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 22, 2026

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 and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: Mr. Snyder

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 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 a small subcommittee meeting was held.

Mrs. Carnes commented that she was talking with Metropolitan Dermatology who is opening an office very soon here in Franklin and is discussing a date and time for a ribbon cutting.

Mrs. Heath commented that there was a personnel meeting, attended the public safety meeting and a talent show at Westwind Manor. Our 9/11 memorial ceremony was a huge success. Thank you to the Franklin PD, Franklin FD, Blue Bloods Law Enforcement MC, Franklin Boy Scouts, Christi Lemay, Mayor Sowden, Phil Crabb and Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia. Extended appreciation to Franklin Council Members and borough residents. A special thanks to Franklin Recreation. Commented seats still available for the September 26 bus trip to Wind Creek, October 17th is the Food Truck Festival, October 24 is the Halloween parade, trunk or treat. November 14 is the vendor fair at the Franklin fire house and the Christmas tree lighting and Santa is November 28.

Mr. Skellenger had nothing to report. Working on bringing the DMV Mobile unit in next year.

Mr. Formica commented that there was a building and grounds meeting regarding Christmas lights and a public safety meeting.

Mrs. Little had nothing to report.

Mr. Spidaletto asked to table Resolution 2026-93 to do more research.

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.

Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka thanked for the brush removal. Questioned Franklin House increase. Asked about the well behind ShopRite Liquors. Asked about progress with JCP&L property back on tax rolls. Asked if town employees pay towards their health benefits. Asked who SCMUA representative is for sewers. Commented on the Police Chief salary increase and questioned what warrants such an increase of $38,000. Resolution 2026-78 had a $325,000

appropriation for police salaries asked what percent of a raise did the officers get and what is carried over to the 2027 budget.

Laurie Hendersot resident of Franklin House, voiced concerns regarding potential rent increase.

William Geiger resident of Franklin House, voiced concerns regarding Franklin Senior Housing rent increase and commended everyone on the 9/11 memorial.

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 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. Township of Frankford resolution entreating a full, independent and transparent investigation into the improper registration of non-citizens in New Jersey and calling for additional safeguards to protect election integrity.
2. County of Sussex resolution requesting a full, independent and transparent investigation into the improper registration of non-citizens to vote in New Jersey and calling for additional safeguards to protect election integrity.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):
1. Permit Activity Report – August 2026
2. COH Report – August 2026
3. Permit List – August 2026
4. County Board of Health Report – August 2026
5. Municipal Court Report – August 2026

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):
1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):
1. Payment of bills for the meeting of September 22, 2026.

Mr. Limon made a motion to approve the consent agenda of September 22, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

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

NEW BUSINESS
Approval of the Minutes
Mr. Formica made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes for September 8, 2026. (Absent: Skellenger, Snyder) Seconded by Mrs. Heath.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Skellenger

Resolution 2026-92
Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-92 authorizing the hiring of a seasonal laborer for maintenance in the department of public works. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-93
Mr. Skellenger made a motion to table Resolution 2026-93 authorizing additional compensation for the violations clerk for the purpose of attending court sessions at a rate of $100 per court session, until the next meeting on October 13, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote to table:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-94
Mr. Limon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-94 authorizing a purchase through the ESCNJ Cooperative contract for standby generators for the Department of Public Works at a cost not to exceed $84,760.00. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-95
Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-95 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 302 Lot 2. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-96
Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-96 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 1401 Lot 1. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-97
Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-97 authorizing a disabled veteran exemption on Block 1204 Lot 16. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Resolution 2026-98
Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-98, New Jersey Department of Transportation Division of Local Aid and economic development recommendation of award state aid project for the Kovach, Mabie and South Streets improvements. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Adoption of Ordinance 2026-09
Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-09 entitled “CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PURCHASE OF UPFITTING FOR THE NEW POLICE CARS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING $18,531.00 THEREFOR FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THIS PURCHASE.” Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Sowden requested a motion to open the meeting to the public for Ordinance 2026-09. Mrs. Heath made a motion to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance 2026-09, seconded by Mr. Formica. All were in favor.

There being no one present who wished to address the governing body regarding Ordinance 2026-09, Mr. Formica made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

Introduction of Ordinance 2026-10
Mr. Skellenger made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-10 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE MAPLE ROAD PUMP STATION, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING $48,837.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THIS PURCHASE." Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on October 13, 2026

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: Formica

Introduction of Ordinance 2026-11
Mr. Skellenger made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2026-11 entitled "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MOSCOW STREET WATER MAIN, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING $40,279.00 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION." Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Mayor Sowden announced that the public hearing will be held on October 13, 2026

Upon roll call vote:
Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger
Nays: None Absent: Snyder Abstentions: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION
There was no executive session.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS
Mr. Formica commented that Thursday night at the pond 5pm - 8pm is the Wallkill Valley Night Out which includes our first responders.

Mr. Skellenger commented that Father Bogie is retiring and his last mass is September 27 at the church picnic, Fireman's Park at 11:30am.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Limon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.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