

REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held their annual reorganization meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025, at approximately 7:00 p.m. Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk, 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, Attorney Benbrook swore in Committeeperson-elect Sarah Payne, for a (1) one-year unexpired term on the Franklin Township Committee, term of office January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, and David Guth and Mike Toretta for a Full (3) three-year term, on the Franklin Township Committee, term of office January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027.

First order of business Attorney Benbrook swore in Committeepersons Elect David Guth, Mike Toretta, Sarah Payne to the Franklin Township Committee.

Second order of business will be nominations for Mayor for the year 2025 were opened, Mike Toretta nominated David Guth and Rich Herzer seconded the motion. Bonnie Butler made a motion to close nominations for Mayor, seconded by Mike Toretta. All in favor to close nomination for Mayor, Unanimous Vote.

The Chair declares David Guth Mayor for 2025.

Third order of business will be nominations for Deputy Mayor for the year 2025 were opened, Mike Toretta nominated Sarah Payne and Bonnie Butler seconded the nomination. Mike Toretta made a motion to close nominations for Deputy Mayor and seconded by Rich Herzer. All in favor to close nomination for Deputy Mayor, Unanimous Vote.

The Chair declares Sarah Payne is Deputy Mayor for 2025.

Attorney Benbrook swore in David Guth as Mayor for a one (1) year term, daughter Charlotte held the bible and Sarah Payne as Deputy Mayor, for a one (1) year term, husband Terry held the bible, for the year 2025.

At this time, the remainder of the meeting was turned over to Mayor Guth.

Attorney Benbrook also swore in Rick Gardner for a 2-year term on the Open Space Commission, term of office January 1, 2025-December 31, 2026.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE PRESENT: Bonnie Butler, Richard Herzer, Sarah Payne, Michael Toretta, David Guth, Mayor, (5) Yes, (0) No, (0) Absent

Present were: Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney, Jim Onembo, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer

NJSP – The trooper that was present this evening provided statistics on the number of traffic stops, tickets issued, warnings issued, arrest including DUI's, investigations and motor vehicle accidents, etc. The stats provided were for their station coverage area, not township specific.

APPROVALS

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer the Year End Meeting Minutes of December 30, 2024, were approved. All in favor.

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION

Continuing, Mayor Guth, presented **Resolutions 1-12** by number for approval:

RESOLUTION 2025-1

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY DESIGNATING REGULAR MEETING DATES / TIMES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the regular meetings of the Township Committee for the year 2025 shall be held the first Monday of each month, unless otherwise indicated below, at the Franklin Township Municipal Building, Broadway, N.J. at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

WHEREAS Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, requires that at least once a year, not later than January 10th of such year, this public body shall post and mail to newspapers designated by said body, a schedule of the location, time and date of such work sessions and regular meetings of said body during the succeeding year.

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

The Franklin Township Committee chose the following meeting dates for the year **2025**.

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to provisions of Section 231 of the "Open Public Meetings Act" Chapter 231, PL 1975 the following is a schedule of the Regular Meetings of the Franklin Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren to be held for the year **2025**. All meetings unless otherwise indicated, shall be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Township Municipal Building, 2093 Rt. 57, Broadway, N.J. 08808. **Please check our website monthly as to any changes to meeting dates/times.**

January 6 (*Re-Org Mtg.*)

February 3

March 3*

April 7

May 5

June 2

July 7

August 11

September 8

October 6

November 3

December 1

December 29 (*Year End Mtg. @ 4pm*)

January 5, 2026 (*Re-Organization Mtg.*)

Workshop Meetings listed below will be held, IF, there are Agenda Items to discuss, on the second Monday of the following months at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building, 2093 Rt. 57, Broadway, NJ, official action MAY be taken at all workshop meetings:

March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9

***The Budget Workshop meeting will be held prior to the March 3rd meeting at 5:00 p.m.**

Dated: January 6, 2025

RESOLUTION 2025-2

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the regular meetings of the Franklin Township Historical Commission for the year **2025** shall be held the **third Monday** of each month at the Franklin Township Municipal Building, 2093 Rt. 57, Broadway, N.J. at the hour of **5:00 p.m.** unless otherwise noted.

The Franklin Township Historical Commission chose the following meeting dates for the year **2025**.

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to provisions of Section 231 of the "Open Public Meetings Act" Chapter 231, PL 1975 the following is a schedule of the Regular Meetings of the Franklin Township Historical Commission, of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren to be held for the year **2025**. All meetings unless otherwise indicated shall be held at **5:00 p.m.** at the Franklin Township Municipal Building, 2093 Rt. 57, Broadway, N.J. 08808.

January **No Meeting**

February **No Meeting**

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July **No Meeting**

August **No Meeting**

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 15

RESOLUTION 2025-3

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of. Warren, State of New Jersey deems it necessary to incorporate a purchase order system so that the State Directive requiring an encumbrance system be enacted, and

WHEREAS, by Order of the Mayor and Committee that system be initiated, utilizing pre-numbered purchase orders, and encumbering any purchase of \$1,000.00 or over

WHEREAS P.L. 1983, chapter 8, Local Fiscal Affairs Law, N.J.S.A. 40A 59-2 has been amended to require that each municipality designate a Cash Management Plan for the deposit of local unit’s monies.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following Cash Management Plan be adopted by the Township of Franklin.

A. Designation of Official Depositories:

1. The following institutions are designated Official Depositories.

- PNC Bank Unity Bank
- Chase Manhattan Bank Fulton Bank

2. Designated Official Depositories are required to submit to the Financial

Officer of the Township of Franklin a copy of the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking, Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act notification of eligibility which must be filed semi-annually in the Department of Banking, as of June 30th, and December 31st, of each year.

3. Designated Official Depositories are required to submit to the Financial

Officer a copy of the Institutions' Annual Report on an annual basis.

B. Deposit of Funds

All funds shall be deposited within forty-eight hours (48) of receipt in accordance with State Statutes.

1. Operating funds shall be deposited into interest bearing accounts to

maximize earnings.

2. Trust funds may be deposited into interest bearing accounts, Non

interest bearing accounts should be regularly monitored for availability of funds for investment except where either State, Federal laws or Local Ordinances prohibit the earnings of interest on such funds.

C. Designation of Allowable Investment Instruments

The Township may permit deposits and investments in such depositories as permitted in section 4 of P.L. 1970 Chapter 23666 (c. 17:9-44)

D. Definitions of Acceptable Collateral and Protection of Township Assets.

1. All designated depositories must conform to all applicable state statutes.

2. All depositories shall obtain the highest amount possible F.D.I.C., and or F.S.L.I.C. coverage of all Township Assets. (Demand and Certification of Deposits.).

3. Collateral will be required for all deposits and investment of the Township except for those in the State Cash management fund, collateral must have a market value of not less than 100% of all deposits and investments

E. Reporting Procedures:

The Financial Officer shall prepare for the Township Committee the following investment reports.

1. Monthly reporting: A listing of all investments as part of the Financial Officer's monthly report.

2. The Financial Officer shall prepare a schedule of outstanding investments for the independent auditors as of December 31st, of each year and at other such times as required by the auditors.

F. Maximum Maturity Policy:

Investments shall be limited to a maturity not to exceed one year on all operating funds unless a longer maturity is permitted within the provisions of regulation promulgated by either the Federal or State Government.

G. Bonding:

The following Official shall be covered by surety bonds, said surety bonds to be examined by the Independent Auditor to insure their proper execution:

- Financial Officer
- Tax Collector

Staff members of the Department of Finance not covered by separate surety bonds shall be covered by a Public Employees Faithful Performance Bond in the minimum amount of \$5,000.00.

H. Compliance:

The Cash Management Plan of the Township of Franklin shall be subject to the annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4.

RESOLUTION 2024-4

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey, that all merchants of Franklin Township, County of Warren, doing retail business within the Township be obligated to obtain a Business License in the amount of \$50.00 during the month of January. Penalty after **February 28, 2025**, to be an additional \$25.00.

RESOLUTION 2025-5

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the following job titles for the year 2025 be made,

