

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE ORGANIZATION MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 46 MAIN STREET,
FRANKLIN, NJ AT 12:00 NOON ON
JANUARY 1, 2018**

Mayor Girodano called the meeting to order.

Mayor Giordano 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 5, 2018, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Giordano invited all present to participate in the Allegiance to the flag salute.

Roll Call of 2017 Borough Council Members

Mayor Giordano shall request a roll call of the 2017 Governing Body.

Present Ms. Fantasia, Mr. Limon, Mr. Rathbun, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Giordano

Absent: Mr. Dabinett

Oaths of Office

- a. **Ms. Tremont** read the "Statement of Determination" of the Board County Canvassers.
- b. **Ms. Tremont** administered the Oath of Office to Councilman-elect **Joe Limon** for a three-year term as Councilman of the Borough of Franklin.
- c. **Ms. Tremont** administered the Oath of Office to Councilman-elect **John E. Posta** for a three-year term as Councilman of the Borough of Franklin.

Roll Call of 2018 Borough Council Members

Mayor Giordano shall request a roll call of the 2018 Governing Body.

Present: Ms. Fantasia, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Rathbun, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Giordano.

Ms. Tremont read the "Statement of Determination of the Board of County Canvassers for LOSAP.

Mayor Giordano thanked Ms. Fantasia and Mr. Snyder for all the research they put in to move the Length of Service Awards Program forward.

Council Appointment: Council President

Mayor Giordano will open the floor for Council nominations to the position of **Council President** for 2018.

Mr. Snyder nominated Dawn Fantasia as the Council President for the year 2018. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Abstentions: None

Mayor Giordano congratulated Council President Fantasia. Mayor Giordano commented he believes Ms. Fantasia is the first female Council President.

Fire Department Chief and Line Officers

- a. **Mayor Giordano** recognized the Chief of the Franklin Fire Department for 2018, Chief Fred Babcock Jr.

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- b. **Ms. Tremont** administered the Oath of Office to the Chief of the Franklin Fire Department for 2018, Chief Fred Babcock.

Chief Babcock thanked the Mayor for allowing the use of the Franklin Municipal Building elevator for their fire drill.

- c. **Ms. Tremont** recognized Fire Chief Fred Babcock who will introduce the 2018 Line Officers of the Franklin Fire Department

Chief Babcock called up his members:

Asst. Chief Jason Doyle, Captain Khyle Conklin, 1st LT Steve Kneble II, 2nd Lt., Mike Cole and Engineer, Steve Kneble III.

Chief Babcock commented his executive officers could not attend.

- d. **Ms. Tremont** administered the Oath of Office to the **Line Officers** of the Franklin Fire Department for 2018.

Mayor Giordano recognized the 2018 Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad Administration and ranking members.

Mayor Giordano commented the Walkkill Valley First Aid Squad could not attend today, they are on schedule to work.

Administration President, William Lanham, Vice President, John Friend, Treasurer, Cynthia Lanham, Secretary, Allison Gunderman, Captain, Jennifer Henry, 1st Lt., Jennifer Friend, 2nd Lt., Jeremy Prochaska-Jessel, Engineer, John Friend.

Mayor's Appointments

At this time, **Mayor Giordano** presented his nominations for appointment to the various positions of Borough Government for the year 2018.

Administrator (3 yr.)	Alison Littell McHose
Municipal Housing Liaison (1 yr.)	Alison Littell McHose
Right to Know Coordinator	Brian VanDenBroek
Assessment Search Officer (1 yr.)	Darlene Tremont
Tax Search Officer (1 yr.)	Judi O'Brian
Borough Physician (1 yr.)	Dennis Fielding
Animal Control Officer (1 yr.)	John Abate
School Crossing Head Guard (1 yr.)	Lynn Warr Prtorich,
School Crossing Guards (1 yr.)	Amanda Tassillo-Babcock,
	Lyrae Bifano, Rose Breidenstein,
	Kathleen Clohessy, Lisa Conte,
	Charlotte Drum, Barbara Formica, Ann
	Grabkowski, April Kunz-Oleksy, Kathy
	Martinez, Bonnie McCouch, Mary
	Payton, Cara Ross,
	Jacqueline Shofner, Emily VanDyk,
	Rachel VanDyk, Margaret Wellenheider
	James Devine, Esq.
Judge (3yr.) Expires 12/31/20	

Mr. Limon made a motion to confirm the Mayor's Appointments. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: Abstentions: None

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All current Board of Recreation Commissioners 1-year term

BOARD OF HEALTH

Member	4-year term (term expires 12/31/2021)	Carolyn Ryder
Member	4-year term (term expires 12/31/2021)	Aimee Zschack
Secretary	1-year term	Rachel Heath

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Mayor	1-year term	Nicholas Giordano
Deputy	1-year term	Eugene McInerney
Member/OEM	1-year term	Jim Williams
Member/FFD	1-year term	Fred Babcock, Jr.
Member/WVFAS	1-year term	John Friend
Member	1-year term	Monica Miebach
Member	1-year term	Alison Littell McHose
Member	1-year term	Steve Sluka
Member	1-year term	Dayne Hill
Member	1-year term	Don Stoll
Member	1-year term	James Nidelko
Member	1-year term	Brian VanDenBroek

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Member	1-year term	Vacant
Member	1-year term	Michael Raperto
Member	1-year term	Vacant
Member/Council	1-year term	Dawn Fantasia
Member	1-year term	Vacant
Member/Secretary	1-year term	Judy Williams
Member	1-year term	Vacant
Alternate #1	1-year term	Vacant
Alternate #2	1-year term	Vacant

RENT LEVELING BOARD

Member	5-year term (term expires 12/31/2020)	Vacant
Member/Council	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2018)	Mayor Appointment
Member/Council	1-year term (term expires 12/3/2018)	Mayor Appointment
Alt# 1	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2018)	Vacant
Alt# 2	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2018)	Vacant
Attorney	1-year term (term expires 12/31/2018)	Angelo Bolcato Laddey, Clark & Ryan

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to amend the Mayor's Appointments for the various Boards and Commissions removing Mr. Postas from the Economic Development Commission. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE DUTIES

Council Committee Duties

Mayor Giordano commented the committees have worked very well this past year and doesn't expect to make many changes. Mayor Giordano also commented he would like to discuss the full committee assignments with the council in executive session at the next regular meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Limon made a motion to accept the consent agenda.

Ms. Fantasia asked to have item 1, Professional Services for the Borough Attorney to be removed for discussion.

Mayor Giordano commented item 1, Professional Services will be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Fantasia seconded the motion to accept the Consent Agenda with item 1, Resolution 2018-01 Professional Services removed.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fantasia, Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Ms. Fantasia commented she reviewed and compared the 2 RFP's submitted by Laddey Clark & Ryan and Schenck, Price, Smith & King LLP for the Borough Attorney position as well as speaking with the CFO, Administrator and Mayor Giordano regarding costs for various services. Ms. Fantasia also commented based on merit alone we can't lose with either firm. However, from a finance perspective Ms. Fantasia recommends Laddey Clark & Ryan, Tom Prol, Esq. to be the fiscally responsible choice between the 2 proposals and saving significant tax payer dollars.

Mr. Skellenger commented he would agree with Ms. Fantasia in that both are experienced attorneys and we can't lose, however from a financial standpoint Laddey Clark & Ryan will be a more cost effective for the Borough.

Mayor Giordano commented on the costs the Borough had to incur for outside labor attorney fees which must be added to the Laddey Clark & Ryan retainer to be a fair cost comparison. Mayor Giordano also commented choosing Schenck, Price, Smith & King LLP gives us an opportunity to utilize attorneys within their firm that specialize in various fields if the need arises. Mayor Giordano announced we will continue to use the current outside labor attorney to finish up on what has been started, the FOP and other union contracts should be completed hopefully by the end of the month. Mayor Giordano recommends Schenck, Price, Smith & King LLP for what the Borough needs this year and asks the Council to approve that recommendation.

Mr. Snyder commented Mr. Prol has been a very good attorney for our town for a number of years. Mr. Snyder also commented the Borough would be fortunate with either firm. Mr. Snyder recommended with Mr. Prol's many interests Schenck, Price, Smith & King LLP would be a better firm moving forward.

A discussion continued on the recommendation for the Borough Attorney.

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Mr. Rathbun commented it is a very difficult decision, both are very good attorneys. Mr. Rathbun suggested we should come up with a better scope of comparisons when going out for future RFP's.

Mr. Limon made a motion to accept the Mayor's Appointment for Item 1, Resolution 2018-01, Professional Services as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Limon, Postas, Rathbun, Snyder

Nays: Fantasia, Skellenger Absent: None Abstentions: None

Mr. Prol commented what an honor it has been to serve the Borough. Mr. Prol also commented he dedicated himself to the mission of making the Borough a better place and will continue to do that. Mr. Prol thanked the Council for the courtesy given to him to allow him to have this position it was one of his highlights in his career so far and hopes he will be back again in the future. (Audience Applauded)

Mayor Giordano commented he is sad but this was a business decision, and considers Mr. Prol his friend and honored to know him personally. Mayor Giordano congratulated Mr. Prol on his career and many accomplishments. Mayor Giordano thanked him for his service.

Mayor's Statement

Mayor Giordano will address the Council and the public with remarks concerning the priorities and goals for the Borough of Franklin in 2018.

Mayor Giordano thanked everyone for coming, 2018 should be a banner year for Franklin. Franklin has new programs, one of which is Length of Service Awards Program that will have to be funded for. There is a lot of potential for building both controversial and non-controversial. Mayor Giordano commented he will try to provide the council with all the information so that the council can run the town.

Council Comments

Mayor Giordano will invite each member of the Council to offer remarks concerning the 2018 Council's goals and priorities.

Ms. Fantasia thanked Mr. Prol for his service and commented it was an honor and a pleasure to work with him. Ms. Fantasia commented this year Franklin focused on first responders, increased education, passing LOSAP and new equipment to do their jobs more efficiently. Ms. Fantasia also commented taxes were stable in 2017 and is very proud of our Administrator and Finance Department for helping with that. Ms. Fantasia thanked Senator Oroho in helping in preserving funding for the TTF grant which the Borough received over \$160,000.00 for road paving. The committee structure worked very well and she is very proud of the direction of the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Skellenger welcomed elected officials in attendance, Freeholder Carl F. Lazzaro, former Freeholder Phillip Crabb and 5th Congressional candidate John McCann and thanked them for coming today. Mr. Skellenger commented he is looking forward to working with everyone again next year.

Mr. Rathbun welcomed newly elected Councilman John Postas to the council and congratulated both Councilmen Joe Limon and John Postas. Mr. Rathbun thanked Tom Prol for his service, it was a very hard decision. Mr. Rathbun wished everyone a Happy New Year and looks forward to working with everyone in the following year.

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Mr. Snyder commented he looks forward to the challenges in 2018. Mr. Snyder thanked Tom Prol and agreed it was a very difficult decision to make. Mr. Snyder also commented he agrees with Ms. Fantasia and is happy the Borough was able to get LOSAP passed. It was essential to have been able to have done this for our volunteers in our town. Mr. Snyder congratulated John Postas and Joe Limon being elected and looks forward to getting a lot accomplished in 2018.

Mr. Postas thanked his family for being here today. Mr. Postas commented he looks forward to working with everyone, we have a future to look forward to and a past to preserve.

Mr. Limon commented it is light attendance today but happy everyone who came is here. Mr. Limon also commented the council works hard to keep taxes stable, that is what is always on his mind when sitting in on these meetings. Mr. Limon wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Giordano thanked Mr. Phillip Crabb for all of his work over the years as a Franklin resident. Mr. Crabb was a councilman, a fire chief and a Freeholder Director. Mr. Crabb is now the Historian for Franklin Borough and will do a wonderful job.

Mayor Giordano also thanked Freeholder Director, Carl F. Lazzaro for coming.

Freeholder, Carl F. Lazzaro stepped forward. Mr. Lazzaro congratulated Mr. Postas and Mr. Limon to the council. Mr. Lazzaro also congratulated the Franklin Fire Department. Mr. Lazzaro commented on the commitment Franklin Borough has shown to the town's volunteers by implementing the Length of Service Awards Program. Mr. Lazzaro wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Skellenger invited Mr. Lazzaro to host a meeting at Franklin Borough. Mr. Lazzaro commented on the rotation of the meetings and will try to get to Franklin Borough this year.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mr. Rathbun. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the Governing Body.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Ms. Fantasia. All were in favor.

Adjournment

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:48PM. Seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

Nicholas Giordano, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Acting Municipal Clerk