount of obligations authorized but not issued hereunder shall be reduced to the extent that such funds are so used.

Section 8. The chief financial officer of the Township is hereby authorized to prepare and to update from time to time as necessary a financial disclosure document to be distributed in connection with the sale of obligations of the Township and to execute such disclosure document on behalf of the Township. The chief financial officer is further authorized to enter into the appropriate undertaking to provide secondary market disclosure on behalf of the Township pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Rule") for the benefit of holders and beneficial owners of obligations of the Township and to amend such undertaking from time to time in connection with any change in law, or interpretation thereof, provided such undertaking is and continues to be, in the opinion of a nationally recognized bond counsel, consistent with the requirements of the Rule. In the event that

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the Township fails to comply with its undertaking, the Township shall not be liable for any monetary damages, and the remedy shall be limited to specific performance of the undertaking.

Section 9. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Township for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 10. This bond ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

(End)

Mayor El-Badawi opened for public comment on the above ordinance only.

Hearing none, Mayor El-Badawi closed the public comment on the ordinance.

Mayor El-Badawi opened for township committee members to comment on the ordinance only.

Hearing none, Mayor El-Badawi closed the township committee comments on the ordinance.

Mr. Ferrante made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Ms. Knierim seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the ordinance was unanimously adopted by the members present.

Ayes:	(Ferrante (Knierim (Rogers (El-Badawi	Nays: (None
	Abstain: (None	Absent: (Scott

Resolutions – Consent Resolutions

Mayor El-Badawi asked the Committee if there were any questions or comments on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Mayor El-Badawi asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda resolution(s). On motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Knierim, the following Consent Resolution(s) were adopted unanimously by the following vote:

Ayes:	(Knierim (Ferrante (Rogers (El-Badawi	Nays: (None
	Abstain: (None	Absent: (Scott

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CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 03-24-046

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 3-24-047

AWARD OF ANNUAL LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP)

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Township of Cranbury established the annual Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the Cranbury Township Fire Company and First Aid Squad to enhance the municipality's ability to retain and recruit new members; and

WHEREAS, LOSAP shall provide for annual contributions for each eligible member,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY, that the Township agrees to make an annual LOSAP contribution of \$2,023.00 per eligible Fire Company and First Aid Squad member and that the total LOSAP contribution will be funded by virtue of adoption of the annual municipal operating budget.

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 03-24-048

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2023 CHEVROLET TAHOE PPV 4X4 FOR THE CRANBURY TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT VIA STATE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, The Township of Cranbury would like to purchase a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV 4X4 for the Cranbury Township Fire Company and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that purchase of said vehicle under State Contract is the most practical way to proceed at this time and

WHEREAS, the NJ State Purchasing cooperative has awarded a contract to Gentilini Motors Municipal Equip Enterprise, 2703 Fire Road, Egg Harbor, NJ 08234 for the acquisition of a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV 4X4 Contract #21-FLEET-01484 T27765 in the amount of 99,679.94; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there will be sufficient funds for this contract;

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Gentilini Motors for a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV 4X4 for \$99,679.94 and
2. A copy of the Agreement shall be available for public inspection in the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 03-24-049

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 2 – 2024 FORD ESCAPES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT VIA STATE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, The Township of Cranbury is a party to a cooperative purchasing agreement with the Educational Services Commission of NJ, a cooperative purchasing program organized pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S. A. 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law authorizes a municipality to acquire goods and services through a duly formed cooperative purchasing system without advertising for bids, and

WHEREAS, the Township is in need of acquiring 2 – 2024 Ford Escapes for the Township of Cranbury Construction Department; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Services Commission of NJ has awarded a contract to Nielsen Ford of Morristown, 170 Ridgedale Avenue, Morristown NJ 07960 for the acquisition of a 2024 Ford Escape (u9p) st-line elite awd Contract #ESC NJ 23/23-11 in the amount of \$35,016.27 each for a total of \$70,032.54; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Department has recommended the purchase of 2 vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there will be sufficient funds for this contract;

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Nielson Ford of Morristown, NJ for 2- 2024 Ford Escapes for a total of \$70,032.54; and
2. A copy of the Agreement shall be available for public inspection in the Township Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

CRANBURY TOWNSHIP # R 03-24-050

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount,

Section 1

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2024 in the sum of \$109,556.91 which item is now available as a revenue from the State of New Jersey pursuant to the provision of statute, and

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Section 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$109,556.91 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Recycling Tonnage"

Section 3

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution, certified by the Township Clerk to be a true copy forwarded to each of the following:

- (a) Director of the Division of Local Government Services
- (b) Township Chief Financial Officer

Public Comment

Mayor El-Badawi reminded the public of the three (3) minute time limit for public comment. Mayor El-Badawi then opened the meeting to public comment.

The following residents commented on their safety and speeding concerns along Station Road;

- Richard Giarrusso
- Mike Franke
- Tyler Donato
- Richard Gavenda
- Dan Fernandez
- Kevin McConnell
- Aimee LaBrie
- Kathy Schulte

Various suggestions were made by the residents to calm traffic and enforce the 25mph speed limit.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor El-Badawi closed public comment.

Mayor El-Badawi reported on traffic calming measures already taken by the township with County approval.

Action Items

- Traffic Subcommittee – Station Road

Adjourn

Mayor El-Badawi requested a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Knierim, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Debra A. Rubin
Debra A. Rubin, RMC
Municipal Clerk