

**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
OCTOBER 28, 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 the Halloween parade and trunk or treat event was a huge success.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report.

Mr. Formica commented that if any one has passed by the police station for the last few months, they have noticed the police put cones out and that was to try to redirect the flow of traffic coming in and going out. It seems to be working; so, the next idea was to physically change the address for the police department. Right now, it is on Cork Hill and also the senior center and that is the only address we have and its difficult for deliveries. If we change the address to George LaBance Lane, so that way the traffic will flow into that part. That part of the street would be two ways but then going from the police station up the hill would be one way, exit only, so that way the flow only goes up and it would lower the number of vehicles just passing through in front of the police department. We spoke with the engineers and the tax assessor about the change. The tax assessor said that it would just take our approval and he can start the process if we would want to move forward and change it. Then it would be a new address and number. We are looking to add two signs on Route 631 facing each direction that would say senior center/police department, so that way people know which way to go. Once they go past where the senior parking is and the dumpster is, then a sign could go there for the police department. The police chief said by making that a one way the police would always be circling through the park area and being that is the exit they would not be traveling through where children and people might be gathered.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that he spoke to the tax assessor and he was able to find the road on one of his maps, George LaBance Lane. The tax assessor would make all the proper notifications for the change.

Mayor Sowden asked if the road going up was Dave Herzenberg. He thought there was a Dave Herzenberg drive by the senior center.

Mr. Formica commented that we had the engineer there today and the road leading up to the police department, we looked at both sides about adding angled parking spots for the police personal vehicles and visitor parking.

Mr. Limon thanked Patti, Rachel, Neil and Michelle for working on the PBA contract renewal.

Mrs. Carnes had nothing to report.

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Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mrs. Little commented that the free rabies clinic is scheduled for November 1, 2025 from 1pm - 3pm at the Borough Garage.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that the equipment auction ended today. The paving will start Friday or Monday. The sinkhole will be addressed after the paving is complete. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025 in honor of Veterans Day. The bids are out for the well B rehab and the solid waste.

Mr. Windels had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden had nothing to report.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Mrs. Pat Morris stepped forward. Mrs. Morris asked if there were any updates on the deeds from the NJ Zinc Company to their respective houses on Master Street.

Mr. Windles commented that it is still under review.

Mr. Spidaletto commented that there should be an answer by the next meeting on November 10th.

Mrs. Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Mrs. Tatka commented that she remembers that road being named for David Herzenberg, from the entrance by the police department down to George LaBance. Mrs. Tatka commented that there used to be a sign up top that stated David Herzenberg Drive. Mrs. Tatka asked if all three wells are functioning.

Mayor Sowden commented that two are and one is being taken offline to be refurbished.

Mrs. Tatka asked if there is good water supply and if there were any problems during the drought.

Mayor Sowden commented that so far there is good water supply and nothing has been reported.

Mrs. Tatka asked if the Zinc Company project is still being planned for a planning board hearing.

Mr. Windles commented that there is litigation matter involving the Zinc Company site and advised that the council would not reflect on the matter.

Mrs. Tatka asked if any of the projected developments in town tried to drill their own wells or are they depending on the town.

Mayor Sowden commented that they are working in conjunction with the town.

Mrs. Tatka asked if anything has been found yet.

Mayor Sowden commented that we have hired water engineers and water geologists to review certain parts of the town and some of the property owners that want to develop in those areas are trying to come to the table and allow us to drill on their property and see what kinds of yields we are going to get.

Mrs. Tatka asked if the town has to drill for the water or can the developers drill for their own water.

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Mayor Sowden commented that the way it is set up right now is that the town is doing the drilling.

Mrs. Tatka asked if the town has to provide water to everyone that is coming into the town. Mrs. Tatka asked if Zoe Heath is a resident of Franklin.

Ms. Dawne Rowe stepped forward. Ms. Rowe commented that all three wells are functioning but one is being refurbished. Ms. Rowe commented that the food banks are running low. Ms. Rowe asked if the council has given any thought of doing a food drive.

Mrs. Heath commented that today was the Hardyston/Franklin Chamber meeting and Mrs. Heath brought up that the food banks are running low. The boy scouts are having a food drive next Tuesday and they are going to give some of the food to us that goes to Wallkill High School and then also the YMCA approached Mrs. Heath about putting boxes there for donations of food.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Snyder 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. FY 2026 Proposed Rate Schedule Effective December 1, 2025 from SCMUA.
2. 3rd Quarter Sewage Flows
3. Borough of Ogdensburg Ordinance 10-2025 amending Chapter 30 "Land Development.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Water/Sewer Division Report – September 2025
2. County Board of Health Report – September 2025

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 28, 2025.

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 28, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for October 14, 2025. (Absent: None) Seconded by Mrs. Carnes

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the executive session meeting minutes from September 23, 2025. (Absent: None) 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

Resolution 2025-85

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-85 approving the Franklin Fire Department Coin Toss Fundraisers for the year 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Carnes.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Resolution 2025-86

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-86 approving an area in need of redevelopment designation and authorizing the Planner to draft a Redevelopment Plan for 263 Route 23. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

2025 Best Practices Inventory

Mr. Snyder made a motion to accept the 2025 best practices inventory prepared by the CFO and Administrator and Clerk as required by the Division of Local Government Services. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

DPW Salary Step Increase

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve a DPW salary step increase for Andrew Burd to Grade Step 11 \$37.21/hr., as per the DPW contract, effective November 1, 2025 as recommended by Jesse Bogart, Road Supervisor. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

DPW Salary Step Increase

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve a DPW salary step increase for Matt Kuperus to Grade Step 9 \$31.47/hr., as per the DPW contract, effective October 31, 2025 as recommended by Jesse Bogart, Road Supervisor. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

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

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Franklin Quilters Request

Mrs. Heath made a motion to approve the Franklin Recreation Committee Sponsored, "Franklin Quilters" request to waive the fees and to use the Senior Center for their meetings on the 3rd Saturday of every month for year 2026. (Recreation approved sponsorship at its October 16, 2025 meeting) Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

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.

Recreation Committee

Zoe Heath, Member (3-yr. unexpired term) Expires 12/31/2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m., seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Colleen L. Little, Municipal Clerk