

WORKSHOP MEETING

Budget Workshop Synopsis

The Franklin Township Committee held a Budget Workshop Meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. Mayor Mike Toretta opened the meeting in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act” Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 having been duly advertised and a copy posted in the office of the Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Butler-Yes, Ferri-Absent, Guth-Yes, Herzer-Yes; Toretta-Yes. (5) Present; (0) Absent

Present were: Joe Biel, DPW Foreman (joined meeting at approximately 7:00 pm), Kathleen Reinalda, CFO, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk.

RESOLUTIONS: Introduction of:

**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-31

**RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE PROPOSED UPPER
DELAWARE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT (WQM) PLAN
AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Franklin desire to provide for the orderly development of wastewater facilities with the Township of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires that proposed wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities and wastewater treatment service areas, as well as related subjects, conform with an approved WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has established the WQM plan amendment procedure through the WQMP rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5 as the method of incorporating unplanned facilities into a WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, a proposed WQM plan amendment publicly noticed in the New Jersey Register on February 21, 2023 for Lincoln Logistics has been prepared by Langan Engineering and Environmental Services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Franklin that:

1. The Township of Franklin consents to the Lincoln Logistics amendment, and publicly noticed in the New Jersey Register, on February 21, 2023, prepared by Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, for the purpose of its incorporation into the applicable WQM plan(s).
2. This consent shall be submitted to the NJDEP pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.5(g)6.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution passed by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Franklin at a meeting duly held on March 13, 2023.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by David Guth the aforementioned **Resolution 2023-31** be adopted as read.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
Bonnie Butler	X		
David Guth	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Mike Toretta, Mayor	X	(5)Yes	(0) No (0) Absent Motion carried

Dated: March 6, 2023

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, In the County of Warren, New Jersey, at a meeting held on March 13, 2023.

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

RESOLUTION 2023-32

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Franklin County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Franklin, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

- The Town Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Franklin/Mansfield/Washington Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$938.00
Cash Match	\$234.50

In-Kind \$703.50

- 2. The Town Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____
(Name), Mayor/Head of Governing Body

This resolution was not adopted by committee, per the CFO due to no sponsor/no activity/no coordinator. The clerk will email and inform the Municipal Alliance and see what is going on with the funding.

Letter of Support: WRAP the Musconetcong “Watershed Resilience Action Planning in the Musconetcong

The committee’s consensus to authorize Mayor Toretta to execute this letter fully supporting the grant proposal and the work of the MWA.

Daniel’s Law – Appointment of Redactors

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer to appoint the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor as Redactors.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
Bonnie Butler	X		
David Guth	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Mike Toretta, Mayor	X	(5)Yes	(0) No (0) Absent Motion carried

A discussion as to the resignation of Brandon Lisa and compensation of his boot allowance, remainder of vacation and sick days. The municipal clerk and Committeeperson Butler will sit down to address and coordinate with the municipal attorney as to the final payout and compensation.

The CFO reviewed the Municipal Budget Worksheet with the township committee as well as the Preliminary Projected 2023 Tax Rate proposed revenues as of now we are at a .01 cent increase equates to \$29 to the average residential taxpayer.

April 10th is our next scheduled workshop meeting, and we will be in the position to introduce our Municipal Budget. We will make a correction to the times of the remaining workshops to begin promptly at 4:30 pm in lieu of 7:00 pm as previously advertised.

The Personnel Policy Manual needs to define specific to Resignation and Retirement Policies.

At this time the committee reviewed employee and department wish lists for 2023 received.

FTYA

A request was received for \$6000 and \$3000 for Porta-Jon. Take from Open Space funds.

Fire Department/EMS

A request was received/reviewed. Deputy Mayor Guth will look into EMS volunteers vs. paid.

Common Sense for Animals

New rates going into effect March 1st as well as a monthly \$200 retainer fee. As per CFO her municipalities in White and Harmony Twps. are referring this to Washington Boro as the lead agency in the ACO Shared Services.

Open Space Secretary

A proposal from Pinto Consulting, LLC was received for this position with a rate of \$175/hr. We need to look into this further seems expensive.

DPW

Foreman Biel requested a \$5,000 salary increase as well as an approval of a CEU class. He was informed that this is apart of the CBA negotiations.

Municipal Clerk

The clerk asked for a 3% raise.

OEM

A \$10,000 Grant will be received annually. An AED will be installed at the DPW garage with these funds. Also, charges for mobile internet connection for OEM laptop will be paid from this grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED on this 13th day of March 2023, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-1, that the Township Committee shall discuss the following matter in executive session.

**Personnel – Tax Collector’s Position
Contract Negotiations-Shared Services**

It is not possible at this time for the Township Committee to determine when and under what circumstances the item which is to be discussed in executive session can be publicly disclosed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved on this 13th, day of March 2023 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at 7:41 pm.

On Motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer to exit to executive session at 7:41 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by David Guth and seconded Bonnie Butler to return to the regular session at 7:53 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

Committeeperson Mike Toretta made a motion to hire effective immediately Cameron Keng for the Tax Collector’s position, seconded by Rich Herzer, \$26,500 salary, and two days a week, 1.5/hrs. a day and the first Saturday of each tax season.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Mike Ferri	X				
David Guth	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Mike Toretta, Mayor	X				
		(5)	Yes (0)	No (0)	Absent (0) Motion carried

Committeeperson Mike Toretta made a motion to open separate accounts for the Tax Collector effective 4/1/23, seconded by Rich Herzer.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Mike Ferri	X				
David Guth	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Mike Toretta, Mayor	X				
		(5)	Yes (0)	No (0)	Absent (0) Motion carried

The committee also discussed to provide Karin Kneafsey for her 23 years working with Franklin Township with a Visa Gift Card of \$200 and flowers on her last day 3/29/23. Joe Sheridan a fruit basket once he is home.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by David Guth, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 8:00 pm. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk