

**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  
DECEMBER 16, 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, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder 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 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**

Mr. Limon commented that there was a public works meeting and personnel meetings and thanked those that attended each meeting.

Mrs. Carnes commented that two new businesses have opened up in the past couple weeks. One is Holy Chick and the other is the Korean BBQ Chicken place.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mrs. Heath commented that she tried the Korean BBQ Restaurant and it was delicious. This evening, she went to Holy Chick and the parking lot was full. There were a lot of people at the tree lighting and the hot chocolate went like crazy. The train for Toys for Tots came through Franklin and stopped on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Skellenger congratulated the new businesses in town.

Mr. Formica commented that buildings and grounds met and talked about roads for next year and to also have Jesse go around and evaluate what we have to see what roads need to be addressed immediately. We talked about the few roads from Walsh up to Ridgewood; about doing that section over. We talked about looking for grant opportunities for the salt shed, continuing improvements around town and replacing the Christmas lights on Main Street. Everyone should have received an email regarding a swearing in ceremony and recognition of other police officers on Thursday at the firehouse. Mr. Formica asked to invite the first aid to the reorg meeting for swearing in.

Ms. Little had nothing to report.

Mr. Windles had nothing to report.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that we are going to need to table the discussion on the shared services with Lafayette. Franklin was a recipient of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over grant in the amount of \$7,000; we did get awarded the State DOT grant for 2026 \$444,652 for road improvement projects which includes the roads Kovach, Mabie and South Street. We are teeing up with the public works committee for next year early spring on the 2025 State DOT grant we received in the amount of \$148,284 for the roads of Master, Warren and Green Streets.

Mayor Sowden commented that last night there was a planning board meeting and discussed the Ryan Homes project. Mayor Sowden agrees about replacing the lights on Main Street. The Planning Board did have a quick discussion on the

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historic designation and the two ordinances for open space and mapping. Mayor Sowden wanted to know how the council felt about clearing out the trees that fell in the cemetery on Oak Street. Mayor Sowden asked if we are still working on doing something for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mr. Formica commented that there were discussions on 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.

Mr. Kevin Karpowicz stepped forward. Mr. Karpowicz commented that he has been having issues with his sewer for the past two months. Mr. Karpowicz had someone out to his house on October 20<sup>th</sup> and it was determined that it was the cleanout on the town side and Mr. Karpowicz had to pay \$387.18. Mr. Karpowicz is asking for a credit on his water/sewer bill and he was told by Brian and Ray to fill up his bathtub until we fix it and let it go once a day. The problem is at the transition point going into the sewer.

Mr. Spidaletto will follow up with Brian on the situation.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka commented that she has not seen any resolutions in the last couple years on the annual LOSAP contributions. Mrs. Tatka asked who is responsible for overseeing the projects going on in town.

Mayor Sowden commented that someone from the engineers office is overseeing the projects.

Mrs. Tatka commented that the laundromat wanted 18 spaces in the parking lot and asked if they were getting those spaces.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that a meeting was held with the public works committee and the decision was, and it was relayed through our attorneys, that they are not getting 18 spaces.

Mrs. Tatka asked why so many people are on the tax sale for unpaid water/sewer and asked why. Mrs. Tatka asked what shopping center is resolution #101 for. Mrs. Tatka asked if Ryan Homes is progressing without finding more water.

Mayor Sowden commented that it is all part of plan.

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 Mrs. Carnes. 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. Township of Hardyston Ordinance adopting an amendment to the 2022 Hardyston Vacant Land and Landfill redevelopment plan, pursuant to the local redevelopment and housing law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.
2. Township of Byram Resolution of support for the invasive species management act.
3. Memo from the Tax Collector regarding the 2025 Tax Sale.

### **REPORTS** (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Permit Summary Report – November 2025
2. Permit List – November 2025
3. COH Report – November 2025
4. Water/Sewer Division Report – November 2025
5. Municipal Court Report – November 2025
6. Road Department Report – November 2025

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### **APPLICATIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

### **RESOLUTIONS** (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Resolution 2025-100 authorizing a budget transfer in the amount of \$25,923.
2. Payment of bills for the meeting of December 16, 2025.

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the consent agenda of December 16, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Snyder.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Formica, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Carnes, Heath, Limon, Skellenger

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business for tonight's portion of the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes for November 25, 2025. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### Resolution 2025-101

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-101 authorizing settlement of tax appeal litigation for real properties commonly known as 577 and 597 Route 23, identified on the municipal tax map as Block 102, Lot 2.01 (prior block 3, lot 14.03) and Block 102, Lot 3 (prior block 3, lot 4), respectively, in the Borough of Franklin, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### Resolution 2025-102

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-102 to enter into cooperative service agreement between the Borough and United States Department of Agriculture animal and plant health inspection service in an amount not to exceed \$10,356. Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Mr. Snyder commented that we did this last year and it went up sustainably, do we know why.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that we spent \$3,300 on this last year.

Mr. Formica commented that the agreement includes everything, but they only did the eggs.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

#### Shared Service Agreement for Deer Carcass Removal

Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the Shared Service Agreement through December 31, 2026, between Space Wild Animal Farm Inc. and the Borough of Franklin for deer carcass removal from Municipal Road rights-of-way at the rate of \$27.00 per deer. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

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Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

Mrs. Heath wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Carnes asked what date the reorganization was.

Mrs. Little commented the reorganization is January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Mr. Skellenger wished everyone a Merry Christmas and commented the DPW did a great job plowing.

At this time the Governing Body discussed and set the 2026 Council Committees.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Formica made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

All were in favor.

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John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

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Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk