

REGULAR AGENDA
FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN,
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 46 MAIN STREET
FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY AT 7:00 P.M. ON
FEBRUARY 25, 2025

- A. **Mayor Sowden** will call the meeting to order; Clerk will call the roll.
- B. **Mayor Sowden** will invite all present to salute the flag.
- C. **Mayor Sowden** will state that "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."
- D. **PRESENTATIONS**
Franklin Revolver and Rifle Association proclamation presentation.
- E. **COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mayor Sowden** will allow each member of the Council, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk, and Borough Attorney to present their respective committee report.

Mayor Sowden will offer the Mayor's Report.

- F. **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION: Mayor Sowden** will request a motion to open the meeting to the public, for any questions or comments concerning the good and welfare of the Borough. **All comments should be directed to the Mayor and kept to a 3-minute maximum per person.**

After giving all persons present an opportunity to address the Governing Body, **Mayor Sowden** will request a motion to close the meeting to the public and return to the regular order of business.

- G. **CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Sowden** will request that all persons present review the consent agenda. If any member of the Council or public wishes an item on the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately, a motion to this effect shall so be made, at this time.

After all persons have had an opportunity to review the consent agenda and offer requests for changes, Mayor Sowden will request a motion to approve the consent agenda.

- H. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- I. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of the Minutes** for the regular meeting minutes for February 11, 2025. (Absent: Mr. Limon, Mayor Sowden)
2. **Agreement for Certified Recycling Professional** to approve the agreement between the Borough of Franklin and SCMUA to retain the services of SCMUA for a Certified Recycling Professional that will be responsible for executing the mandatory annual 2024 municipal recycling tonnage report in the amount of \$300.00 annually.
3. **Resolution #2025-27** to approve authorizing the Borough's Certified Recycling Professional to submit the 2024 recycling tonnage grant application to NJ Department of Environmental Protection.
4. **Discussion on Historic Preservation Committee**

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FEBRUARY 25, 2025

5. Mayoral Appointment
Mayor Sowden will make the following appointment.

Historic Preservation Committee

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

Jean Perlee, Class B Member, (3-yr. unexpired term) Expires
12/31/2027

Travis Breidenstein, Alternate Member, 2-year term, Expires
12/31/2027

6. Peddlers Permit Application to approve the peddler permit application submitted by Carol Zofrea for the sale of ice cream.

J. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – IF REQUESTED**

Mayor Sowden will request a motion to adopt a resolution to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss certain items excluded from the public.

THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ALLOWS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM A PORTION OF A MEETING IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, THAT THE PUBLIC SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM DISCUSSION OF MATTERS ALLOWED BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES WILL BE PLACED ON FILE IN THE BOROUGH CLERK'S OFFICE, AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS PROVIDED FOR BY NEW JERSEY LAW.

Be further advised this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

- K. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS: **Mayor Sowden** will allow each member of the Governing Body to offer any miscellaneous comments which they may have at this time.
- L. ADJOURNMENT: **Mayor Sowden** will request a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Borough of Franklin County of Sussex

Franklin Revolver and Rifle Association

WHEREAS, the gun club began in the early 1900's with "The Boro Boys"; and

WHEREAS, in 1938 Police Chief Irons made an official name for the gun club, Franklin Revolver and Rifle Association and incorporated the gun club; and

WHEREAS, in 1958 Police Chief Irons secured the purchase of the property from the NJ Zinc Co; and

WHEREAS, from the mid 1950's to 2022, John Heller was the steadfast leader as well as Franklin Councilman;

WHEREAS, last fall an application was filed with the NRA for the Franklin Revolver and Rifle Association to be considered for the 2024 NRA Outstanding Club Award;

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2025 the Deputy Director of General Operations sent an email to Franklin Revolver and Rifle Association stating that they were selected as the 2024 NRA Outstanding Club Award winner;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Borough of Franklin hereby congratulates the Franklin Revolver and Rifle Association on being selected the 2024 NRA Outstanding Club Award winner.

CERTIFICATION: I, Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Franklin, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Proclamation adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting held on February 25, 2025.

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

**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, 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.

Stephen Skellenger, Council President

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk

Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex

Resolution #2025-27

2024 TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L.1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the **2024 Recycling Tonnage Grant** will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of FRANKLIN BOROUGH MAYOR AND COUNCIL to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin that the Borough of Franklin hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates SCMUA for the services of Certified Recycling Professional, to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

CERTIFICATION: I, Colleen L. Little, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex, at a meeting held at 7:00PM on the date of February 25, 2025.

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
PATRICIA CARNES				
CONCETTO FORMICA				
RACHEL HEATH				
JOSEPH LIMON				
STEPHEN SKELLENGER				
GILBERT SNYDER				
MAYOR SOWDEN (Tie Only)				