

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN  
HELD AT THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
46 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NJ  
March 16, 2016**

Mayor Giordano called the meeting to order (7:10) and requested the Borough Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Mr. Dabinett, Ms. Fantasia, Mr. Snyder, and Mayor Giordano.

Absent: Mr. Limon, (arrived 7:12), Mr. Martinez, (arrived 7:29), Mr. Rathbun (arrived, 7:30)

Mr. Limon arrived 7:12.

Mayor Giordano led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Giordano stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231. It has been properly advertised and certified by the Clerk."

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Jim Nidelko, 49 Butler Street, Franklin, stepped forward. Mr. Nidelko is ex-Chief and Treasurer of the Franklin Fire Department. Mr. Nidelko commented this is the first time he has attended an informal budget meeting, he wanted to see how the budget is going to be.

Mayor Giordano commented when we get to the Firemen's budget we will call you back up so you can discuss it with the Council.

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

CY 2016 Municipal Budget

Monica Miebach, CFO/QPA was present for the discussion.

**WATER AND SEWER BUDGET**

Mrs. Miebach commented bottom line for water and sewer budget it's staying the same as last year. Mrs. Miebach explained the line items in the water and sewer budget to the Council. Items explained number of hook up income; appropriations SCMUA went down, they bill at the end of the year, items for I & I study and repair, for year 3 cameraing and year 3 fix. In reserve in the capital budget we have money for the I & I fix for year 1 and 2, that would have to go out for bids.

There was a discussion on the I & I study repair and fix, and going out for bid, making an ordinance called I & I repair, bidding all projects at the same time, the need to work on collections and no utility rate increases.

Mrs. Miebach commented bottom line water and sewer looks good.

Mayor Giordano commented we are in agreement the water and sewer budget is set and ready to go as presented. No comments from the Council.

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**CURRENT FUND BUDGET**

Mrs. Miebach commented the current fund is funded through tax payers dollars and revenues from the town. Mrs. Miebach commented she had anticipated including \$30,000 for a new antenna lease, it has been taken out of the revenue. Mrs. McHose and Mrs. Miebach explained to the Council why this was taken out of the revenue. Everything has to be signed and sealed before it can be included in the budget. It is \$15,000 because it was going to be for half the year.

Mrs. Miebach started to explain the revenue section of the budget.

Joe Martinez, arrived at 7:29pm.

Mike Rathbun, arrived at 7:30pm.

Mrs. Miebach continued explaining the revenue section, state aid is the same, grants listed here is money received last year that are anticipated in the budget, receipt of delinquents, decrease in the amount to be raised.

There was a discussion on the fund balance.

Mayor Giordano commented we need to find \$17,000.

Mrs. Miebach commented she would rather not touch the fund balance and explained.

Ms. Fantasia commented she, Mr. Martinez and Mr. Snyder went over the budget on Sunday and we feel we found more cuts.

Mrs. Miebach commented to start next with the appropriations.

Mrs. Miebach explained the cost of codification of the ordinances, the more ordinances we create the more it costs. Of the \$6,000 line item that is for codification of ordinances \$4,000 is already gone. If we continue we will be spending probably \$8 to \$10 grand for that line item.

There was a discussion on the election line item, there was a lengthy discussion regarding the employee handbook line item and to cut some of that line item, transport of prisoners and the amount of salt left for the roads to date.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Fire Department and the grant from NJDEP for the Borough and the Fire Department, equipment to purchase with the funds and purchasing the Jaws of Life from the Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad.

Jim Nidelko, Treasure for the Fire Department was present and participated in the Fire Department discussion over the grant funds and Fire Department budget.

Below are the items that were cut throughout the discussions on the budget:

**01-201-25-240-003** Police Salaries & wages General Overtime cut \$5,000 from \$110,000 to \$105,000.

**01-201-26-290-060** Street & Roads OE Snow Grits/Salt cut \$5,000 from \$55,000 to \$50,000.

**01-201-36-472-020** Social Security cut \$5,000 from \$201,000 to \$196,000.

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**01-201-20-100-032** General Administration OE Employee Handbook (\$8,000) move \$4,000 to line **01-201-20-100-031** general Administration OE Codification of Ordinance, leave \$1,500 in line **01-201-20-100-032** Employee handbook and cut \$2,500 from the budget.

**01-201-26-310-066** Buildings and Grounds OE Electric move \$3,500 and add to the capital for the Fire Department, from \$40,000 to \$36,500.

Mrs. Miebach commented the bottom line the appropriation went up 1.4 percent we are way below Gov. Christie's 2 percent. Amount to be raised we're down from last year \$48,188, 1.02 % decrease in taxes. Mrs. Miebach commented don't forget we are only one piece of the pie.

There was a discussion on old ordinances with balances not used.

Mayor Giordano commented we are good with the budget the way it is, the Fire Department gets the extra \$3,500.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

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

No one from the public stepped forward.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40p.m., seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

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Nicholas Giordano, Mayor

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Robin Hough, Borough Clerk