

Cranford Police Officers Advance

will give a presentation at the Monday, February 10 township committee meeting, Deputy Mayor Lisa Aduato said. The township purchased the property on Orange Avenue where the Roosevelt School was once erected. The township plans to build a park there.

The committee, as part of its consent agenda, rejected the sole bid received for a flood mitigation project at 510 Riverside Drive. The \$191,800 bid by Sakoutis Builders and Land Developers was above budget.

The township also issued bids for the Cranford Flood Mitigation Project-Home Elevation of 205 Edgar Avenue. Lowest bidder KM Construction formally requested to withdraw its \$187,000 bid due to a clerical error. The township committee rejected its request for withdraw. Subsequently, the township rejected all three bids for the elevation under the recommendation of the general manager for the project, and will re-issue bids.

The committee authorized the Department of Public Works to purchase a mason dump truck in

the amount of \$67,380.

Current Zoning Officer Robert Hudak was appointed to the position of Director of Planning/Zoning Officer at a salary of \$74,043 while Kelly Demcher was appointed to the position of senior payroll/financial specialist within the Finance Department at a salary of \$53,657. Karyn King was appointed to the position of full-time senior account clerk within the Finance Department at a salary of \$40,000.

The township committee selected McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP to provide labor attorney services for 2014 at a fee not to exceed \$20,000.

Commissioner O'Connor said the Cranford Fire Department has asked residents to ensure their home heating unit is in good working order, to not use the stove to warm up their homes as it can cause carbon monoxide to be released in their homes, and not to use kerosene space heaters. Space heaters should be UL approved and be at least three feet away from combustibles.

GW Council Considers Hiring AFC Project Mgr.

Ms. Ariemma said she will notify Noel Musial, building architect with The Musial Group, and John Belle, the landscape architect with Kinsey Associates, to appear at the next council meeting on Tuesday, February 11. The next construction committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5.

In other news, the council directed Ms. Ariemma to prepare a second RFP to appraise the value of the parking lot adjacent to the fire station on South Avenue across from the Casale Industries property. Ms. Todisco informed those in attendance that

Casale owns the parking lot, which is used by members of the volunteer fire department. She hopes that the largely empty Casale manufacturing plant will eventually be sold and said it might be worth the borough investigating purchasing the property for use as a commuter lot or other purpose. Mr. Renaud suggested the appraisal could cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

The streets, roads and ecology committee will review the town's parking ordinance that requires cars be removed from the streets when three inches or more of snow accumulates. The move

Cranford Committee Discusses Hiking Pool Fees, New Police Department SUVs

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD - At the Cranford Township Committee's workshop meeting on Monday, the governing body discussed raising pool fees, received an update on the zoning board's master plan and heard a proposal from the police regarding the purchase of new SUVs for the department.

Steve Robertazzi, operations manager for the township pool and fitness center, asked the township committee to vote to raise pool fees for 2014. He said pool fees have not been raised since 2011. He asked to raise the fees \$25 across the board, except for seniors, who would see a \$15 increase. A majority of the members are summer members only, of which about 1,800 are residents and 700 are non-residents.

Robert Hudak, zoning officer, gave an update on the codification of the Master Plan, and said he expects to have a redline version of the code and plan to the committee within two weeks.

came after Willow Avenue resident Kathy Gebler complained that she received \$240 in tickets last year. She said she has no driveway and the public lot available on Center Street across from the post office also prohibits parking during snowstorms so it can be plowed.

The council approved 15-minute parking near the Garwood Family Center "Y" situated between Beech and Locust Avenues on East Street. It also amended an ordinance to limit fences on the side yards of corner lots to an open fence (picket, split rail, chain link) to no more than four feet high.

Police Chief Eric Mason and Lieutenant Edward Davenport presented to the committee the police department's proposal to add new police vehicles to its fleet. The traffic division of the police department employs a two-year cycle on the purchase of its front-line police cars. Every two years it purchases six vehicles and trades in six of its older models for new vehicles. This year, the department is asking to purchase SUVs-Ford Utility Police Interceptor - known as the Ford Explorer - as opposed to sedans. The cost would exceed the line item budget by \$4,225, Lt. Davenport said. The budgeted amount is about \$68,000.

The department in 2012 switched to the Dodge Charger after the Ford Crown Victoria had been discontinued in 2011.

The Charger has had brake and rotor problems, Lt. Davenport reported.

He said the SUV has a fuel efficiency rating that is 16, where the Charger was 18, and the Crown Victoria was 16. The Interceptor uses "32 percent less fuel than the Crown Vic when idling," Lt. Davenport said.

More than half of the towns in Union County have switched to the Interceptor, Lt. Davenport said. He said the Interceptor would provide much more needed space for the 15 pieces of equipment needed for each police car.

Richard Marsden, township engineer, gave an update on the pedestrian improvements plan for the North Avenue Plaza, located in front of the train station and at the light there leading into Alden Street. The township received a Municipal Aid 2011 Transit Village Program grant in the amount of \$500,000 and the township is to bond for the remainder of the cost for the

project. The total cost of the improvements is estimated at \$813,000.

The plan is to make the area safer for pedestrians and provide better traffic flow of NJ Transit buses. There will be a turn-around area for the buses, added fencing by the crosswalk areas and new curbing and pavement, as well as lighting.

Mr. Marsden said the state Department of Transportation has been holding up the start of construction because it is asking for more detailed plans and documents than what was submitted.

The elevation of the river has been lowered in preparation for the desilting of the Rahway River. The committee urged residents to not go on the ice, warning it is unstable and dangerous as it is hollow underneath. The desilting should not take more than a month, and must be complete by Saturday, March 15, for the restocking of trout to the river.

Union County College (UCC), on Gallows Hill Road, is planning to construct a lacrosse and soccer field near where the tennis courts are. Mr. Marsden confirmed that large trees are coming down. Commissioner Thomas Hannen, Jr. asked to make UCC aware of the township ordinance that requires a three-to-one replacement of trees that are removed.

Mr. Marsden said UCC is doing a stormwater retention basin.

"It drains into the Gallows Hill Brook," resident Barbara Krause said of Gallows Hill Road. "It is so waterlogged there and it is the lowest point," she said of the spot where the field is to go.

Mr. Hannen also asked if UCC is planning on putting down astro-turf or grass. Mr. Marsden said he was not sure.

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