DPW Foreman	Joe Biel, Sr.
Road Laborer II	
Road Laborer I	Joe Taborelli
Road Laborer/Part-Time	Joe Sheridan
Municipal Clerk	Denise L. Becton
Office Assistant	
Chief Financial Officer	Margaret Pasqua
Tax Collector	Sandy Callery
Tax Assessor	Craig Brotons
Asst. Treasurer	Denise L. Becton
Construction Official	NJ Dept. of Comm. Affairs
Dog Licensing Official	Denise L. Becton
Animal Control Officer	Share w/Washington Twp., Long Valley, NJ
Health Officer	(5) Twp. Comm. Members & Zoning Officer
Emergency Management Coordinator	Shawna Tabert
Deputy Emergency Mgt. Coordinator	David Guth
9-1-1 Coordinator	Shawna Tabert
Zoning Officer	James Onembo
Land Use Board Secretary	Kelley D. Smith
Open Space Clerk	Denise L. Becton
Tax Search Officer	Sandy Callery
Assessment Search Officer	Tax Collector
Registrar Vital Statistics	Denise L. Becton
Deputy Registrar Vital Statistics	Kelley D. Smith, Harmony Twp.
Alternate Deputy Registrar	
Municipal Judge	Honorable Nicole Lena, Share w/Town of Belvidere
Municipal Prosecutor	Share w/Town of Belvidere
Alt. Prosecutor	John Caleca, Share w/Town of Belvidere
Public Defender	Scott Wilhelm, Esq., Share w/Town of Belvidere
Alt. Public Defender	Gregory Gianforcaro, Share w/Town of Belvidere
Sgt. At Arms	Share w/Town of Belvidere
Court Administrator	Dawn Decker, Share w/Town of Belvidere
Recycling Coordinator	Kevin Murray
Site Manager	
Maintenance/Event Supervisor	

**Resolution 2025-6
TEMPORARY BUDGET**

WHEREAS Title 40A:4-19 known as the Local Budget Law, provides that where any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the **2025** budget, temporary appropriations be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided, and.

WHEREAS the total appropriations in the **2024** budget, less appropriations made for the Capital Improvement Fund, Debt Service, Relief for the Poor (Public Assistance) and Deferred Charges are as follows:

General Fund: **\$2,352,876.90**

AND,

WHEREAS 26.25% of the total appropriations in the **2024** budget, less the appropriations made for Capital Improvement Fund, Debt Service, Relief for the Poor (Public Assistance), and Deferred Charges are as follows,

General Fund: **\$617,630.19**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren that the temporary appropriations be made in the amount of **\$617,630.19** for the General Fund and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for recordkeeping.

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION 2025-7**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Committee has a need to acquire professional services as non-fair and open contracts pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and,

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is 1 year; and

WHEREAS, the following professionals have submitted contracts for services as indicated:

- Municipal Attorney; Kevin Benbrook of the firm Benbrook & Benbrook, LLC
- Municipal Engineer; Donna M. Becker, P.E., Senior Design Engineer of Finelli Consulting Engineers | A Division of UTRS
- Municipal Planner; Jim Kyle of the firm Kyle Planning and Design
- Municipal Bond Counsel; John Draikiwicz of the firm Gibbons P.C.
- Municipal Auditor; John J. Mooney, CPA, RMA, Nisivoccia, LLP
- Open Space/Farmland Preservation Advisor; The Land Conservancy of NJ

WHEREAS, each professional, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certified that they, have not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit them from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the required certificate for the availability of funds has been filed by the chief financial officer providing that legally appropriated balances are available to cover the amount of the contract as required by N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.5 and that fees for the aforementioned bond counsel services shall be made available by appropriate inclusion in either an annual municipal budget which includes current, revenue sharing and utility provisions, by budget amendments for Federal program spending or by inclusion in an appropriate bond ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin authorizes the Mayor and Clerk of the Township of Franklin to enter into a contract with the professionals as described herein on behalf of the Township of Franklin for 1 year; for the calendar year **2025** and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a notice of this action shall be printed once in a legally designated publication.

RESOLUTION 2025-8

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Committee has deemed it necessary to appoint the following members to the Local Board of Health for a period of one (1) year.

Jim Onembo
Rich Herzer
Mike Toretta
David Guth
Sarah Payne
Bonnie Butler

Resolution 2025-9

WHEREAS there exists vacancies on the newly enacted Public Safety Committee and;

WHEREAS the following appointments to fill said vacancy for a period of one year has been enacted, and:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals take their place on the Public Safety Committee for a period of one-year effective January 6, 2025.

- Township Committee - Bonnie Butler–Mike Toretta
- Fire Chief
- Deputy Fire Chief
- EMS Captain
- OEM Coordinator – Shawna Tabert
- Deputy OEM Coordinator- David Guth
- Margaret Pasqua, CFO

**RESOLUTION 2025-10
APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Committee has deemed it necessary to appoint the following members to the Municipal Agriculture Advisory Board that shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Township of Franklin. The appointment is for a (3) year term expiring **12/2025**.

VACANCY (remainder of term)	3-yr term	exp. 12/31/2025
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RESOLUTION 2025-11

Historical Commission

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Committee has deemed it necessary to appoint the following members to the Historical Commission that shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Township of Franklin. The appointments are for the terms below.

Brenda Higgins	4-year term	exp. 12/31/2028
Bonnie Hamler	4-year term	exp. 12/31/2028

RESOLUTION 2025-12

WHEREAS there remains on the records and books of the Township of Franklin delinquent taxes and municipal charges owing as of **December 31, 2024**; and

WHEREAS, the statutes of the State of New Jersey, expressly N.J.S.A. 54:5 et seq., provide for the enforcement and collection of such delinquencies through a tax lien sale; and

WHEREAS the Tax Collector is empowered by statute to conduct and preside over the sale of liens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Franklin, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to sell all municipal liens in accordance with New Jersey law, on or before **December 31, 2024**.

RESOLUTION 2025-13

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

WHEREAS New Jersey's public schools serve more than 1.2 million children from Kindergarten through Grade 6; and,

WHEREAS the direction of public education in New Jersey is chartered locally by individual school boards, whose 4,800 members serve as advocates for public education as they work with administrators, teachers, parents, and local residents; and

WHEREAS Boards of Education provide accountability to the democratic system of governing the schools by communicating the needs of the district to the community while impressing upon administrators the public's expectations for the school district; and

WHEREAS School Board members receive no remuneration for their services; and

WHEREAS The Township of Franklin is justly proud of the academic, athletic, and social achievements of the students in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January **2025** to be School Board Recognition Month, a time that all residents might acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Franklin Township Committee does hereby commend the service of the Franklin Township Board of Education and its members to our community and its children; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Franklin Township Committee proclaims January as **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH** in Franklin Township and urges all citizens to join in recognizing the dedication of local school board members, past and present, as we work together to improve educational opportunities for our children.

Dated: January 6, 2025

RESOLUTION 2025-14

Public Agency Compliance Officer

WHEREAS The Township of Franklin (hereinafter "Public Agency") in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 that each agency shall designate a Public Agency Compliance Officer; and

WHEREAS the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Contracts Compliance and Equal Employment Opportunity in Public Contracts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of The Township of Franklin, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township of Franklin hereby designates Denise L. Becton as its Public Agency Compliance Officer.

**RESOLUTION
2025-15**

**JOINING THE WARREN COUNTY
COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL (WCCPC)**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT WITH THE WARREN COUNTY COOPERATIVE
PRICING COUNCIL HEREIN AFTER REFERRED TO AS THE “LEAD AGENCY” FOR THE CONDUCT OF CERTAIN
FUNCTIONS RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OF WORK MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE
JURISDICTIONS.**

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

This Resolution shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Township of Franklin

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-11(5), the mayor is authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Warren County Cooperative Pricing Council for the purchase of work, materials and supplies.

The Warren County Cooperative Pricing Council entering into contracts on behalf of the Township of Franklin shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

All Resolutions or parts inconsistent with this Resolution shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTION 2025-16

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Committee has deemed it necessary to appoint the following members to the Land Use Board that shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Township of Franklin. The appointments for the year **2025** for the coming year were made on **January 6, 2025**, as follows.

Mayor, Class I	1yr.	exp. 12/25
Jim Onembo, Class II	1yr.	exp. 12/25
Rich Herzer, Committeeperson, Class III	1 yr.	exp. 12/25
Ron Sigler, Class IV	4 yrs.	exp. 12/28
Sam Santini, Class IV	4 yrs.	exp. 12/28

RESOLUTION 2025-17

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Committee has deemed it necessary to appoint the following members to the Open Space Commission that shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Township of Franklin. The appointments for the year **2025** for the coming year were made on **January 6, 2025**, as follows.

Rich Herzer	1 yr.	exp. 12/25
Beth Barry	2 yr.	exp. 12/26
Bill Rymon	2 yr.	exp. 12/26
Rick Gardner	2 yr.	exp. 12/26
Alternate #1 – Vacancy	1 yr.	exp. 12/25

**RESOLUTION 2025-18
RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT**

WHEREAS Franklin Township (Warren) has resolved to join the Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund (“PAIC) following a detailed analysis of the PAIC proposal for the **2025** Fund year: and

WHEREAS the Bylaws of PAIC require that each entity designate a Risk management Consultant to perform various professional services as detailed in the Bylaws and Risk management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws indicate that PAIC shall pay each Risk Management Consultant a fee to be established annually by the Executive Committee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ does hereby appoint Charles R. Frinzi/Ahart, Frinzi & Smith as its Risk Management Consultant in accordance with the Fund’s Bylaws.

RESOLUTION 2025-19

Musconetcong River Management Council

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Committee has deemed it necessary to appoint the following members to the Municipal River Management Council that shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Township of Franklin. The appointments are for the year 2025.

Beth Styler Barry - Primary
Vacant - Alternate

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne the aforementioned Resolutions 2025-1 through 2025-19 be adopted.

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

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION – Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2025-1

**THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN,
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED
ON DELINQUENT TAXES OR ASSESSMENTS
AND PROCESS/CANCEL ANY REFUND OR DELINQUENCY**

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for non-payment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54-4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rates of 8% per annum on the first, \$1,500.00 and allows an additional penalty of 6% be collected against a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 on properties that fail to pay the delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year.

AND WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to process and cancel any property tax refund or delinquency of less than \$10.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge 8%.per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of taxes becoming delinquent after due date and 18%.per annum on any amount of taxes in excess of \$1,500.00 becoming delinquent after due date and if a delinquency is in excess of \$10,000.00 and remains in arrears beyond December 31st an additional penalty of 6% shall be charged against the delinquency.
2. That the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to process and cancel any property tax refund or delinquency of less than \$10.00
3. Effective **immediately**, there will be a ten (10) day grace period of quarterly tax payments made by cash, check or money order.
4. Any payments not made in accordance with paragraph two (2) of this Ordinance shall be charged interest from due date as set forth in paragraph one (1) of this Ordinance
5. **A certified copy of this Ordinance be provided by the Municipal Clerk to the Tax Collector, Township Attorney and Township Auditor.**

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Payne the aforementioned Ordinance 2025-1 be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on February 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. on or near that hour.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstain	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Rich Herzer	X			
Sarah Payne	X			
Mike Toretta	X			
David Guth, Mayor	X	(5)	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 January 6, 2025. Second reading, a public hearing will be held on February 3, 2025, at or near 7:00 PM in the Franklin Township Municipal Building, 2093 Rt. 57, Broadway, New Jersey.

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

REPORTS/UPDATES

Donna Becker, Municipal Engineer –
Not present this evening.

Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney –
Draft ordinances were provided to the committee to review for possible introduction in February for Airbnb and a handicapped parking space in front of the Asbury Coffee Mill. Still working on the Dog Shelter draft. Attempt to reach the municipal judge pertaining to zoning violations still has failed. Looking to make the job for the zoning officer more functional. Our next step with the Tigar property is to enhance penalties.

Jim Onembo, Zoning Officer –
Report submitted and on file, nothing further to report.

Committee Reports:

Bonnie Butler –
Have we heard any updates from IT as to our Cyber Risk Security? The municipal clerk will follow up.

Rich Herzer –
Eddy Patient is coordinating the permanent storage trailer for the community center and the removal of the rental unit. A brief discussion as to the school notifying our OEM needs clarity and will be followed up on.

Sarah Payne - Nothing further to report.

Mike Toretta – Nothing further to report.

Mayor David Guth – Fire/EMS line officers will be here next month to be sworn in, they are attending mandatory training this evening.

DPW- Report submitted and on field.

Open Public Session:

At approximately 7:25 p.m. Mayor Guth opened the floor to the Public. Unanimous vote.

Dennis Leary inquired to any updates from last month’s Dioxane Project discussion. The attorney informed that the contracts have been executed, and Bonds posted.

Mayor Guth informed Gary and Malia Cordy that a draft ordinance for a handicapped parking space has been submitted to the committee for review. Attorney Benbrook will be in contact with the Cordy’s as to the placement of the parking spot in front of the Asbury Coffee Mill.

Hearing nothing from the public, the Open Public Session was closed at 7:30 p.m. Unanimous vote.

At this time, the committee will commence into an Executive Session on motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Payne at 7:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Professional Contracts

BE IT RESOLVED on this 6th day of January 2025, 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

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 6th day of January 2025 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at approximately 7:30 p.m.

On Motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Payne to exit to executive session at 7:30 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Payne and seconded Committeeperson Butler to return to the regular session at 8:02 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

Mayor Guth informed that the discussion held in executive session pertained to the 2025 Professional Contracts.

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Butler to rescind the motion made at our December 30th, 2024, Year End meeting not to entertain increases for our 2025 Professional Contracts.

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

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Payne to approve the rate increases for the following Professional Contracts for 2025. The municipal planner, municipal auditor, Land Use Board Attorney. Also to approve the municipal attorney contract increase for 2025 requesting to submit a 1/4ly fee reconciliation of work completed and a 3-year lock on rate increases.

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

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk