

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **December 16, 2025** at 8:06 p.m. in Council Chambers.

This meeting is in compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by e-mailing the annual schedule of meetings to THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD, by posting such annual meeting schedule on a bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Cranford. Formal Action will be taken at this meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Terrence Curran
Deputy Mayor Paul A. Gallo
Commissioner Brian Andrews
Commissioner Gina Black

ABSENT: Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Deputy Mayor Gallo, followed by the Flag Salute.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Curran invited Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski to the dais and praised her 20 years of dedicated public service, describing her as honest, genuine and humble, and noted her mentorship and friendship since his own arrival in Cranford. He then read the Mayor’s Proclamation:

Recognition - Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County Commissioner

WHEREAS, Bette Jane Kowalski, a longtime resident of Cranford, has devoted more than two decades to distinguished public service as a Union County Commissioner, first taking office in September 2004 and earning the trust of residents through multiple terms marked by integrity and principled leadership; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure, Commissioner Kowalski has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to responsive, effective county government, working collaboratively with her colleagues to strengthen services and improve quality of life for all who live and work in Union County; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kowalski played a pivotal role as a member of the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, and through her leadership and advocacy, along with that of her colleagues, NJ TRANSIT initiated direct, one-seat service to New York City on the Raritan Valley Line during weekday off-peak hours, an achievement that significantly improved regional mobility for Union County residents; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kowalski has served with distinction as the Commissioner Liaison to the Human Services Advisory Council, where she helped advance policies and programs that support the most vulnerable members of the community and strengthen the county’s network of human services; and **WHEREAS**, she has also served as a member of the Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, contributing to the preservation of Union County’s natural resources, historic assets, and recreational spaces for the benefit of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kowalski’s leadership has extended to numerous boards, committees, and regional organizations, including service as Chair of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, where her thoughtful approach and steady guidance earned the respect of colleagues and partners alike; and

WHEREAS, her legacy is defined by collaboration, dedication to public service, and a lasting impact on transportation, human services, environmental stewardship, and county governance; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kowalski will retire at the conclusion of her term in 2025, closing an extraordinary chapter of service to Union County and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranford Township Committee hereby expresses its deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski for her exemplary service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the people of Union County and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cranford Township Committee extends its very best wishes to Commissioner Kowalski for continued health, happiness, and fulfillment in her well-earned retirement.

Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski thanked friends, colleagues and mentors for their support throughout her career. She reflected on the honor of serving both Union County and Cranford, highlighting the strong partnerships that make local government work. Commissioner Kowalski assured the community she would remain active in local groups and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MAYORAL REMARKS

Mayor Curran reflected about the year and thanked members of the Township Committee, staff, volunteers and residents for their support. He noted that the Township Committee had focused on balancing fiscal responsibility with quality of life, adopted the Municipal Budget early, invested in road paving, flood mitigation, public safety and reduced the Township's debt. He said that 2026 achievements included expanding Police Department and Fire Department personnel, home buyouts and elevations progress, the planting of 132 trees and advancement of recreation initiatives such as tennis court improvements and the Open Space and Recreation plan. Mayor Curran then spoke about the Township's compliance with affordable housing mandates without large-scale development, Downtown enhancements and ongoing discussions about the future of the Cranford pools. He stated that despite challenges, the community would continue to thrive by working together.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Gallo - Recreation & Parks

- Stated that the Recreation & Parks Department Winter Program Schedule had been released;
- Extended well wishes to Board of Education Superintendent Dr. Scott Rubin on his upcoming retirement;
- Announced that judging for the holiday decorating contest would begin the following evening and wished all participants the best of luck;
- Congratulated Timothy Corcoran on his appointment as Maintenance Worker within the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Brian Andrews – Engineering & Public Works

- Congratulated Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski on her retirement; thanked her for her guidance; spoke about her key role in initiatives such as the desilting of the Rahway River which benefited Cranford;
- Stated that traffic calming striping had been installed near Bloomingdale Avenue School and noted that it was the final pedestrian safety project of 2025;
- Encouraged residents to share suggestions for future safety improvements with the Township Committee;
- Read aloud a message from the Cranford Public Library regarding the Library's 115th birthday; spoke about celebration information, donor appreciation, information about ways to donate to the Library and the Library's coloring contest;
- Recognized the Department of Public Works for their hard work during a recent winter storm.

Commissioner Gina Black - Finance

- Expressed support for Resolution No. 2025-419; stated that this resolution did not permanently close the Centennial Avenue Pool; stated that she remained committed to exploring all long-term Pools' options; spoke about the importance of the new Task Force and the directive to identify needed improvements at the Orange Avenue Pool.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Business Administrator/CFO Lavona Patterson

- Congratulated Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski on her retirement.

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Extended best wishes and congratulations to Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Curran opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Mayor Curran reminded members of the public that comments should be made from the podium and stated that dancing, playing music and similar activities would not be permitted.

Craig Sands, 6 Wood Hole Road – thanked members of the public who were in attendance that evening despite holiday events and school concerts. He spoke about how PILOT programs operate, the structure of payments, the distribution of revenue and the past allocation of funds, including how these matters pertained to the Birchwood Park development; spoke about the financial impact of proposed new developments on school enrollment and taxpayer costs; spoke about the Board of Education's (recent) \$75 million referendum; spoke about taxpayers as voters; spoke about the possibility of needing a new High School in the future and suggested the Orange Avenue Pool property as a potential location.

Mayor Curran informed Mr. Sands that his time for public comments had expired. A brief exchange ensued with Mr. Sands, Mayor Curran, Commissioner Andrews and Township Attorney Slattery. Commissioner Andrews reiterated that Mr. Sands' comment period had been reached (i.e., five minutes) and offered to speak with Mr. Sands after the meeting. Mayor Curran recommended that Mr. Sands

contact the Board of Education regarding last year's referendum, noted that he did not favor PILOT agreements and stated that some of the information presented was misinformation.

Eric Seidman, 3 Dorchester Avenue – complimented the Township Committee and briefly elaborated; stated that Cranford was thriving; requested that the members of the Township Committee not view their recent reelection as approval to permanently close the Centennial Avenue Pool. Mr. Seidman stated that many residents, especially parents who couldn't attend (Township Committee) Meetings felt it was too early for a final decision; stated that any Pool closure should be tied to a clear, transparent plan for the future of the property; requested that the Township Committee pause, involve the community and keep Centennial Avenue Pool open for now.

Mayor Curran said the belief that the Committee had already decided the future of the Pools was incorrect; stated that a new Task Force would study the Centennial Avenue Pool site and propose options which would potentially include keeping the Pool open but noted that current financial constraints would make that option difficult.

Kent Lucas, 17 Beech Street – thanked members of the Township Committee for their dedication to the community. He recognized and thanked Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski for her years of service and support for Cranford; stated that during Hurricane Ida, Commissioner Kowalski assisted the Cranford First Aid Squad in arranging to operate out of the County facility in Roselle Park (which allowed them to maintain uninterrupted service); expressed appreciation for Commissioner Kowalski's long-standing contributions. Mr. Lucas spoke about the Department of Public Works' improved efforts and results to keep the Downtown area clear during snow and ice storms.

Michael Clark, 2 Heinrich Street – thanked the Township Committee for their hard work and noted that the Commissioners earned very little for the amount of time they dedicated to the Township; stated that he appreciated living in Cranford for its strong schools and community; stated although he did not always agree with the Township Committee's decisions, he believed in addressing concerns respectfully and criticized the disruptive behavior which had occurred at recent meetings; stated that he did not support a tax increase to keep two Pools open and referred to the two Pools as an unnecessary luxury; stated that many families chose Cranford because of their excellent schools.

Mayor Curran noted that while most Outdoor Pool users were Cranford residents, approximately 25 per cent of the Outdoor Pool members were non-residents.

Rob Meier, 508 High Street – stated that choosing to keep Orange Avenue Pool open instead of Centennial Avenue Pool was fiscally questionable because Orange Avenue cost more to operate and required significantly more improvements and elaborated; stated that the Township ignored the Open Space & Recreation survey results; stated that the Township did not review the Pools' finances separately; stated that the Township overlooked that the Centennial Avenue Pool needed fewer improvements; stated that the \$750,000 State grant could potentially be used for the Centennial Avenue Pool improvements and the Indoor Pool ventilation system; spoke about the surplus associated with the Outdoor Pools; stated that the Pools' deficit came from the Township - YMCA agreement and elaborated; stated that that closing the Centennial Avenue Pool was a short-sighted decision that failed to address long-term issues and elaborated.

Mayor Curran stated the Pools had been losing revenue and membership for years, long before the YMCA agreement; stated that the Outdoor Pools and Indoor Pools were under one utility.

Eileen Martines, 304 West End Place - reported that the Shade Tree Commission had conducted winter pruning of young trees; noted recent volunteer work in Lincoln Park; reminded residents not to prune trees in the Township right-of-way without approval; spoke about the work of the volunteers which included tree plantings; thanked the Township Committee and residents for their support.

Andrew Burns, 607 High Street – stated that he had been a Cranford resident for 35 years; thanked Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski for her long-standing support of veterans; spoke about community perceptions regarding recent Township decisions; noted concerns among neighbors about development appearing concentrated on the south side of the Town and how that perception extended to the Pools' discussion and elaborated; spoke about the Township Committee's difficult job and requested they consider how their actions were perceived by the community.

Mayor Curran stated that the Pool's financial problems stemmed from low membership; stated that despite open discussion and clear warnings about the Pools' financials, only 17 new resident memberships were purchased in 2025. Mayor Curran stated that many of the new apartments were located in the Downtown area.

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gallo and passed, the Official Meeting was recessed due to a disruption during the public comments period by the following vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Curran, Deputy Mayor Gallo, Commissioners Andrew and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Miller Prunty

FIVE MINUTE RECESS

Michael Callahan, 609 Orchard Street – expressed appreciation for the due diligence associated with the Township Pools and noted that, although he had been highly critical of how the matter was initially brought to light, he was hopeful and excited about the Task Force; stated that each member of the Township Committee had exercised prudence, particularly given the anticipated financial burden the federal government was poised to place on the County and elaborated; stated that the Township Committee’s careful approach and fiscal conservatism would yield important benefits in the difficult period ahead; stated that he was proud of the Township Committee’s hard work and extensive public engagement; acknowledged Mayor Curran, noting that being yelled at multiple nights a week was difficult and that the Mayor handled it with poise.

Mayor Curran said that while the Township debated how to fund essential services such as the Pools, Police and road paving, federal spending appeared to be directed elsewhere rather than to the municipalities and counties where residents actually live.

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road – spoke about the Township’s holiday decorations; provided comments about the taxation situation at 201 Walnut Avenue, i.e., despite near-full occupancy, taxation would not occur until 2027; stated that the Township Committee continued to use inaccurate Pools’ membership data; criticized the Township - YMCA agreement and elaborated; stated that closing the Centennial Avenue Pool conflicted with efforts to increase YMCA revenue; inquired about the decision to allocate the full \$750,000 grant to Orange Avenue Pool without assessing Centennial Avenue Pool’s needs; requested that essential repairs, such as bathrooms, be prioritized over items such as pickleball courts; stated that her confidence in the Township Committee’s handling of the Pools’ matter remained low.

Mayor Curran spoke about the scope of the Swim Pool Utility; stated that the YMCA’s \$1.6 million interest-free investment avoided additional borrowing costs; noted that YMCA memberships continued to grow; stated that the Township was focused on fiscal responsibility and long-term planning.

John Sobocinski, 32 Iroquois Road – said he had lived in Cranford since 1983, raised eight children in the Township, and appreciated the Township even when disagreements arose; requested clarification about the earlier incident involving a resident who played music during public comments; stated that the Meeting was briefly recessed and then resumed without explanation and elaborated.

Mayor Curran noted that when disruptions were created during Township Committee Meetings, there were rules in place which sought to maintain a basic level of decorum; spoke about doing the business of Cranford.

Jim Carvalho, Cranford – stated that he had commented about Township matters for eight years and had periodically raised concerns about the Pools for the past four years; referenced past recommendations he made regarding the Orange Avenue Pool and stated these suggestions had not reached the Pool Director; spoke about previous-year recommendations regarding Pool hours, fees and the property outside of the Centennial Avenue Pool; stated that a specific recommendation had not been credited to him; spoke about the absence of Swim Pool Utility meetings, bylaws and Minutes; stated that Mayor Curran and Commissioner Miller Prunty should be barred from appointment to the Swim Pool Utility and elaborated.

Referencing a previous comment regarding the turning off of music by Mr. Cooper, the Mayor clarified that Mr. Cooper was not the person who had turned off the music.

Anonymous – spoke about his disagreement with the way in which Mayor Curran handled the enforcement of decorum in the Official Meeting; spoke about recognition for Mr. Thilly, who had achieved a “rare level of civic enlightenment” and elaborated; stated that the Township Committee did not listen to Mr. Thilly; stated that Mr. Thilly made a choice to turn outward and elaborated about community involvement; presented Mr. Thilly with a symbolic “key to the city” and thanked Mr. Thilly.

Mayor Curran stated the discussed resident had attended Meetings for a number of years and had met with members of the Township Committee and elaborated.

Jen McCartney, 2 Hawthorne Street – spoke about her frustration with the decision to close the Centennial Avenue Outdoor Pool for the 2026 season, thanked Commissioner Black for her remarks and spoke about her motivation for attending Township Committee meetings; spoke about her conversation with Mr. Thilly in which he stated that he didn’t want to do anything to hurt the Pools’ decision; inquired why the Centennial Avenue Pool could not remain open during renovations to the Orange Avenue Pool; spoke about the lack of a plan and the fear that engendered; inquired about the grant allocation in the event of the closure of one of the Pools; requested the Township Committee open both Pools and to provide the “bigger picture” (plan).

Mayor Curran spoke about his wish that the discussed resident would follow the rules of the Meeting and briefly elaborated.

Tobi Singhbaba, 131 Mohawk Drive – urged the Township Committee not to approve the resolution that would close Centennial Avenue Pool (Resolution No. 2025-419); stated that the community wasn’t given enough time to reverse long-term issues and elaborated; stated that the long-term plan was unclear, could jeopardize future grant funding and that many improvement ideas had not been tried; spoke about the value of two Pools, the community’s emotional connection to the Centennial Avenue Pool and the recent progress driven by volunteers; requested that the Township Committee keep open the Centennial Avenue and elaborated.

Mayor Curran stated that the pools had relied on COVID surplus funds for several years and had not truly broken even; stated that with the end of the surplus funding, the Township would no longer have funds for repairs or unexpected costs; stated operating two Pools was financially unsustainable and risked causing the entire system to fail and elaborated.

Gloria Kelsey, 10 Buchanan Street – stated that she was in attendance to speak about the Centennial Avenue Pool; stated that she had lived in Cranford for 68 years and explained that, as a child in a single-parent household, her family could not access the Orange Avenue Pool because they had no way to travel across town; stated that the opening of the Centennial Avenue Pool was a major moment for her neighborhood; noted that four generations of her family had used the Centennial Avenue Pool; requested that the Township Committee keep the Centennial Avenue Pool open if at all possible.

Ms. LaCorte, 101 Maple Place – asked for clarification about the proposed Task Force for the Township Pools including who would make the appointments and the number of members on the Task Force; inquired whether the current Swim Pool Utility Advisory Board would take a more active role in Pool-related decision-making.

Mayor Curran stated that the incoming Mayor for the upcoming year would be responsible for appointing the Task Force with input from the Township Committee; stated that there would be further discussions about the Task Force; stated that the Swim Pool Utility would undertake a more active role.

Commissioner Black said she wanted the Swim Pool Utility Advisory Board to meet more regularly and provide consistent reports to the Township Committee; noted the Board met only four times in 2025; stated that this needed to change for the Board to effectively advise on Pool operations.

This Public Comment was sent to the Township Clerk before the Township Committee Meeting on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 6:30 a.m.:

Brian Onyrscuk, 623 Lincoln Park East (via email) – “This public comment comes from Brian Onyrscuk (Honest Chuck), who resides at 623 Lincoln Park East. He wishes everyone Happy Holidays and continued Friendship and Progress in the New Year.”

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Curran closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gallo and passed, the minutes of the Official Meeting of November 10, 2025 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Curran, Deputy Mayor Gallo, Commissioners Andrews and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Miller Prunty

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed, the Bill List dated December 16, 2025, totaling \$1,116,543.03 was approved for payment by indicated vote of the Township Committee and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Curran, Deputy Mayor Gallo, Commissioners Andrews and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Commissioner Miller Prunty

ORDINANCE– Final Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2025-27:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2025-27 entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 186, SECTION 2 CONSTRUCTION CODES, UNIFORM FEES”

Commissioner Andrews provided information about Ordinance No. 2025-27.

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Commissioner Andrews opened the public hearing.

Hearing no comments, Commissioner Andrews closed the public hearing.

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gallo and passed, said ordinance was adopted by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Curran, Deputy Mayor Gallo, Commissioners Andrews and Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Commissioner Miller Prunty

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue noted that adoption notice for Ordinance No. 2025-27 would appear in the December 25th edition of the Westfield Leader.

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Deputy Mayor Gallo, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2025-408:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS NO. 8
THROUGH NO. 10 FOR THE CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY – ADDITION &
RENOVATIONS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2024-405, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorized and approved an award to contract to Grove Contracting LLC, 70 Durrell Street, Verona, New Jersey, 07044, for the Addition & Renovations project at the Cranford Public Library for the total project price of \$2,521,685.00; and

WHEREAS, certain necessary items of extra work were required to be undertaken throughout the course of the project due to unforeseen field conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Township Consulting Engineer has reviewed and approved additional support to repair planks at new columns as set forth in Change Order No. 8 in the amount of \$5,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township Consulting Engineer has reviewed and approved new flooring in existing foyer and hallway as set forth in Change Order No. 9 in the amount of \$9768.60; and

WHEREAS, the Township Consulting Engineer has reviewed and approved a concrete pad for the Gas Company as set forth in Change Order No. 10 in the amount of \$2686.43; and

WHEREAS, Change Orders No. 8 through No. 10 reflect an increase in the material and work utilized in the amount not to exceed \$ 17,455.03 (a 0.7 per cent (%) for Change Orders No. 8 through No. 10 and a 4.12 per cent (%) total contract increase); and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has certified the availability of funds which is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk and such funding for Change Orders No. 8 through No. 10 will be utilized from Account No. C-04-18-191-000-206; and

WHEREAS, Change Orders No. 1 through 3 (authorized by the Township Committee on August 19, 2025, Resolution N. 2025-281), Change Order No. 4 (authorized by the Township Committee on September 16, 2025, Resolution No. 2025-325), Change Orders No. 5 through No. 6 (authorized by the Township Committee on October 21, 2025, Resolution No. 2025-363), Change Order No. 7 (authorized by the Township Committee on December 2, 2025, Resolution No. 2025-395) and Change Orders No. 8 through No. 10 results in a total increase in the material and work utilized in an amount of \$103,816.90 (a 4.12 per cent (%) total contract award increase); and

WHEREAS, this project is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public in the Township of Cranford.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford,

Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced Change Orders No. 8 through No. 10 for the Addition & Renovations Project at the Cranford Public Library project is awarded to Grove Contracting LLC, with an amended contract amount of \$ 2,625,501.90.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, Patricia Donahue, Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting of said Committee held on December 16, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union and State of New Jersey this 16th day of December 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-409:

**RESOLUTION AWARDING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR
THE MS4 MAP PREPARATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford requires an expert to provide Engineering Services in connection with the MS4 Map Preparation Project; and

WHEREAS, Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc., DBA Maser Consulting, is familiar with the procedures and shall perform the tasks that are necessary in connection with the MS4 Map Preparation Project as delineated in the December 8, 2025 correspondence to the Township Business Administrator/CFO; and

WHEREAS, this project is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public in the Township of Cranford.

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified as to the availability of funds, which is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Cranford, Union County, New Jersey as follows:

1. Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc., DBA Maser Consulting, 400 Valley Road, Suite 304, Mount Arlington, New Jersey, 07856, be and hereby is awarded a contract to perform Engineering Services in connection with the aforementioned project at a fee not to exceed \$ 25,000.00; and
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Colliers Engineering & Design, Inc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No.'s G-01-41-770-171-280.

Resolution No. 2025-410:

**RESOLUTION AWARDING THE PURCHASE OF FOUR R-920-E RRFB CROSSWALK
SOLAR ASSEMBLIES FOR THE CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford wishes to obtain and implement four R920-E Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beason (RRFB) Solar Crosswalk Assemblies for the Cranford Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Signal Control Products Inc., 199 Evans Way, Branchburg, New Jersey, 08876, submitted a price quote in the amount of \$5,355.15 for each unit with a total amount of \$21,420.60 for the purchase of four units for the Cranford Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Signal Control Products Inc., 199 Evans Way, Branchburg, New Jersey, 08876, has been awarded a New Jersey State Contract, State Contract 23DPP00834, for such products and services; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds which are on file in the Office of the Township Clerk and that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No.'s C-04-24-010-000-S23 and C-04-25-026-000-203.

WHEREAS, this project is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public in the Township of Cranford.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced equipment and services is awarded to Signal Control Products Inc. for the purchase of four Crosswalk Assemblies for the amount of \$21,420.60; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized and directed to execute documents in connection with said award of contract.

I, Patricia Donahue, Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the forgoing is true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting of said Committee held on December 16, 2025.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union and State of New Jersey this 16th day of December 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-411:

WHEREAS, Local Public Contracts Law, 40A:11-6.1, “Award of Contracts”, requires that every contract awarded by the contracting agent for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the governing body;

WHEREAS, The Township of Cranford is authorized by law to purchase goods and services from approved vendors who have been awarded by and have existing contracts with the State of New Jersey and/or authorized Cooperative Purchasing Programs; and

WHEREAS, the following vendor has been awarded a state contract and/or authorized cooperative purchasing program agreement and the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes the purchase of goods and/or services through the following vendor listed herewith, that in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold for the calendar year 2025;

VENDOR	Cooperative Purchasing Program	Contract No.
ATON Computing	Passaic County	R-24-871

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes purchases from the aforementioned vendor that in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold for the calendar year 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-412:

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Union County Freeholders will approve the 2026 Union County Deer Management Program, which would authorize the removal of deer from various County and municipal park properties in an attempt to bring the deer population densities down to levels that are more in balance with the ecosystems, with a specific goal density of 20 deer/square mile or less; and

WHEREAS, hunters selected for this program will operate on weekdays during daylight hours, which are defined as ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset; and

WHEREAS, this program will be conducted as an archery hunt only utilizing experienced, licensed hunters who have demonstrated a proficiency in marksmanship and many of whom have participated in this program in the past, with crossbow archery equipment to cull deer during the Winter Bow Season (January 1 through February 16).

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford wishes to provide warnings to citizens about the Deer Management Program at the Cranford Conservation Center and Lenape and Nomahegan Parks during the Deer Management Program, due to the existence of playground equipment, walking trails, and other public works at those locations in the vicinity of hunters who carry or discharge weapons; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford requests that if the Deer Management Program occurs, the parking lots and playground area of Lenape and Nomahegan Parks shall be closed during the specific days of the 2026 Deer Management Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford hereby requests the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders authorize the County of Union staff to conduct deer management activity at the Cranford Conservation Center, to remove white-tailed deer from said property, in the manner prescribed by the Fish and Game Code of the State of New Jersey, during the Winter Bow Season of 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes the execution of a shared services agreement and other necessary agreements to effectuate the program; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford authorizes the Superintendent of Public Works to coordinate with the County of Union as appropriate to provide adequate oversight and coordination in the conduct of the deer removal activity, to maximize the success of their efforts while ensuring the safety of residents and visitors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford respectfully requests that if the Union County Freeholders approve the 2026 Deer Management Program in the Cranford Conservation Center and/or Lenape and Nomahegan Parks, it is requested that the County of Union provide signage at all entrances to the Lenape and Nomahegan Parks stating “ACTIVE HUNTING. FIREARMS IN USE. USE CAUTION AND STAY ON TRAILS OR PATHS” and close relevant parking lots and playground areas on all the days of activity in those parks under the Deer Management Program.

Resolution No. 2025-413:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held on the 16th day of December 2025, that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holders according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate No. 25-00002

309 Manor Avenue
Block 234 Lot 23
Trystone Capital Assets LLC
PO Box 1030
Brick, NJ 08723

Refund: \$ 247.96
(5-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$1,000.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Redemption of Certificate No. 25-00003

233 Cranford Avenue

Block 285 Lot 27
Christiana T C/F CEI/FIRSTRTUST
PO Box 5021
Philadelphia, PA 19111
Redemption of Certificate No. 25-00006
59 Union Avenue S.
Block 486 Lot 4
M&P Retirement Plan
PO Box 109
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

Refund: \$ 8,454.63
(5-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 28,300.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Refund: \$ 16,598.58
(5-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 47,100.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2025-414:
WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58 provides for appropriation transfers during the last two (2) months of the year, when it has been determined it is necessary to expand for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the sum appropriated, therefore, and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may, by Resolution setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than two-thirds vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer, be and the same, is hereby authorized to make transfers among the 2025 budget appropriations in accordance with the following schedule of transfers:

Account	From	To
Police Department: Salary & Wages	37,600.00	
Fire Department: Salary & Wages	22,000.00	
Municipal Court: Salary & Wages		1,500.00
Animal Control: Other Expenses		12,500.00
Finance: Other Expenses		3,000.00
Health Insurance: Other Expenses		15,000.00
Admin: Salary & Wages		500.00
Recreation: Salary & Wages		3,000.00
Social Security: Other Expenses		2,100.00
Fire Department: Other Expenses		20,000.00
B&G Firehouse: Other Expenses		2,000.00
	59,600.00	59,600.00

Resolution No. 2025-415:
**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF A GRANT RECEIVABLE
BALANCE AND CORRELATING APPROPRIATION
(PREVENTION & WELLNESS ALLIANCE (FORMERLY MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE))**
WHEREAS, a Grant Receivable balance exists on the records of the Township of Cranford that will not be reimbursed by the County of Union and needs to be canceled; and
WHEREAS, the balance is as follows:
2024-2025 Prevention & Wellness Alliance (formerly Municipal Alliance): \$5,021.50
TOTAL GRANT RECEIVABLE TO CANCEL \$5,021.50
WHEREAS, a Grant Appropriation Reserve balance exists on the records of the Township of Cranford that will not be expended and needs to be canceled; and
WHEREAS, the balance is as follows:
2024-2025 Prevention & Wellness Alliance (formerly Municipal Alliance): \$5,021.50
TOTAL GRANT APPROPRIATION TO CANCEL \$5,021.50
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to cancel the balances from the records of the Township.

Resolution No. 2025-416:
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on December 16, 2025, that Timothy Corcoran be, and hereby is, appointed to the position of Maintenance Supervisor within the Recreation & Parks Department, effective December 22, 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-417:
WHEREAS, at a meeting held December 2, 2025, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford adopted Ordinance No. 2025-25, which established ranges with minimum and maximum salaries for certain job titles within the Township of Cranford; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2025-25, the Township Committee reserves the right and discretion to make salary adjustments at any time as it deems it to be in the public interest and in the

interests of good management; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby approves the salary increases for the following employees in the following job titles effective January 1, 2026:

Department	Name	Title	Salary/ Hourly Wage
Administration	Ashley Osieja	Assistant to the Township Administrator	70,246.89
Administration	Christina Miskewitz	Public Information Officer	32.15
Assessor	Michael Ross	Tax Assessor	56,650.00
Assessor	Kathy Lenahan	Assistant to the Assessor/Land Use Administrator	94,384.01
Clerk	Patricia Donahue	Township Clerk	107,417.34
Clerk	Ashley Smith	Deputy Municipal Clerk	70,183.88
Clerk	Patricia Kozlowski	Clerk/Receptionist (Part-Time)	25.98
Clerk	Kathleen Stubler	Clerk/Receptionist (Part-Time)	20.60
Communications	Maria Teresa Almeida	Communications Officer	43,285.75
Communications	Michael Davis	Communications Officer	54,789.16
Communications	Regan Holmes	Communications Officer	42,203.61
Communications	Samuel Mendez	Communications Officer	41,200.00
Communications	Robert Merrill	Communications Officer	55,239.30
Communications	Liam Powell	Communications Officer	53,714.87
Communications	Arela Rodriguez	Communications Officer	41,200.00
Communications	Chapin Taggart	Communications Officer Per Diem	20.60
Court	Mark Rothman	Municipal Judge	50,676.00
Court	Lorraine Powell	Municipal Court Administrator	90,245.10
Court	Alyssa Hay	Municipal Court Clerk	47,268.08
Court	Beth Ann Marotta	Deputy Court Administrator	61,270.65
STC	Erik Hastrup	Shade Tree Superintendent	129,446.49
DPW	Carol Cole	Executive Secretary	74,737.94
DPW	Ryan Elliot	Public Works Superintendent	129,646.10
DPW	Jack Emanuele	Assistant Public Works Superintendent	97,627.25

