

**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 11, 2025**

Council President Skellenger 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: Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Skellenger and Mr. Snyder.

Absent: Mr. Limon and Mayor Sowden

Council President Skellenger led the assembly in the flag salute.

Council President Skellenger 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 12, 2025, 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. Carnes commented that as reported at a previous meeting, EDC had reach out to JC Promotions about possibly doing a market at the pond. Mrs. Carnes followed up with and received an email that they will not be able to accommodate us.

Mr. Snyder commented that he is waiting for a phone call from CFO Michelle to go over the budget.

Mr. Skellenger commented that on March 29, 2025 the MVC Mobile will be in Franklin. Appointments are required and will open on the website, [www.njmvc.gov](http://www.njmvc.gov), scroll to the bottom, there is a section that says mobile events; they will open February 25, 2025 at 3pm.

Mr. Formica commented that he received an email from the vendor for the Basketball Court letting us know that they are ordering all the supplies they need. Mr. Formica has been working with the grant writer to try to obtain a few grants. One grant is an AARP grant for the seniors and the other is a T-Mobile grant.

Mrs. Heath commented that there was a Recreation meeting and they discussed the football fields. Met with the personnel committee in regards to the new hire.

Ms. Little commented that Jessica Caldwell is working on the monitoring reports for the affordable housing and everything should be submitted by the deadline of February 15, 2025.

Ms. Hooker had nothing to report.

**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 Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka questioned Resolution 2025-24, asked for the total amount collected in cannabis tax for 2024 and asked why the CAP is being extended by 1½% instead of just going along with the standard 2%. The theater building still has a for sale on it, supposedly Miner's Cove was supposed to buy the theater and to put in affordable housing units.

Renee Zierold stepped forward. Ms. Zierold is requesting clarification on a topic that was discussed at a previous meeting regarding the plowing of Dunn Row.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council President Skellenger 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. Township of Green Resolution in re: continuation of Sussex County Farmland Preservation, Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund.
2. Sandyston Township Resolution in support of immediate transparency by the State of New Jersey and Federal Authorities regarding drone activity throughout Sussex County and the State of New Jersey.
3. County of Sussex Resolution for 2025 Board of County Commissioners Municipal Liaisons.
4. County of Sussex Resolution – reappointment of William Joseph as the Official Town Crier for the County of Sussex.
5. County of Sussex Resolution – reappointment of Dr. William Truran as Sussex County Historian for term expiring December 31, 2025.
6. Letter received January 29, 2025 from residents on Catlin Road.
7. Email correspondence from Jeff Garrity resigning from the Historic Committee.
8. Sandyston Township letter to Senator Space, Assemblywoman Fantasia and Assemblyman Inganamort in reforest management in New Jersey.
9. Sandyston Township letter to Superintendent Sapp of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in re: proposed fee changes.
10. Sandyston Township letter to Superintendent Sapp of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in re: condition of roads.
11. Lafayette Township Resolution in support of referendum for 10 years extension of Sussex County Farmland Preservation, Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund.

**REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Water/Sewer Report – January 13 – January 17.
2. Water/Sewer Report – January 20 – January 24.
3. Municipal Court Report – January 2025.
4. Water/Sewer Report – January 27 – January 31.

**APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

**RESOLUTIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of February 11, 2025.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the consent agenda of February 11, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: Skellenger

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 28, 2025. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

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### Resolution 2025-23

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-23 authorizing the hiring of a Part Time Finance Assistant at the rate of \$20 per hour not to exceed an average of 29 hours per week as recommended by the Borough Administrator, CFO and Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

### Resolution 2025-24

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-24 urging State Leaders to pass legislation that will authorize counties, municipalities, school districts and all local governments to publish legal notices in a clear, transparent and timely manner on a local government's official website. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

### Resolution 2025-25

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-25 authorizing the cancelation of taxes on Block 1701 Lot 6 for the years 2024 and 2025. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

### Resolution 2025-26

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-26 authorizing the cancelation of tax sale certificate #24-00014. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

### Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the application for membership of Arnaldo Allende, 3 Ginter Street, Franklin, as Firematic member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Corey Houghtaling, Franklin Fire Department Chief. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

### Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden will make the following appointment.

### Historic Preservation Committee

Rebecca DeMaio, Member (2-yr. unexpired term) Expires 12/31/2026

Mrs. Heath made a motion to confirm the Mayor's appointment.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to table the appointment until the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote to table:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

### Approve Special Event Permit Application

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve a special event permit for Franklin Mineral Museum to conduct a Rock Swap and Sell on April 26, 2025 at the park next to the

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pond on George LaBance Lane, Franklin and to authorize the use of the Franklin Pond area for parking as needed. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Limon Abstentions: None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Mr. Formica commented that it looks like football will be coming back to the pond.

Mr. Snyder asked if the football field would have to be moved to 100 yards.

Mr. Formica commented that field would stay at 80 yards because it is the youth football league. We are looking to get some goal posts to replace the old ones, the grant writer is looking into grants for upgrading the lights to LED lights, press box and scoreboard.

Mr. Snyder thanked Jeff Garrity for being a member of the Historical Committee. Mr. Snyder commented that there is speculation around, that the roads are not being taken of the way the residents would like them to be and asked if there was anything going on.

Mr. Formica commented that there are new employees and they are being trained on the areas and it is one big learning curve for everyone.

Mr. Skellenger commented that they did fantastic with the last storm. Thanked the fire department for the invitation to their installation dinner.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mrs. Heath made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

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Stephen Skellenger, Council President

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Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk