

WORKSHOP MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held a workshop meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024, at the hour of approximately 7:00 p.m. Mayor David Guth 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.

Following the flag salute, **Roll Call of Committeepersons present:** Bonnie Butler, Richard Herzer, Sarah Payne, Mike Toretta, David Guth, Mayor (5) Present, (0) Absent

Present were: Margaret Pasqua, CFO, John Mooney Municipal Auditor, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION OF:

Resolution 2024-38 Deferred School Tax Regional High School

Resolution 2024-39 Tax Collection 3-year average

Resolution 2024-40 Deferred School Tax Local

Resolution 2024-37 Open Space Tax Rate for 2024 \$0 per \$100 assessed valuation

RESOLUTION # 2024-38

DEFERRED REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX

WHEREAS, the regional high school district tax for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 was raised in the 2023 tax levy in the amount of \$4,569,011, and

WHEREAS, the statutes permit the deferral of the cash liability of such school tax up to 50% of the school tax levy or \$2,284,506;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Franklin, that the deferred school tax for the local school district be increased from \$1,573,590 to \$2,073,590 as of December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

David Guth, Mayor

Denise L. Becton, Township Clerk

Dated: April 8, 2024

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer the aforementioned **Resolution 2024-38** be adopted as read.

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

RESOLUTION 2024-39

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin, County of Warren realized 88.10% of current tax collections for the year 2023, and

WHEREAS, the tax collection percentage was adversely impacted conversion issues and delinquent tax collections, and

WHEREAS, the percentage of cash collections on current taxes for the three prior years was as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
2023	88.10%
2022	97.69%
2021	97.61%

AND WHEREAS the Mayor and Council believe the tax collections for the year 2024 will improve over the year 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee that permission be requested by the Director of the Division of Local Services to permit the Township to anticipate a current tax collection percentage experience of 94.47% for the year ended December 31, 2024.

David Guth, Mayor

Denise L. Becton, Township Clerk

Dated: April 8, 2024

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer the aforementioned **Resolution 2024-39** be adopted as read.

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

RESOLUTION 2024-40

DEFERRED LOCAL DISTRICT SCHOOL TAX

WHEREAS, the local district school tax for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 was raised in the 2023 tax levy in the amount of \$4,053,000, and

WHEREAS, the statutes permit the deferral of the cash liability of such school tax up to 50% of the school tax levy or \$2,026,500;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Franklin, that the deferred school tax for the local school district be increased from \$1,658,374 to \$1,968,374 as of December 31, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

David Guth, Mayor

Denise L. Becton, Township Clerk

Dated: April 8, 2024

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer the aforementioned **Resolution 2024-40** be adopted as read.

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

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

RESOLUTION #2024-37

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Township of Franklin’s open space ordinance allows the township committee to set the open space tax rate annually within a specified range; and,

WHEREAS, the township committee desires to set municipal open space tax rate at **\$0** per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2024 calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin that election be made to set the municipal open space tax rate at **\$0** per \$100 of assessed valuation for the 2024 calendar year.

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer the aforementioned **Resolution 2024-37** be adopted as read.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained			
Bonnie Butler		X				
Rich Herzer	X					
Sarah Payne	X					
Mike Toretta	X					
David Guth, Mayor	X	(4)Yes	(1) No	(0) Absent	(0) Abstained	Motion carried

MOTION TO INTRODUCE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The 2024 Budget is in compliance with an approximate 1.7 cents increase, or \$57/year or \$4.78/month for the average local taxpayer assessed at \$300,000. May 6th will be the public hearing to adopt our municipal budget.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Payne by roll call to introduce the 2024 Municipal Budget as appended to these minutes.

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

INTRODUCTION/First Reading

ORDINANCE 2024-3

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$52,400 FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND \$87,600 FROM THE NJDOT 2022 GRANT FOR MILLBROOK ROAD FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MILLBROOK ROAD PHASE 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,000.00.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION ONE: The sum of \$52,400 from Capital Improvements and \$87,600 from the 2022 NJDOT Grant are hereby appropriated for Improvements to Millbrook Road Phase 2 in the amount of \$140,000.00

SECTION TWO: Ther period of usefulness of the above project as defined by NJSA 40A:2-22 is at least 5 years.

SECTION THREE: The capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this Ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey is on file with the Township Clerk and is available for public inspection.

SECTION FOUR: The gross debt of the Township of Franklin as defined by NJSA 40A:2-43 will not be increased by this ordinance.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect 10 days after publication, following final adoption, as provided by law.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading on the 8th day of April 2024, at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin and will be taken up for final consideration and passage at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Franklin to be held on the 6th day of May 2024, at the Municipal Building, 2093 Route 57, Broadway, New Jersey.

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, Clerk

Introduced: April 8, 2024

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer Ordinance 2024-3 be adopted as read. Public Hearing/adoption on Monday, May 6, 2024.

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

Dated: April 8, 2024

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY/STATE OF NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION 2024-36**

A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, MILLBROOK ROAD STORM SEWER REPLACEMENT

Be it resolved, that on April 1, 2024, the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, Warren County, NJ hereby awarded Salmon Brothers, Inc. out of Newton. NJ to perform the necessary job for the Millbrook Road Storm

Sewer Replacement Project as specified in their Bid package received and opened March 28, 2024, for the price of \$127,800.00; and

Be it resolved, A New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project received with a total project grant award in the amount of \$87,600; and

Be it further resolved, the Chief Financial Officer certifies that the Township has sufficient funds to award this contract for the Bid,

ATTEST:

Denise L. Becton
Municipal Clerk

David Guth
Mayor

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne the aforementioned **Resolution 2024-36** be adopted as read.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
Bonnie Butler	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Sarah Payne	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
David Guth	X	(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion Carried

The floor was opened and closed for public session, no public present, by Mayor Guth at 7:21 p.m.

Committeeperson Butler would like to include a Capital Plan in our budget and would count towards credit in the Best Practices Checklist. Committeeperson Butler and Payne offered to be the subcommittee to look into a 5 year plan. Just a reminder that this is a plan not a commitment per Auditor Mooney.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler seconded by Committeeperson Payne to commence into Executive Session at the hour of 7:23 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED on this 8th day of April 2024, 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 Office

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 8th day of April 2024 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at approximately 7:23 p.m.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Payne to exit to executive session at 7:23 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Butler to return to the regular session at 7:44 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk