

**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
SEPTEMBER 23, 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

Mrs. Heath commented that there are still seats available for the Yankee game bus trip. She had the honor of participating in the bag for hunger at the ShopRite with Officer Rotunda.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the appointments are live for the mobile unit down at the pond. You can visit njmvc.gov and you will be able to book a real id appointment or registration renewal.

Mr. Formica commented that he spoke with Jesse and would like to get the buildings and grounds committee together. Mr. Formica commented that it looks like the paving will happen towards the end of October.

Mr. Limon commented that there was a personnel meeting before tonight's council meeting.

Mrs. Carnes had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Ms. Little had nothing to report.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that there was a personnel meeting and we are still discussing on what direction we are going in in regards to the Recreation. The GeoTech engineer is scheduled to come out tomorrow to look at High Street, weather dependent. There has been correspondence about moving forward with bid for refurbishing well b.

Mayor Sowden asked if we can camera the well before and after as to how the water is coming in.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

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 Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Mr. Terry Gallagher stepped forward. Mr. Gallagher asked if the street sign for Fowler Street is going to be replaced.

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Ms. Renne Zierold stepped forward. Ms. Zierold voiced concerns regarding the plowing of Dunn Row. Ms. Zierold commented that there was always a road sign at Dunn Row and when they built Concetta Towers they put the access road off Dunn Row and they took the street sign down. Ms. Zierold requested that the street sign be replaced.

Mr. Ursin commented that the information that the residents brought forth is being reviewed by our engineer and surveyor and will have results by the next meeting.

Ms. Pam Belott stepped forward. Ms. Belott voiced concerns regarding the plowing of the access road by Master Street.

Ms. Andrea Babchack stepped forward. Ms. Babchack asked if any improvements would be done to the sidewalks, the land behind Main Street and the Pond area.

Ms. Maureen Hubbard stepped forward. Ms. Hubbard voiced concerns about the plowing of the access road by Master Street.

Ms. Dawn Ebisch stepped forward. Ms. Ebisch commented that the front of her house faces Edmonds Lane; they have no access to Rutherford Avenue at all. There are two buses that come down the street to pick up handicapped children and the road has been plowed for years.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that Edmonds Lane was not involved in this process.

Mr. Ward Dunnican stepped forward. Mr. Dunnican asked if anything has been resolved in regards to the parking of commercial vehicles 24/7 on Hemlock Drive.

Ms. Eve Zierold-Soares stepped forward. Ms. Soares asked if there were any updates on the Zinc Mine development.

Ms. Courtney Fisher stepped forward. Ms. Fisher asked what the process is to make Dunn Row a public road.

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. Heath. 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. 2025 Sussex County Board of Taxation Abstract of Ratables.
2. Borough of Ogdensburg Ordinance amending Chapter 30 "Land Development".

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Municipal Court Report – August 2025

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of September 23, 2025.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of September 23, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

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

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NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for September 9, 2025. (Absent: Limon) Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Resolution 2025-78

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-78 adopting the 2025 Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Plan (tabled from the September 9, 2025 meeting). Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2025-82

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-82 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 1403 Lot 7. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 14-2025

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Ordinance 14-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN CONFORMING PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES". Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Skellenger made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 14-2025, seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

Ms. Eve Zierold-Soares stepped forward. Ms. Soares questioned the property located at 64 Catlin Road and if it can be built on.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance 14-2025, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 15-2025

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Ordinance 15-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN NON-CONFORMING PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES". Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mrs. Heath made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 15-2025, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance 15-2025, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

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Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 16-2025

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Ordinance 16-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ESTABLISH SECTION 108, ENTITLED "CURFEWS". Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Formica made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 16-2025, seconded by Mrs. Heath. All were in favor.

Ms. Andrea Babchack stepped forward. Ms. Babchack asked what the penalty would be.

Mr. Michael Raperto stepped forward. Mr. Raperto asked if this ordinance would resolve the people who hang out in the Wal-Mart parking lot revving their engines late at night.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance 16-2025, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 17-2025

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Ordinance 17-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ESTABLISH SECTION 101, ENTITLED "CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY". Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Formica made a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 17-2025, seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Ms. Maureen Hubbard stepped forward. Ms. Hubbard commented that the boy scouts and girl scouts used to camp at the pond. Ms. Hubbard asked if they could ask for special permission to camp there if this ordinance was passed.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body regarding Ordinance 17-2025, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 18-2025

Mr. Limon made a motion to Introduce Ordinance 18-2025 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY REQUIRING DUMPSTERS AND OTHER REFUSE CONTAINERS THAT ARE OUTDOORS OR EXPOSED TO STORMWATER TO BE COVERED AT ALL TIMES." Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held October 14, 2025.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Sowden made the following appointment.

Crossing Guard Hire

Melissa Holland as substitute crossing guard at the rate of \$16.18/hr. effective September 24, 2025, contingent upon successful physical and background check, as recommended by Rebecca Babcock, Crossing Guard Captain.

Crossing Guard Status Change

Substitute Crossing Guard to Permanent Crossing Guard:

Becky Fiedler to remain at the current rate of \$16.18 effective September 24, 2025 as recommended by Rebecca Babcock, Crossing Guard Captain.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ursin commented that there was an executive session at 6:30pm for the reason of pending litigation.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Snyder commented that a stop sign by the Wal-Mart needs to be repaired.

Mr. Skellenger commented that the MVC Mobile Unit will be coming to the Franklin Pond on October 7th.

Mr. Limon commented that he hopes this is a normal simple fix for High Street.

Mr. Snyder commented that several months back we spoke about possibly putting a stop sign on High Street where it crosses over Junction and Parker.

Mrs. Heath thanked everyone for coming out.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57p.m., seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk