

REGULAR MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held its regular monthly meeting, on Monday, September 13, 2021. Mayor Mike Ferri opened the meeting, at approximately 7:00 pm, 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.

Following the flag salute a **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bonnie Butler, Rich Herzer, Mike Toretta, Mayor Mike Ferri, (4) Present.

Present: Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk, Jim Onembo, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney (arrived at approximately 8:40 pm), Mike Finelli, Municipal Engineer, Kathleen Reinalda, CFO, Joe Biel DPW.

CONSENT AGENDA:

(One Roll Call to approve the following agenda items 2-3)

2. APPROVAL

- a. Meeting Minutes **RE: August 9, 2021 and August 16, 2021**
- b. Executive Session Minutes **RE: August 9, 2021 and August 16, 2021**
- c. Social Affair Permit **RE: MWA Wine Tasting Event, Oct. 16, 2021**
- d. HVAC Service **RE: Renewal of Fras-Air General Heating, AC**

The approval of the above Consent Agenda on motion by Committeeperson Mike Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Rich Herzer.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained	
Mayor Mike Ferri	X			
Bonnie Butler	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Richard Herzer	X	(4)Yes	(0) No	(0) Absent
				Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION – Ordinance 2021-9

**Ordinance 2021-9
SALARY ORDINANCE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NJ**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that;

1. The Compensation of each member of the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren and Sate of New Jersey shall be and the same is hereby set at 2,900.00 per annum. payable quarterly, Mayor \$4,938.00 per yr.
2. The salaries and wages of the Officers and other employees of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey hereinafter set forth, shall be as follows:

Assessor, per year	\$27,488.00
Collector, per year	\$28,676.00
Assistant Treasurer, per year	\$ 4,664.00
Municipal Clerk, per year	\$68,094.00
Office Assistant, per year	\$16,095.00
Dog Licensing Official, per year	\$ 2,132.00
Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, per year	\$24,585.00
Land Use Board Secretary, per year	\$21,394.00

LUB Special Meetings to be paid at \$150, per mtg.	Out of Applicant's Escrow
Open Space Clerk, per year	\$ 5,438.00
Maintenance/Event Supervisor	\$ 10.00/hour
Emergency Management Co-Ord., per year	\$12,798.00
Deputy OEM	\$ 1,255.00
911 Co-Ord., per year	\$ 2,509.00
Recycling, per year	\$ 7,743.00
DPW Foreman	\$ 62,478.00
DPW Asst. Foreman	\$ 59,501.00
DPW Road Repairer I	\$ 47,842.00
All Department of Public Works. - Employees time and a half over 8 hour day.	
Day Laborer	\$ 18.00/hour
Emergency Call Out – Snow Plow Drivers	\$ 20.00/hour-NON CDL \$ 25.00/hour-CDL

ALL AUTHORIZED TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP WHILE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS FOR THE TOWNSHIP, WHEN A SWORN VOUCHER IS APPROVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE, SHALL BE PAID PER THE IRS STANDARD MILEAGE RATE, PER MILE, FOR USE OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL VEHICLE.

3. All Ordinance or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

That this Ordinance shall remain in effect for one year. That said Ordinance will be presented for final reading and adoption at a public meeting to be held on October 4th, 2021 at or near the hour of 7:00 p.m. following publication in the Express Times/NJ Zone.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Mike Ferri the aforementioned **Ordinance 2021-9** be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on October 4, 2021 **at 7:00 p.m or near that hour.**

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain
Bonnie Butler	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent
Motion carried			

On motion by Committeeperson _____ and seconded by _____ the aforenoted **Ordinance 2021-9** be adopted.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain
Bonnie Butler			
Rich Herzer			
Michael Toretta			
Mike Ferri, Mayor			() Yes (0) No (0) Absent
Motion carried			

CERTIFICATION

I, Denise L. Becton, Registered Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of an Ordinance introduced by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin at their regular meeting held on September 13, 2021. Second reading, public hearing will be held on October 4, 2021, at or near 7:00 PM in the Franklin Township Municipal Building, 2093 Rt. 57, Broadway, New Jersey.

Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING/ADOPTION

Resolution 2021-58 – Authorize Participation In the State Health Benefits Plan Effective 1/1/2022

Resolution 2021-59 – Authorize Participation In State Health Benefits Plan for Dental Effective 1/1/2022

(Copies of these Resolutions can be obtained in the Municipal Clerk’s Office, for the month of September, 2021, without charge)

DISCUSSIONS

Community Solar – Blue Army Shrine, Outreach Program to reach potential low/moderate income (LMI) households

The committee’s consensus is to have the Solar Agency provide a flyer to be posted on our website to reach out to our residents.

Cleaning of Municipal Office – Review of Quotes

Two quotes were received to clean the municipal offices as follows:
White Glove Treatment, Bethlehem, PA – Between \$100 and \$125 per visit
Debbie Gara, Stewartsville, NJ - \$100 per week

On motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Toretta approving the quote received by Debbie Gara for \$100 per week.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain			
Bonnie Butler	X					
Rich Herzer	X					
Michael Toretta	X					
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X	(4)	Yes	(0)	No	(0) Absent Motion carried

Kober’s – Assessment of Property

Tabled until next month

Renewal of Farming Contracts

Will visit this later in year as per the attorney.

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF:

Final Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-8

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Ordinance 2021-8**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$40,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT IN CONNECTION WITH THE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MONTANA ROAD GABION RETAINING WALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Mike Toretta to open the Public Hearing.

Public Comments - A question as to repair of the wall on private property was addressed as it is in the Right-Of-Way. Why can't trees upheaving a sidewalk on private property in her development. Engineer informed the matter of the wall repair is in the right-of-way is a matter of public health & safety matter and we can lose a road.

On motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Toretta to close the Public Hearing.

On motion by Committeeperson Rich Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Mike Ferri the aforementioned Ordinance 2021-8 be adopted at final reading.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain		
Bonnie Butler	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Michael Toretta	X				
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X	(4) Yes	(0) No	(0) Absent	Motion carried

DISCUSSIONS

1,4-Dioxane Contamination – Herleman Road, Willow Grove Road, Good Springs Road

Committeeperson Butler mailed a letter addressing Assemblymen Peterson/DiMaio as to this matter. Jean Marie Murray inquired as to the history of this, Committeeperson Butler will copy information from our previous meeting from David Leary.

REPORTS/UPDATES:

Engineer Report – No formal report submitted. Two quotes were received for the Gabion Wall Repair on Montana Road as follows, Tom Bartha & Son \$39,980 and KDP \$94,752.50. Temporary construction easements for work on private property will also need to be obtained from property owners. Upon recommendation by Engineer Finelli, to authorize Tom Bartha to do the work.

On motion by Committeeperson Mike Ferri and seconded by Committeeperson Bonnie Butler to authorize Tom Bartha & Son per quote received to perform the work.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain		
Bonnie Butler	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Michael Toretta	X				
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X	(4) Yes	(0) No	(0) Absent	Motion carried

Engineer Report, continued

Millbrook Road paving project, the expense/quantity of the guiderails needs to be reduced from 5800' to 4500' length of road. A \$136,700 Grant has already been awarded for this project. Stewartsville Road sinkhole, engineer addressed this matter with the water company and Rio Tinto. Rio Tinto will supply the materials to repair and our DPW working in conjunction with the engineer to repair. Good Springs Road water issue the mayor will speak to our attorney. Main Street in Asbury, Mr. Finelli has been in contact with the County Engineer, he provided a new sketch, other than that nothing new to report. Committeeperson Butler informed of erosion from IDA on Wolverton Road. Acting Foreman Biel informed the area has been coned off and the engineer will stop at the site.

Attorney Report – not present at this time

Open Space –

Committeeman Herzer informed, no meeting

Jim Onembo – Code Enforcement/Zoning

Mr. Onembo informed nothing to report.

Recycling – Report submitted and on file

Five Recycling and One Brush collection this month

Office of Emergency Management - Denise Becton, DOEM

Deputy OEM Becton informed the committee she has been working with FEMA to finalize the paperwork for Storm Orlena. As to IDA, per the County, since they didn't declare an emergency in Warren County there wasn't enough damages to meet the monetary threshold required, no reimbursement available.

Fire Department/EMS – Chief Jan Verkade – not present

Karen Chiu – The squad building was flooded due to IDA, equipment/vehicles were evacuated. Fans are assisting to blow dry the carpets/building. Their insurance company has been out to review.

Franklin Township Community Center – Eddy Patient – not present

DPW REPORT – No Report submitted – Joe Biel

All on track, FTYA fields are painted for soccer. New gates up at the road garage for the brush area have been ordered.

Franklin Township Youth Association – No one present

Musconetcong River Management Council – MRMC – Beth Barry – not present

NJSP- no representation present

Township Committee Reports:

Rich Herzer –

Committeeman Herzer inquired as to any new updates as to solar on township properties.

Mike Toretta –

Committeeman Toretta had nothing to report.

Bonnie Butler-

Committeeperson Butler inquired as to any updates with the Chicken Ordinance. Attorney to draft for the October meeting.

Mike Ferri, Mayor –

Mayor Ferri informed that once the new gate is installed at the road garage vouchers will need to be issued/obtained at the municipal building for residents to access.

CFO informed Committeeman Toretta that \$316,517 will be received through the American Rescue Plan. \$158,258 has been received to date and we have until 2026 to spend. Looking for guidance from the State as to how this can be spent.

At this time, the floor was open to Public Session at approximately 8:00 pm

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

The Township Committee responded to concerns of numerous residents, in attendance this evening, regarding their well issue and Dioxane. What are the next steps to go forward? Is there a formal action plan? Are there tax rebates available for their homes? How can they be considered to hook up to the water line? Residents were also urged to reach out to their Assemblymen, Congress, and the NJDEP, the more voices the better. Noting that the WC Health Department has jurisdiction over wells and septic. Lastly, is there a facility that tests for Dioxane in wells in the State of NJ?

Karen Chiu – Touch a Truck Free Event, Saturday, October 9th from 10 am – 2:30 pm. DPW to provide a truck for display.

Arlene Kane - The drainage ditch behind the municipal building is overgrown with trees, weeds and animal nests. Flooding has occurred numerous times and backs up on her property. Can the township assist with cleaning this up to alleviate flooding conditions? The DPW will investigate this situation but informed they can only go to the bridge as the bridge is the county's responsibility.

Jackie Rochelle – Inquired as to activity on the Heritage/Tobias properties and her concerns with development on those properties. Can we preserve this property and why can't the zoning be changed? Ms. Rochelle was informed that these properties were not interested in preserving and the zoning has been Industrial for at least 30 years.

Close the floor to Public Session at 9:05 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED, on this 13th day of September, 2021, 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 – DPW Road Laborer I Position

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 September, 2021 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at 9:03 pm.

On Motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Mike Ferri to exit to executive session at 9:03 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded Rich Herzer to return to the regular session at 10:03 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

Committeeperson Bonnie Butler made a motion to hire effective immediately Brandon Lisa for the DPW, Road Laborer II position, seconded by Rich Herzer.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Michael Toretta	X				
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent		Motion carried

Committeeperson Bonnie Butler made a motion to waive the 90-day probation period for health insurance benefits to kick in immediately for the new hires, seconded by Mike Toretta.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Michael Toretta	X				
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent		Motion carried

Committeeperson Bonnie Butler made a motion to hire effective November 1st, Daniel Tampier for the DPW Road Laborer I position, seconded by Mike Ferri.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Michael Toretta	X				
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent		Motion carried

MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILL LIST:

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by Mike Toretta, to pay, the Bills List as submitted by the CFO, accordingly.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion carried

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

On motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Toretta, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 10:06 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton
Municipal Clerk