Department	Name	Title	Salary/ Hourly Wage
EMS	Pauline Le Dorze	Emergency Medical Technician (Full-Time)	63,607.86
EMS	Kayla Rajcevic	Emergency Medical Technician (Full-Time)	63,607.86
EMS	Eric Taylor	Emergency Medical Technician (Full-Time)	63,607.86
Finance	Michael Robinson	Purchasing Agent/Financial Specialist	96,729.85
Finance	Wendy Adorno	Payroll Specialist	74,573.40
Finance	Peter George	Assistant CFO	92,700.00
Finance	Mihaela Lopez	Financial Specialist	82,399.99
Fire	Dan Czeh	Chief of Fire	197,309.84
Fire	Cathy Scotti	Executive Secretary	82,725.27
Health	Monika Koscova	Registered Environmental Health Specialist	87,226.12
Health	Betty Andre	Office Assistant {Part-Time)	25.05
Health	Mirta Morado-Tonda	Office Assistant (Full-Time)	38,429.30
Police	Arthur Kennedy	Parking Enforcement Officer	47,101.32
Police	Janet Spricigo	Records Clerk (Full-Time)	52,419.95
Police	Patricia Kosty	Records Clerk (Part-Time)	21,113.05
Pool	Laurent Lafontant	General Maintenance Person	44,895.73
Recreation	Stephen Robertazzi	Recreation and Parks Director	145,954.33
Recreation/Pool	Jenna Matousek	Facilities Manager	65,274.95

Recreation	Carol Kaminski	Program Coordinator	56,271.52
375 Centennial	Lori-Ann Donnelly	Program Specialist	44,151.49
375 Centennial	Christian Francisco	Program Coordinator	59,517.91
Tax Collector	Karyn Kinane	Tax Collector	87,521.78
Tax Collector	Antoinette Negri	Deputy Tax Collector	53,560.00
TV35	Donald Smith	TV 35 Station Manager	73,902.50
TV35	Christine Hoffmann	TV 35 Assistant (Part-Time)	44,476.22
Building	Gary Junkroft	Construction Code Official/Building Sub-code Official/	142,526.25
Building	Laura Styler	Technical Assistant Supervisor	65,000.00
Building	Colleen Sutter	Technical Assistant	54,440.00
Building	Richard Tunison	Building Inspector	86,950.05
Building	Christian Jessen	Plumbing Sub-Code Official/Plumbing Inspector	74,355.93
Building	James Pisauro	Fire Sub-code Official	63,345.00
Building	Timothy Dolan	Electrical Sub-code Official	96,073.25
Building	Matthew Devaney	Covering Plumbing Inspector	46.35
Building	Czuba Christopher	Property Maintenance Inspector	24,720.00

Department	Name	Title	Salary/ Hourly Wage
Zoning	Kathleen Nemeth	Zoning Officer	85,218.87
Zoning	Ruth Nicholas	Assistant Zoning Officer	62,493.86

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said increases will take effect on January 1, 2026.

Resolution No. 2025-418:

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A NEW PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE WITH THEATER EXCEPTION (NO. 37)

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford has determined that it is in the best interests of the Township of Cranford to conduct a sale of a new (ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control)) Plenary Retail Consumption License with a Theater Exception (No. 37); and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 33:1-19, et seq. permits the Governing Body to issue new licenses and accept applications from interested parties; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, pursuant to the authority conferred by N.J.S.A. 33:1-19.2, has determined to issue one new Plenary Retail Consumption License with a Theater Exception (No. 37); and
2. The Governing Body shall utilize what is commonly known as the historical method to evaluate the applicants to determine whether their proposal is in the best public interest; and
3. All interested applicants will submit complete applications and pay all required fees. All applicants will require to publish a public notice two times of their intent to apply for the license, and the proposed licensed premises. At a public hearing, each applicant will be evaluated by the Governing Body, and the following factors will be considered:
 - a. The intended use of the license by the applicant, which use must be in accordance with the Township’s ordinances regarding liquor licenses; and
 - b. Location of the premises from which the applicant will maintain its business. With regard to this factor, the Governing Body will consider the impact on traffic, the aesthetics of the planned establishment and the availability of parking.

Resolution No. 2025-419:

RESOLUTION ON THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE PLANNING OF CRANFORD’S MUNICIPAL POOLS

WHEREAS, for the last 54 years, the Township of Cranford has operated 3 municipal pools consisting of the Orange Avenue Outdoor Pool, and the Centennial Avenue Pool Complex with both an indoor and outdoor pool, and these pools have been a source of recreation for generations of Cranford families; and

WHEREAS, over the past 15 years, resident use of Cranford’s pools has materially changed with steadily decreasing membership enrollment and usage of the pools such that total registrations in 2025 (2,597 registrations) are just over half of what they were in 2011 (5,099 registrations); and

WHEREAS, the Swim Pool Utility and Township Recreation and Parks Department have made multiple efforts to reverse the decline in pool membership through increased marketing, outreach to neighboring

towns, special events, daily passes, and transparent discussion but such efforts have not resulted in the needed membership to sustain continued operations and needed capital improvements; and,

WHEREAS, while revenue from pool registrations and memberships have significantly declined by nearly 50%, the operating expenses, such as opening and closing of the pools, minimum wage, chlorine and utilities, have steadily increased, and these expenses are incurred regardless of the number of memberships; and

WHEREAS, the increase in costs and decrease in revenue has resulted in a financial imbalance that has required the Township to decrease operations, including reducing hours and deferring much needed maintenance; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years alone the Township has subsidized the Swim Pool Utility budget with substantial property taxes and \$1 million from the American Rescue Plan grant received in 2021, which is now exhausted; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Swim Pool Utility budget, which is based on 2025 revenue, supports the continued operation of only a single outdoor pool and a single indoor pool, enabling the Cranford pools to return to a self-sustaining model while addressing much needed maintenance and capital upgrades, thereby preserving the Cranford pools as attractive and viable assets for the community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is unwilling to increase the property taxes paid by all Cranford residents to subsidize the operation of three municipal pools when only 21% of Cranford residents are registered members of the pool.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Cranford that for the 2026 season the Township shall open and operate Orange Avenue Pool as the sole outdoor pool complex; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cranford Township Committee will create a Task Force to evaluate the outdoor space currently occupied by the Centennial Avenue outdoor pool and to recommend strategies to the Cranford Township Committee that best serve the Township

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Swim Pool Utility Advisory Board is directed to identify needed improvements to Orange Avenue for the 2026 season and also develop goals for a five-year capital improvement plan for the Orange Avenue Pool complex by January 31, 2026. This plan shall prioritize projects supported by a \$750,000 state grant and provide a phased outline of future capital improvements to ensure the long-term sustainability and vitality of the facility.

Resolution No. 2025-420:

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A11-5(1) (m), the Township may, by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase goods or services for Insurance, including the purchase of insurance coverage and consultant services; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A 40A11-5(1)(a)(ii) allows a governing body to award a contract that may exceed the bid threshold without public advertising for bids and bidding for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford is in need of acquiring health insurance and consulting services; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the aggregate purchases may exceed \$53,000; and

WHEREAS, NJ Solutions JHIF, 111 Wood Avenue S, Suite 400, Iselin, New Jersey, 08830 has agreed to provide Insurance Coverage; and

WHEREAS, the contract with NJ Solutions JHIF, is awarded without competitive bidding as an Exception in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(ii) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the contract qualifies as Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into and award the above-mentioned contract and utilize the service of NJ Solutions JHIF.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Curran, Deputy Mayor Gallo, Commissioners Andrew and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Miller Prunty

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gina Black

- Thanked the Cranford Chamber of Commerce for preparing the community for the holiday season with the administration of events such as the Tree Lighting, trolley rides and letters to Santa;
- Wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and a happy New Year.

Commissioner Brian Andrews

- Thanked (most of the) members of the public for attending that evening's Meeting and spoke about the value of public input;
- Acknowledged the Township Pools' financial challenges and said the difficult closure decision required careful consideration;
- Thanked the Cranford Chamber of Commerce, the Cranford Jaycees and the Cranford Fire Department for their work with the Tree Lighting event
- Wished everyone a happy Hanukkah, merry Christmas and a very good and healthy New Year.

Deputy Mayor Paul A. Gallo

- Thanked residents who reached out to him to ask questions and residents who attended the evening's Township Committee Meeting to voice their concerns;
- Spoke about the difficult decision regarding the Township Pools and the priority to assess financial viability for the future of the Township Pools;
- Thanked Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski for her service to the County and Cranford;
- Wished everyone a safe and happy Hanukkah, merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Mayor Terrence Curran

- Thanked fellow members of the Township Committee for their support and faith in him;
- Spoke about the challenges facing the Township Pools; stated that his priority for the coming year was to ensure that any decision made would best serve Cranford residents;
- Wished everyone happy holidays and a happy New Year.

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gallo and passed, the Township Committee adjourned and returned to the Workshop Meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk

Dated: December 16, 2025