

**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
JULY 15, 2025**

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: Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mrs. Heath

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 12, 2025, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Sowden requested a moment of silence and remembrance of a valued employee, Cindy Space, who passed away recently.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for tonight's meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Skellenger commented that the real estate committee met and went over the properties. Neil is going to meet with John Ursin to finalize everything so that we have something to present to everyone at the next meeting.

Mr. Formica commented that buildings and grounds met to look over next years possible grant opportunities for the roads. Mr. Formica gave an update on the State Plan. Mr. Formica requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Mr. Limon commented that a personnel meeting will be set up within the next week.

Mrs. Carnes commented that Franklinite and Fireworks were held on June 28, 2025. We are starting to secure dates for the carnival for next year because we are going to try to coordinate Franklinite, Carnival and the fireworks all within the same week.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mrs. Little had nothing to report.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that there will be a personnel meeting within the next week and while he was away, because of the timeline, we had to help the fire department out with a grant application.

Mr. Skellenger asked if the baseball trip was sold out.

Mrs. Carnes commented that there are still open seats.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that at 1pm tomorrow, July 16, 2025, on Maple Road the rails to trails group will be meeting. Mayor Sowden commented that our 250th anniversary is coming up and he was wondering if we are interested in any projects or ideas that may coincide with the Country's events.

Mr. Formica commented that there have been some discussions regarding a parade.

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. Formica. All were in favor.

Ms. Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka asked how successful the carnival was.

Mr. Formica commented that the carnival brought in approximately \$6,400.

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Ms. Tatka questioned the affordable housing. We have something where the state said that you have to have a total of 260 or 280 more affordable housing units within the next 10 years. Are they counting affordable housing units that you already have or are these new ones.

Mr. Ursin commented that this is for new units.

Ms. Tatka commented that because in Franklin we already have the Franklin House, Concetto Towers and the trailer park.

Mayor Sowden commented that those are considered for the formula.

Ms. Tatka commented that in reference to ordinance 07-2025, there are not individual prices listed on there and usually there are. Ms. Tatka asked if the new firetruck will be replacing one that is already there. Ms. Tatka commented that the police had a server and printer for \$16,500, is that a special server and printer. Ms. Tatka asked if we have a purchasing agent. Ms. Tatka asked if a figure has been received for the 2nd quarter cannabis tax.

Mrs. Little commented that the Borough received \$277,603.49 for the 2nd quarter cannabis tax.

Ms. Tatka commented that she called the road department to complain because where she pulls out from her road, Maple onto Wild Cat to cross over to the side of Maple there is a lot brush. She noticed today that the brush is cut down and thanked those involved in getting the issue taken care of.

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 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. Borough of Ogdensburg resolution calling for the restoration of energy taxes to municipalities
2. Free Presentation on Bats – August 9, 2025 7:30-9pm 136 Owens Station Road, Sussex NJ.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Road Department Report – June 16th – June 20th
2. Road Department Report – June 23rd – June 27th
3. Water/Sewer Report – June 16th – June 20th
4. Water/Sewer Report – June 23rd – June 27th
5. Municipal Court Report – June 2025
6. Permit Activity Report – June 2025
7. COH Report – June 2025
8. Permit List – June 2025
9. Water/Sewer Report – June 30th – July 4th
10. Registrar Report – January – June
11. Count Board of Health Report – June 2025

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of July 15, 2025.

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the consent agenda of July 15, 2025. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: Skellenger

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Carnes asked if a plaque can be done for Michael Christensen for obtaining his eagle scout.

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for June 24, 2025. (Absent: Mrs. Heath and Mr. Limon) Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: Limon

Resolution 2025-61

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-61 authorizing cancellation of tax sale certificate #24-00002 for Block 601 Lot 35. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Resolution 2025-62

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-62 rescinding resolution #2025-59 and approving stipend for tax collector shared service agreement. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Resolution 2025-63

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-63 authorizing an increase in the bid threshold to \$53,000.00. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Resolution 2025-64

Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-64 approving submittal of a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Kovach, Mabie and South Street Improvement Project. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Resolution 2025-65

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-65 extending the grace period for payment of 3rd quarter 2025 taxes. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Resolution 2025-66

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-66 authorizing cancellation of tax sale certificate #21-00003 for Block 607 Lot 46. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Resolution 2025-67

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-67 authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for professional services for security cameras at the police station. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

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Adoption of Ordinance 09-2025

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Ordinance 09-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 259-2, PARKING". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 09-2025. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to public for Ordinance 09-2025, seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Formica made a motion to close the meeting to the public for Ordinance 09-2025. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 10-2025

Mr. Formica made a motion to introduce Ordinance 10-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING SECTION 119-2, FEES". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on August 12, 2025.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Sewer Connection Application

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the application submitted by Irving Fabrication, LLC for a 1.5 EDU commercial dwelling at 597 Route 23. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

Literacy New Jersey Request

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to approve the Literacy New Jersey request to waive the fees and to use the Senior Center for their English Language Class every Tuesday, contingent upon receiving a certificate of insurance. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Heath Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Mr. Formica made a motion to adjourn into closed executive session to discuss personnel and attorney client privilege matters. Motion seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

Mr. Ursin commented that there will be no official action taken after executive session and will likely adjourn the meeting directly from closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:29pm, the Mayor and Council adjourned into executive session and did not return into open public session.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk