

REGULAR MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 via “ZOOM”. Mayor Jeff DeAngelis 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.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Ferri, David Guth, Rich Herzer, Mike Toretta, Mayor Jeff DeAngelis, (5) Present. (Mr. Herzer and Mr. Toretta joined the meeting at 7:07 pm)

Present were: Kathleen Reinalda, CFO, Raymond Read, OEM, Ron Read, DPW Foreman, Jim Onembo, Zoning/Code Enforcement, Mike Finelli, Municipal Engineer, Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney

CONSENT AGENDA:

(One Roll Call to approve the following agenda items 2-4)

- 2. **APPROVAL**
 - a. Meeting Minutes **RE: March 2, 2020**
 - b. Executive Meeting Minutes **RE: March 2, 2020**
 - c. Budget Workshop Synopsis **RE: March 9, 2020**
- 3. **RESOLUTIONS**
 - a. Res. 2020-38 **RE: Authorization for the Tax Collector to cancel the Lien on Block 16 Lot 12.01**
 - b. Res. 2020-39 **RE: Designating Newspapers to receive Notices of Meetings**
- 4. **PERMITS**
 - a. Social Affair Permit **RE: Warren County Wiffle Ball Tournament, August 7-8, 2020, Franklin Township Fire Station, Asbury, NJ (memorialization)**

On motion by David Guth and seconded by Mike Ferri approving the Meeting Minutes listed above.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
Mike Ferri	X		
David Guth	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor, Jeff DeAngelis	X		
		(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion Carried

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by David Guth approving the Resolutions listed above.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
Mike Ferri	X		
David Guth	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor, Jeff DeAngelis	X		
		(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion Carried

The Social Affair Permit for the Warren County Wiffle Ball Tournament, listed above, was unanimously approved by the Township Committee.

RESOLUTIONS

First Reading/Introduction: Res. 2020-38

Resolution 2020-38

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2018, Franklin Township placed a Municipal Lien on Block 61 Lot 12.01 and,

WHEREAS, the property owner has paid off this lien, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee authorize the Tax Collector to cancel the lien on Block 61 Lot 12.01.

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by David Guth the aforementioned **Resolution 2020-38** be adopted as read.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(5) Yes	(0) No (0) Absent Motion Carried

CERTIFICATION

I, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Franklin Township Committee at a meeting held on May 4, 2020.

Denise L. Becton RMC/CMR

Dated: May 4, 2020

First Reading/Introduction: Res. 2020-39

RESOLUTION 2020-39

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DESIGNATING NEWSPAPERS TO RECEIVE NOTICES OF MEETINGS

WHEREAS, Section 3 (d) of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, requires that certain notices of meetings shall be submitted to two (2) newspapers, one of which shall be designated as the official newspaper of the Township of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, the second newspaper designated by this body must be one that has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional boundaries of this body of such meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey:

- 1) The EXPRESS-TIMES Warren County NJ Zone is hereby designated as the official newspaper of the Township of Franklin to receive all notices of meetings as required under the Open Public Meetings Act.
- 2) The STAR-LEDGER has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional area of this body of such meetings.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

On motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by David Guth the aforementioned **Resolution 2020-39** be adopted as read.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion Carried

CERTIFICATION

I, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Franklin Township Committee at a meeting held on May 4, 2020.

Denise L. Becton RMC/CMR

NEW BUSINESS

NJSP – no representation or report

OLD BUSINESS

The municipal budget will not be introduced this evening. At this time, the proposed budget, the average household of 200,000, is looking at an average increase of approximately \$75. The consensus of the committee is not to increase the taxes, but, we need to see if there are areas available to cut, and without ratables the burden is on our residence. We could be looking at possible layoff of employees and no consideration of employee raises. The Litigation line item went from \$26-\$40,000. Our municipal court contract will dissolve at the end of the year, looking to contract with a neighboring municipality. Additional discussions and possible introduction to ensue in June.

REPORTS/UPDATES:

Engineer Report – No formal report submitted this month

Engineer Finelli updated the committee as to the Montana Road, Sections I&II DOT Grants. Beidleman Road, Habitat Homes, approvals have been given for two driveway permits.

A motion was made by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Ferri authorizing the CFO to appropriate a total of \$23,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, subject to receiving executed vouchers, to WC Habitat for Humanity.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion Carried

A refund of approximately \$5,000 has been processed for Stormwater Management Works. Due to new Regulations by NJDEP, our Stormwater Ordinance will have to be amended accordingly. The Stewartsville Road Project has been shut down at this time and will revisit the road conditions once they re-mobilize.

Attorney Report – No formal report submitted

Attorney Benbrook informed that the filing deadline for Financial Disclosure Statements has been extended to July 31st.

Beth Barry – Open Space Commission

Ms. Barry advised the committee that the Outreach Mailing has not been mailed out yet by The Land Conservancy. The WC Open House has been canceled.

Fire Department/OEM – Raymond Read

Chief Read informed that the department has been super busy with 314 calls to date, including 83 transports of possible COVID cases, 54 confirmed. An ambulance is on stand by at the WC testing center Tuesday and Fridays. Five members have been quarantined and one member has been confirmed contracting COVID-19. Fundraising will be challenging this year, and might take a big hit financially. The department purchased a Decontamination Machine and has been used to spray the municipal offices, DPW garage as well as the fire/ems stations and apparatus. Noting an ambulance is disinfected after each emergency call. The Chief thanked his members, providing great service without hesitation. Mayor DeAngelis also thanked Chief Read and his members for all they do.

Jim Onembo – Code Enforcement/Zoning-

Mr. Onembo informed that a lot of building is taking place in the township. Two new foreclosures have been received and since January, \$42,000 has been collected/deposited for vacant property registration fees. Attorney Benbrook will work with Mr. Onembo as to certified liens in reference to 26 VanSyckle Road. Engineer Finelli will look into the Weiner property.

Franklin Township Community Center – Eddy Patient- no report

DPW REPORT – Ron Read – Report submitted and on file

Technical difficulties to communicate with Foreman Read, nothing further reported.

Franklin Township Youth Association – No one present

Township Committee Reports:

David Guth

Mr. Guth informed Curbside Brush Pick Up has been completed for April. Spring Clean Up for June is postponed, however, Recycle Coordinator, Peggy Housman, obtained information from the Pollution Control Financing Authority that if the township would like to send their residents for drop off at the center, the week of October 5th-10th is available. A voucher would be issued by the municipality/signed/sealed and would be good for 2 trips.

A motion was made by David Guth and seconded by Mike Toretta to have Recycle Coordinator Housman secure the dates in October with PCFA, attorney to review documents.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
David Guth	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Jeff DeAngelis	X	(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion Carried

Mike Ferri

Mr. Ferri referred a question to Engineer Finelli as to the anticipation when Stewartsville Road will be paved. Engineer advised that it was approved for late summer last schedule that he had seen. Also, the lighting project at the municipal building inside/outside is complete.

Rich Herzer – nothing further to report.

Mike Toretta

Mr. Toretta informed that the solar for the municipal building is out to bid and hopes to push along soon.

Jeff DeAngelis, Mayor

Mayor DeAngelis is still working on negotiations with neighboring municipalities to secure a shared court for 2021.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

At this time, the mayor opened the floor for Public Session at 8:25 pm.

An extensive conversation evolved as to the contaminants/dioxane in the drinking water on Willow Grove Road. Mayor DeAngelis will look into this matter and will notify residents as to the concern of dioxane and a testing lab. Ms. Barry offered the assistance of the Open Space Commission to help in any way possible.

Rick Canale spoke about ultralights in the area of Woolverton Road. Motors are loud and are a nuisance. Mayor informed him to look for notification when/if application to be heard in front of our Land Use Board.

Chief Read informed that ISE Farms donated 1500 Tyvek suits to their department. Fire/EMS kept 500 donating the remainder to WCOEM.

At this time the floor was closed to Public Session 8:59 pm.

MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILL LIST:

On motion by David Guth and seconded by Mike Ferri, hearing no objection, to pay the bills from the bill list provided by the Chief Financial Officer.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
Michael Toretta	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
David Guth	X		
Mike Ferri	X		
Mayor, Jeff DeAngelis	X	(5) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion carried

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

On motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Ferri, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton
Municipal Clerk