

Patrick Giblin Sworn in as Mayor

be funded without their help."

Additionally, the newly sworn in mayor's speech emphasized the importance of a project to address "the aging infrastructure of the tunnel going into New York City."

"We intend to stay on top of them - to let them know how important these things are that we rely on for federal funding," Mr. Giblin said.

Additionally, the mayor will continue pushing NJ Transit towards resuming Midtown direct limited service. "It's critical we get that back," said Mayor Giblin, citing the fact that many move to Cranford in order to gain an ease of access into the city.

Although the tone of the night was celebratory and optimistic with it being the first public meeting in the new year, looming challenges confronting Cranford were captured in the deputy mayor's speech.

"To my colleagues, I wish us all wisdom and clarity as what should prove to be a very challenging year as we confront some very new and changing winds," Deputy Mayor Dooley said. "Marijuana legislation, liquor license changes, our constitutional responsibility to redevelop. The extraordinary traffic and transportation challenges along North and South Avenues. The ever-present challenge regarding storm water and flood mitigation," said Deputy Mayor Dooley. "Let's get to work and have a successful 2019."

Commissioner Mary O'Connor, the sole Republican on the township committee, used her time at the end of the meeting to further allude to challenges in the year ahead.

"We still face challenges: flood control, keeping our taxes stable while continuing to provide the public safety and services so important to our residents," she said. "And we must continue to fight for affordable-housing laws

that are fair to everyone. That must include consideration of residents and taxpayers who have supported towns like Cranford for many years. Policies that do not take infrastructure, public safety and the quality of education into account simply do not make sense," she said.

Notable appointments during Wednesday's reorganization meeting included the reappointment of Borough Attorney Ryan Cooper, which was done through a roll call vote with a three-member majority. The vote saw Commissioner O'Connor abstaining, and Commissioner Hannen voting in opposition, while the other three members voted yes.

The resolution portion of the meeting also saw important appointments, including Norman Albert appointed as municipal prosecutor, John DeMassi as public defender and Jared B. Weiss as alternate public defender. All three positions are one-year terms set to expire on December 31.

The mayoral appointments of township commissioners for 2019 include Ms. O'Connor as commissioner of finance, Ms. Dooley as commissioner of public safety, Mr. Hannen as commissioner of building and zoning, and Jean-Albert Maisonneuve as commissioner of public works and engineering.

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Brooks Crandall for *The Westfield Leader*

BEGINNING ANOTHER TERM...Cranford Township Commissioner Thomas Hannen, Jr. is congratulated by state Senator Joseph Cryan (D-20th, Union) after he was sworn in for another term on the committee at the township's reorganization meeting on January 2.

Cranford BOE Members Sworn in at Reorg. Meeting

By **ROBYN ORR-GIOFFRE**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

CRANFORD — Newly-elected and re-elected members were sworn in at the Cranford Board of Education's (BOE) reorganization meeting Monday night.

Three candidates ran for three, three-year appointments on the board this past November: incumbents William Hulse and Maria Loikith and newcomer Terry Darling.

Mr. Darling commented to *The Westfield Leader* that, "My intentions are to work with the board to make our school district the best it can possibly be for every student here," and further stated that he is excited about the district going from something that is already very good to "possibly the best suburban district in the state."

Newcomer Brian McCarthy was elected to fill the one-year unexpired term left vacant by the departure of Catherine Sheridan.

Incumbents Ms. Loikith and Mr. Hulse garnered 4,860 and 4,736 votes, respectively, while newcomers Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Darling received 5,859 and 5,619 votes, respectively.

The board voted to keep Kurt Petschow, Jr. as board president and Lisa Carbone as vice-president of the board.

Mr. Petschow was appointed as the delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association and Mr. Hulse was selected as the alternate delegate. Ms. Carbone was appointed as the delegate to the Union County School Boards Association and Kristen Mallon was appointed as the alternate

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Sara Todisco Sworn in

town business district "will experience a rejuvenation with increased walkability and sustainability."

"A small town like ours can only thrive with the enthusiasm and energy of the community and its volunteers. For that reason, I'd like to see us celebrate all those that contribute to making our town great by creating a Community Spirit Awards Program," Mayor Todisco said.

Nomination forms will be available on the borough's website and in Borough Hall, stated Mayor Todisco. "Dedicated volunteers," "generous business owners" or "a neighbor who goes above and beyond" can be nominated to be recognized as "the biggest champions of our community," stated Mayor Todisco.

The mayor also said she was expanding the public commentary portion of council meetings from three minutes to five minutes.

Mayor Todisco announced her appointment of new planning board members including Ken Capabianco, council liaison Richard McCormick, Steve Napolitano, Paul Tarantino, Mike Vena, John Malcolm, Sergio Simoes, Steve Barcan and Peter Demato.

Knitting Club at Garwood Library

GARWOOD — An adult knitting club will take place Thursdays and Mondays at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the library. The Knitting Club is open to all levels. Whether you're a beginner or you want to share your vast knowledge of knitting, spend an hour being creative and socializing. No Registration required. Check the library calendar for any holiday closings or changes to the schedule. The Garwood Public Library is located at 411 Third Avenue. Call (908) 789-1670 for more information.