

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD AT THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
46 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NJ
FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

Mayor Sowden called the meeting to order and requested the Borough Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: None

Mayor Sowden led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Sowden stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et sequentes. It has been properly advertised by posting in Borough Hall and printed in the New Jersey Herald/Sunday New Jersey Herald on January 6, 2023, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for tonight's meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Heath commented that she attended the Franklin Hardyston Chamber meeting today at Borough Hall, it was very informative. The Recreation Spring Fling event and Easter Egg hunt on March 30th.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that there was a public safety meeting held on Friday. In attendance was our OEM Coordinator, a Councilwoman and OEM Coordinator from Pompton Lakes to discuss the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program. Mr. Formica briefly explained the CERT Program.

Mr. Limon commented that there was a public utilities and buildings and grounds meeting. Discussed at the meeting was reviewing extra costs to finish McCann Street and also talked about the paving and review of sidewalks and curbs on the roads that will be paved this year. Maintenance items for the Borough Hall was also discussed.

Mr. Postas commented that the Finance Committee met and discussed the budget.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mrs. Tremont commented that the cell tower issues by Evans Street have been corrected. DPW interviews are ongoing. The 4-way stop at Main and Junction is progressing. JCP&L was here with their Engineer to discuss the upgrades to the Munsonhurst Station. A Finance meeting is preferred for the 2024 budget.

Mr. McBriar had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that we received the reports back on the well on Sterling Street and there are some issues. Mayor Sowden created a subcommittee for water/well constituting of Mr. Formica, Mr. Limon and Mrs. Heath as an alternate.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the DMV mobile unit will be coming to the pond, he is waiting to hear from DMV on the date.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Formica made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

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Mr. Phil Crabb stepped forward. Mr. Crabb addressed the council regarding an Ordinance on the agenda to change the Historical Preservation Commission to a Committee. Mr. Crabb asked why the organization wasn't notified of the change. Mayor Sowden explained the process and the time to speak at public hearing.

Mr. David Driefus of the Wallkill Valley Band Boosters stepped forward. Mr. Driefus explained the request of the Wallkill Valley Band Boosters to have the raffle license fee for the town be waived.

Mr. Justin Bellow of Wallkill Valley Little League stepped forward. Mr. Bellow questioned if there is a chance to replace the field. Mr. Bellow is looking to do some work at the field such as the grass area would need a load of topsoil; mound needs replacing. Mr. Bellow asked if there are any grants for funding available. Opening day is April 20th, grass cutting for the fields to be better this year. A portable mound costs approximately \$3,500 and new bases is approximately \$700 and home plate is approximately \$150.

Ms. Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe commented on the output of Sterling well and if its still OK to move forward with development. She questioned what's going on with projects. How much money did the town received in grants last year. Ms. Rowe asked for a second public session.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sowden requested that all persons present review the consent agenda and offer any comments they may have at this time regarding the consent agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. 2024 Board of County Commissioners Municipal Liaisons
2. Reappointment of William Joseph as the Official Town Crier for the County of Sussex for 2024.
3. Amended Final Equalization table for the County of Sussex for the year 2023.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. DPW Report – January 15 – January 19
2. Municipal Court Report – January 2024
3. Permit Activity Report – January 2024
4. COH Report – January 2024
5. Permit List – January 2024
6. County Board of Health Report – January 2024
7. Police Department Report – January 2024

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of February 27, 2024.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the consent agenda of February 27, 2024 with the removal of PO 36159. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder
Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve PO 36159. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Snyder
Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Skellenger

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OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for tonight's portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Zinc Mine redevelopment

Mr. Postas asked if the developer was present tonight and they were not present.

Mr. Skellenger has no objections to the plan as presented.

Mr. Snyder commented that the a correction needs to be made with the mention of the roads, Parker/Walsh Road.

Mayor Sowden commented that he would like to keep the building and see the buildings restored.

Ms. Jessica Caldwell asked if there are any changes to let her know. If Council is good, it can be introduced as an ordinance at a future meeting.

Mr. Snyder commented that he wants to see the town move forward. As hard as it is to go in this direction we need to go forward.

Mr. Postas agrees with Mr. Snyder's comments. The history is the people not the buildings.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to allow Mr. Pateri to address the council. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Mr. Pateri stepped forward. Mr. Pateri commented that there are many possibilities with this property, but it just never clicked.

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 23, 2024. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-23

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-23 authorizing a refund of an escrow for sewer connection in the amount of \$1,000 for Block 1701, Lot 4. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-24

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-24 authorizing a stipend for recreation secretary in the amount of \$3,000 annually. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-25

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-25 authorizing the award of non-fair and open contracts for professional services. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Resolution 2024-26

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-26 authorizing a refund for tax overpayment on Block 2201, Lot 62 in the amount of \$4,644.26. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approval of DPW Salary Step Increase

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the salary step increase for Fred Milligan to grade step 2 \$20.20/hr. as per the DPW contract, effective February 1, 2024, as recommended by Brian VanDenBroek, DPW Director and the Administrator. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 3-2024

Mr. Postas made a motion to introduce Ordinance 3-2024 entitled "Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey modifying the Historic Preservation Commission." Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on March 12, 2024.

Mayor Sowden asked why this change was presented.

Mr. Postas commented that this change will give the Council a little bit more control on the spending.

Mayor Sowden commented that if there were spending issues, why didn't any Council member bring it up.

Mr. Postas commented that a decision needs to be made on what to do with the building.

Mr. Limon made a motion to invite Phil Crabb to address the council. There was no second.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: Limon Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approve Special Event Permit Application

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the request for Franklin Mineral Museum to conduct a Rock Swap and Sell on April 27, 2024 at the park next to the pond on George LaBance Lane, Franklin and to authorize the use of the Franklin Pond area for parking as needed. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the application for membership of Corey A. Dinapoli, 24 Skyview Drive, Franklin, as Firematic member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Michael Raperto, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

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Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the application for membership of Michael J. Luterzo, 40 Davis Road, Franklin, as Firematic member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Michael Raperto, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the application for membership of Jackson R. Arsuega, 27 Cummins Street, Franklin, as Firematic member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Michael Raperto, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Walkkill Valley Band Boosters

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the request to waive the Municipal Raffle License Fee in the amount of \$60.00 for a 50/50 raffle to be held on March 8, March 9 and March 10, 2024. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Peddlers Permit Application

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the peddler permit submitted by Curtis Pandorf – Hot Dog Truck located at 76 Route 23, Franklin. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

Economic Development Committee

Patti Carnes, Member (1-yr. term) Expires 12/31/2024

Heather Pruiksma, Member (1-yr. term) Expires 12/31/2024

Dan Larco, Member (1-yr. term) Expires 12/31/2024

Christopher Michaelk, Member (1-yr. term) Expires 12/31/2024

Holly Gouger, Member (1-yr. term) Expires 12/31/2024

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to confirm the Mayor's appointments to the Economic Development Committee. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Heath, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Road Opening request for 7 Rapole Street

This request was not granted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m., seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk