

**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 25, 2020**

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: Mr. Formica, Mr. Limon, Mr. Postas, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Zydon and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: None

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 5, 2020, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Zydon had nothing to report.

Mr. Skellenger reported at the Recreation Committee meeting on February 20, 2020, we discussed the Spring Fling and there was a presentation by Scott Tumminello on the playground equipment.

Mr. Formica reported the Finance Committee has started meeting with the Fire Department, Police Department and DPW on budget items. Buildings and Grounds discussed work that will be needed to be done in the playground area and with the playground equipment. We anticipate the playground area to be open in Spring.

Clerk had nothing to report.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder reported there is a Personnel Committee meeting tomorrow night at 7:00PM.

Mr. Postas reported the Public Utilities Committee met last night, work is being done on Well B, the pump and pipe for it is being taken out and replaced, there was some pitting found on the pipe when the pump was removed and because the Well A pump fried when taken out, it has been determined to replace the Well B pump while in there. We are getting the bid specs ready for paving of Paddock Road, Susquehanna Street and Newton Street we will be utilizing co-op pricing for cost effectiveness. Next on the list for paving is Mitchell Avenue, currently there is preliminary work being done with the engineer for some drainage issues. Some of the cost for that will be deferred using the \$140,000 NJDOT Grant the Borough received. Scott Road is the final road on the list, some preliminary site work will need to be done and we are receiving \$175,000 NJDOT Grant for that road. Site inspections will be taking place on the Hemlock Drive sidewalks. It has been found they are the responsibility of the town to repair. The residents on Hemlock Drive should be aware if any trees are in the way of any repairs needed; trees will have to be cut back or removed. It is a liability to the town and we will have to do what is necessary to make them safe to walk on. We will also be going out for bid for sidewalks for the section of Junction Street down to where Church Street comes out. It is in major disrepair and must be addressed to avoid liability to the town.

Mr. Limon reported he will be at the Personnel Committee meeting tomorrow night.

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Administrator McHose reported there will be a Forward Franklin meeting tomorrow at 6:00PM at the Senior Center. We are encouraging more residents to get involved. Although there isn't Grant money, there is still a lot of work that has been started that we can continue without Grant funding. Tamara Contreras is still involved with Forward Franklin; she is working with us and is working on developing an App that is a historical walking tour and helping to integrate that into our website. Also, tomorrow night at 7:00PM at the Senior Center there will be a very important Narcan training. Even residents who aren't directly impacted can benefit from the knowledge and we ask all residents to come.

Mr. Postas commented he and Mr. Formica met with Jackie Espinoza from JCP&L and we are continuing with the LED upgrades. The next two streets that are being addressed is Franklin Avenue, starting at the corner of Junction Street and Main Street working towards the pond to Route 23 as well as Buckwheat Road.

Mayor Sowden 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. Postas. All were in favor.

Joanne Tatka, 151 Maple Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Tatka questioned the advertising requirements for the newly combined position of CFO/Administrator the salary and if it is a conflict of interest. Administrator McHose explained the position of Administrator is a Mayoral appointment, advertising of that position isn't a necessary requirement and there is no conflict of interest, spending is put before Council to approve. Mr. Ursin commented once the contract has been approved and authorized it will then be made public. Ms. Tatka commented on a statement made by Mr. Postas that was in a newspaper article about combining the positions in the Borough that mentioned Darlene Tremont, Borough Clerk. Mr. Postas explained the comment he made in the article, stating he commends Mrs. Tremont for the work she does and it is noticed.

Dawne Rowe, 140 Munsonhurst Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Rowe commented if there is anything to report on the town's position regarding the Christmas Market normally held at Lake Mohawk. Ms. Rowe asked for the status of the playground. Ms. Rowe also asked if the program still exists that we used for cleaning up areas around the town. Administrator McHose commented yes, it is Clean Communities.

Emily Bazelwich, 1 Mill Street, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Bazelwich commented on maintenance issues she has noticed while driving around town. Trees are still laying on some properties. There is garbage being discarded on the side of Legion Road behind the car wash and suggested putting up some "no littering" signs as a deterrent. Ms. Bazelwich also commented that some properties have furniture and garbage littered all over front porches and yards, there is much cleaning up that needs to be done around town.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Zydon made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Formica. 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. Letter dated February 6, 2020, from Adam Iervolino, P.E. Manager, Bureau of Local Aid-District 1, NJDOT, to Mayor John Sowden re: Scott Road, Franklin Borough, Sussex County, FY2020 Municipal Aid Program.
2. Township of Sparta Ordinance 20-04 amending chapter XVIII, entitled "Comprehensive Land Management Code" of the township of Sparta code to amend section 18-8.5 entitled "Incentive Zoning and Mandatory Set Asides" to

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add additional incentive zoning and mandatory set aside provisions to the TCC, TCCO, TCLC and TCPB zones.

3. Board of Chosen Freeholders resolution declaring the County of Sussex a Second Amendment/Lawful Gun Owner County.
4. Board of Chosen Freeholders resolution in support of New Jersey Legislation which concerns vegetation management (S434/A260- "Vegetation Management Response Act"), urging legislators to pass the bills for vegetation management related to electric utility infrastructure.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Franklin Police Department Report – January 2020
2. Sussex County Board of Health Report – January 2020

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution #2020-22
A motion is in order to adopt Resolution 2020-22 authorizing the Borough's Certified Recycling Professional to submit the 2019 recycling tonnage grant application to NJ Department of Environmental Protection.
2. Payment of bill for the meeting of February 25, 2020.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of February 25, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Sowden commented he would like to have a discussion with the Council regarding the playground. There are some discoveries that have been found at the playground that has come to his attention after speaking with Mr. Formica. We would like to get the swings and other items repaired but the costs could be as high as \$7,000 or \$8,000. Mayor Sowden stated he wants the Council to be aware ordering replacement parts could take 6 to 8 weeks to get and if they will be willing to make the spending investment to get our playground back. Mayor Sowden asked Mr. Ursin if a motion to that effect is needed.

Mr. Ursin commented you are directing the Administrator to take the steps to gather the information for what needs to be ordered for the playground and have an itemized list for the next Council meeting.

Mayor Sowden also commented on the area for the placement of the handicap swing/glider, access to it, possible new parking spaces and the location of those spaces. Mayor Sowden made a recommendation to have the spaces located to the right of the playground area, then develop an asphalt sidewalk that would lead to the swing/glider just inside the fence. There will be some equipment that may have to be removed in order to provide the needed clearance space for that equipment. Some repairs will also be needed to the gates and fencing as well, all that could bring the possible cost for that portion of the project up to \$10,000.

Administrator McHose clarified the Grant the Borough received from Forward Franklin Alliance was to pay for the glider itself and the labor for the installation of it. The items you have talked about are additional enhancements to make the area accessible for someone in a wheel chair from a parking space.

Mayor Sowden commented our intentions are to get the playground up and running as soon as possible, we can then isolate the area where the swing/glider will be since that will take more time to complete.

A discussion continued on the playground area and equipment.

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The Council had no objections to having the Administrator gather the information and present it at the next Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 11, 2020. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Agreement for Certified Recycling Professional

Mr. Postas made a motion 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 2019 municipal recycling tonnage report in the amount of \$250.00 annually. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution #2020-21

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-21 authorizing the appointment of a Business Administrator/Chief Financial Officer/Qualified Purchasing Agent and further authorizing the execution of an employment contract. Seconded by Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Business Administrator and Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) Agreement

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the CFO, Business Administrator and QPA agreement between the Borough of Franklin and Deborah Bonanno from April 1, 2020 – December 31, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Postas.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Discussion on Borough of Franklin Logo

Administrator McHose commented on discussions that took place over the past year on a new Borough logo in conjunction with the Forward Franklin Alliance embracing our history and explained incorporating the “Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World” into it using it for all of our letterheads, uniforms and other items as needed. The Council has been given a copy of a sample that shows it being tied to our existing logo.

Mayor Sowden held up a sample for all to see and asked for any comments from the Council.

Mr. Zydon commented it still has our symbol but also has the tag line now included.

Mr. Postas made a motion to approve the new logo with corrections to the spelling of fluorescent. Seconded by Mr. Zydon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Limon, Postas, Skellenger, Snyder, Zydon

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION II

Mr. Postas 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.

Joanne Tatka, 15 Maple Road, Franklin stepped forward. Ms. Tatka asked what the salary [Administrator/CFO/QPA position] is. Ms. Tatka complimented the new lights and commented she hopes to get some on her street.

Mr. Ursin commented the starting salary is \$120,000.

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

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Limon commented the Mayor's appointment for the CFO/Administrator was thinking outside the box, it is an excellent idea and is happy the Council supported it.

Mr. Postas welcomed Debbie [Bonanno] and hopes she has a long future here.

Mr. Snyder congratulated Debbie [Bonanno], this is the best for the town, saving of tax dollars to the public is important and knows she will fulfill the job that we need her to do.

Mayor Sowden welcomed Debbie [Bonanno].

Mr. Formica welcomed Debbie [Bonanno], hoping she will be here for many years to come.

Mr. Skellenger congratulated and welcomed Debbie [Bonanno].

Mr. Zydon congratulated and welcomed Debbie [Bonanno]. Mr. Zydon commented on another subject, the Borough will be notifying and aggressively collecting our extremely delinquent water/sewer accounts.

Administrator McHose welcomed Debbie [Bonanno] and looks forward to working with her.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk