

**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
MARCH 28, 2023**

This meeting is being held in person adhering to the CDC guidelines and through a virtual meeting platform called ZOOM. The public who attended through ZOOM has been notified and instructed on how to join the meeting and participate during the public session.

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

Mr. Limon had nothing to report.

Mr. Postas commented that he met with Brian VanDenBroek regarding the road paving and that it is moving forward. Mr. Postas spoke about different projects that are scheduled for this year. Mr. Postas commented that Hemlock Drive is set to be paved this year but the sidewalks need to be replaced also. The sidewalks will be replaced this year and the paving will be done next year. We will have to ask Mr. Ursin to prepare an ordinance for sidewalks and trees on Hemlock Drive.

Mr. Snyder commented that several weeks back the personnel committee met with Brian VanDenBroek and discussed some of the personnel issues within DPW. Mr. Snyder commented that Brian would like to know if the council would move forward with hiring another DPW employee.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve placing an ad for hiring a full-time DPW laborer. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Formica commented that Brian VanDenBroek is waiting for a QPA so he can move forward with projects. The salt shed is almost completed. Brian is obtaining prices to replace the pavilion roof. We are looking to get new lights for the basketball court and looking to do underground wires from the concession stand to the pavilion. We are also looking to get a new panel box with a lock and light switch. The kayak dock is being installed May 4, 2023.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that the Franklin Carnival is scheduled for May 24th through May 28th and recreation is waiting for an additional rider for the contract and will be placed on the next meeting agenda for approval. The Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for April 8th at 10am at the pond. Recreation has chosen the 2023 Senior of Year and that person will be honored at the Spring Fling on April 22nd.

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Mrs. Tremont commented that she received a revised contract from Planet Networks.

Ms. Clinton had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that he would like to get a feel from the council as to what direction we want to go with the Edison School House/Hungarian Church.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Joe and Jeremy from Planet Networks addressed the Governing Body regarding the progress of Planet Networks in Franklin Borough. Jeremy commented that the liability and arbitration has been removed from the contract.

JoAnne Tatka questioned resolution 2023-49. Are there any plans in regards to the historic preservation or repairs of the church. Are you still thinking about having the building extend from Parker to Junction. If the cost is going to be over \$50,000, Ms. Tatka feels that it should be put on the ballot for the voters of Franklin to have a choice.

Mr. Skellenger commented that he would like to have both questions on the ballot [Pateri property and Church].

Ms. Tatka asked if there will be enough water if and when the JCM project goes through.

There being no one else present or on Zoom who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Postas made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. 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. Preliminary Equalization table for the County of Sussex for the year 2023.
2. SCMUA proposed solid waste rate increases for FY2024.
3. County of Sussex resolution re: final adoption of the site specific amendment to the Sussex County Wastewater Management Plan for JCM Investors 1012, LLC, also known as "Milly's Court," Block 2701, Lot 2 in the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. County Board of Health Report – February 2023
2. Police Department Report – February 2023
3. DPW Report – February 27 – March 3

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of March 28, 2023.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the consent agenda of March 28, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

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

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 14, 2023. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2023-47 - to authorize Prism Sweeping Services, Inc. to provide for street sweeping in an amount not to exceed \$7,480.00. **This resolution was removed from the agenda.**

Resolution #2023-48

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-48 to introduce the CY2023 Municipal Budget for the Borough of Franklin. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Mayor Sowden announced that the Public Hearing will be held on April 25, 2023.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-49

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-49 to authorize the appointment of Robert M. Dolan of RMD Associates, LLC for QPA consulting services for the period of March 28, 2023 to December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$4,500.00. (Proposal provided in Council packets) Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-50

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-50 to authorize the award of a non-fair & open contract for appointing hiring CGP&H to provide Affordable Housing Administrative Agent Services beginning April 1, 2023 not to exceed \$10,300.00. (Proposal provided in Council packets) Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2023-51

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-51 to approve establishing salaries for certain full time and part time employees of Franklin Borough for the Year 2023. Seconded by Mr. Postas

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Heath, Limon, Postas, Snyder

Nays: Formica, Skellenger Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction Ordinance 04-2023

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to introduce ordinance 04-2023 entitled "Bond Ordinance providing supplemental funding for improvements to the Elevated Water Storage Tank, originally funded by bond ordinance 10-2022, by and in the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey (The "Borough"); appropriating \$239,235 therefor and authorizing the issuance of \$239,235 bonds or notes of the Borough to finance part of the costs of thereof." Seconded by Mr. Postas

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on April 11, 2023.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Congregate Nutrition Program Shared Services Agreement

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the Shared Service Agreement between the County of Sussex and the Borough of Franklin for the Franklin Congregate Nutrition Programs from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$27,700.00. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Redevelopment Plan Review

Mr. Formica made a motion to authorize review of the redevelopment plan for the property located at 116 Route 23, Block 1601, Lot 5. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Redevelopment Designation Study

Mr. Formica made a motion to authorize a redevelopment designation study for the property located at 390 Rutherford Ave., Block 605, Lot 5. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion of Ascend sewer allocation issue

Mayor Sowden commented that Ascend originally calculated that they would need 100 edu's for their sewer discharge and then the engineers for Ascend did a reevaluation of the sewer allocation and came up with 48 or 50 edu's. Our engineer is reviewing that information with other facilities that do the same type of work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54p.m., seconded by Mrs. Heath.

All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk