

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held their regular schedule monthly meeting at the hour of approximately 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025. 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, Rich Herzer, Sarah Payne, Mike Toretta, David Guth, Mayor

Present were: Jim Onembo, Zoning Officer, Joe Biel, DPW Foreman, Donna Becker, Municipal Engineer, Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney, John Mooney and Brian Ko, Municipal Auditors (for Introduction of 2025 Budget only), Margaret Pasqua, CFO, (for Introduction of 2025 Budget only), Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

MOTION TO INTRODUCE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Butler to introduce the 2025 Municipal Budget.

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

Municipal Budget Resolutions-Adoption of – Resolution 2025-31, Resolution 2025-32
Public Hearing of Ordinance 2025-4

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
COUNTY OF WARREN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION #2025-31

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 2025 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 2025 calendar year.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Butler the aforementioned **Resolution 2025-31** 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 2025-32
SELF-EXAMINATION OF BUDGET**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Franklin Township has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2025 budget year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:

a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges

b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures

c. Cash deficit of preceding year

d. Reserve for uncollected taxes

e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items

f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:

a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,

b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth

c. In itemization, form, arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Butler the aforementioned **Resolution 2025-32** 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

PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE 2025-4

CALENDAR YEAR 2025

**MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND
TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

-Motion to open Public Hearing Committeeperson Butler seconded by Committeeperson Payne. Unanimous Vote.

-Public Comments – none heard
-Motion to close Public Hearing and adopt the introduction of the 2025 Municipal Budget by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta.

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne the aforementioned Ordinance 2025-4 be adopted as read.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:
(One Roll Call to approve the following agenda items Approvals and Resolution)

APPROVAL OF

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| a. Meeting Minutes | RE: March 3, 2025 |
| b. Executive Minutes | RE: March 3, 2025 |
| c. Workshop Minutes | RE: March 10, 2025 |
| d. Executive Minutes | RE: March 10, 2025 |
| e. Social Affair Permit | RE: Franklin Township Fire Department, Aug. 8, 2025
3pm-9pm – Aug. 9, 2025, 9am-9pm, @ Asbury Station
(Wiffle Ball tournament) |
| f. Charitable Solicitation | RE: Franklin Township Fire Department, Intersection of
Old Main, Bloomsbury and Anderson Roads, various dates
(pending Warren County approval) |

RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING/ADOPTION

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| a. Res. 2025-30 | RE: Municipal Alliance Form 1B grant cycle for 2026 |
|-----------------|---|

Committeeperson Payne informed us of what this grant does for our area schools. We coordinate activities with Washington Boro and Mansfield Townships. In Franklin Township BOE peer leaders are at the school scheduled once a month speaking about assorted topics such as making good friends and how to avoid destructive decision making. At the Middle School topics such as resources to be successful in school, empathy with others, and accommodating to a bigger school. At High School topics include suicide prevention, students against destructive decisions. Monthly activities in Warren Hills as well. We pay \$234.50, which is a 25% cash match split between the members, in-kind used for volunteer hours for staff transportation for students and rent facilities.

RESOLUTION 2025-30

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder 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 substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey.

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

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance use disorder in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Warren.

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

- The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Franklin/Mansfield/Washington Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of:

GCSUD GRANT	\$938.00
Cash Match	\$234.50
In-Kind	\$703.50
- The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: _____
David Guth, Mayor, Franklin Twp., Warren Cty., NJ

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Payne the aforementioned Resolution 2025-30 be adopted as read.

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

The regular and executive meeting minutes of March 3rd and the regular and executive meeting minutes of March 10th, 2025 and Social Affair Permit (Wiffle Ball Tournament) and Charitable Solicitation (Franklin Township Fire Department) was moved by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne and upon roll call vote was passed.

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

NEW BUSINESS
Discussions/Approvals/Presentations

NJSP – Trooper Shupe was present this evening and briefed the committee as to a couple of incidents in Franklin Township. A resident asked about the speeding and increased truck traffic on CR 632 and being a 102 restrictive road. Attorney Benbrook will look further into this.

Spring Clean-up is scheduled for June 23rd -June 28th and the Fall Clean-up is scheduled for October 27th – November 1st. Please see the municipal clerk to issue your vouchers, a month prior to each cleanup, Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Community Center Storage Project – Quotes received to permanently attach the container to the building.

- 1. Premiere Home Improvements, LLC, Blairstown, NJ in the amount of \$6,948.59
- 2. J.P. Hammer for Hire, Oxford, NJ in the amount of \$7,485.00

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer to approve the quote from Premiere Home Improvement, LLC in the amount of \$6,948.59.

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

Men’s Bathroom Project – Quotes received to replace in the men’s bathroom the toilet partition wall and door.

- 1. Island Supply, Inc., Lakewood, NJ in the amount of \$2,341.84
- 2. Lin Supply, Washington, NJ in the amount of \$2,950.00

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer to approve the quote from Island Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$2,341.84.

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

FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION – Ordinance 2025-6
Per Attorney Benbrook this ordinance is being introduced to assist with zoning enforcement outside of our municipal court. The end result would be placing a lien on the property through the tax office.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-6
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE CHAPTER 48 ENTITLED, “BRUSH, GRASS AND WEEDS” WITH A NEW CHAPTER ENTITLED “BRUSH, GRASS, WEEDS, DEBRIS AND SOLID WASTE REMOVAL”

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the Code of the Township of Franklin is hereby amended to repeal existing Chapter 48 and adopt a new Chapter 48 as follows:

SECTION I.
CHAPTER 48
BRUSH, GRASS, WEEDS, DEBRIS AND SOLID WASTE REMOVAL

§ 48-1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to implement the statutory authority set forth in Title 40 of the New Jersey Statutes providing municipalities with the authority to protect the public health, safety and welfare by compelling the removal of brush, weeds, debris and solid waste from the exterior of premises to avoid, prevent and eliminate the maintenance of or creation of hazards to the public health or safety, fire hazards, or the attraction of animals.

§ 48-2. Definitions.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purpose of this chapter, be defined as follows:

DEBRIS — Shall be defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.13 to include brush, weeds, including ragweed, dead and dying trees, stumps, roots, noxious growths, filth, garbage, trash, and debris, including but not limited to, all combustible and noncombustible waste paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, yard trimmings, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass, crockery, and the residue from burning wood, coal, coke or other combustible material and solid commercial and industrial waste, and inoperable vehicles or parts thereof, including boats and trailers, motorized or not, regardless of whether licensed or registered, which vehicles or parts thereof are dismantled or in a state of visible disrepair.

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER — The enforcement officer in the Township shall be the Zoning Officer or his/her authorized representative.

EXTERIOR OF PREMISES — Shall mean those portions of a building or structure, which are exposed to public view or are visible from adjoining or adjacent properties, including all outside surfaces and appurtenances thereto, and the open space on the premises outside any building or structure erected thereon.

FIRE HAZARD — Shall mean anything or any act, which increases or may cause any increase of the hazard or menace of fire to a greater degree than customarily recognized as normal by persons in the public service of preventing, suppressing or extinguishing fire or, which may obstruct, delay or hinder or may become the cause of an obstruction, delay, hazard or hindrance to the prevention, suppression or extinguishment of fire.

NUISANCE — Shall mean any condition on the exterior of any premises, which is potentially dangerous, detrimental or hazardous to the health or safety of persons on, near or passing in proximity of the premises where said condition exists.

OCCUPANT — Shall mean any occupant, owner, agent, tenant, lessee, caretaker or other person or corporation in charge of the premises of or having actual possession or use of a business, single and multiple family dwelling unit or other premises affected by this section.

OPERATOR — Shall mean any person, persons or entity not the owner, who has charge, care or control of a structure or a part thereof, with or without the knowledge, consent or authority of the owner.

OWNER — Shall mean any person, persons or entity:

- a. Who shall have legal or equitable title in any form whatsoever to any premises or part thereof, with or without accompanying actual possession thereof; or
- b. Who shall have charge, care or control of any lot, premises, building, structure or part thereof, as

owner or agent of the owner; or

- c. As fiduciary, trustee, receiver, guardian, lessee or mortgagee in possession, regardless of how such possession was obtained.
- d. Any person, group of persons or entity who is a lessee, sublessee or assignee of a lessee of any part or all of any building, structure or land shall be deemed to be a co-owner with the lessor for the purposes of this section and shall have responsibility over that portion of the premises so sublet, leased or assigned.

PREMISES — Shall mean a lot, plot or parcel of land, including the buildings, structures and improvements thereon.

SOLID WASTE — Shall be defined in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.13a to mean any waste stored in such a way as accessible to and likely to be strewn about by animals including, but not limited to, dogs, cats, raccoons, birds or rodents.

§ 48-3. Duties of Owners, Operators and Occupants.

Owners, operators and occupants shall have the duty, jointly and severally, to keep the exterior of all premises within the Township of Franklin free of debris and solid waste that creates a fire hazard or nuisance, as defined in this chapter.

§ 48-4. Administrative Provisions.

- A. Inspection of premises and the issuing of orders in connection therewith under the provisions of this chapter shall be the exclusive responsibility of the Township Zoning Officer.
- B. Inspections. The Zoning Officer is authorized to enter upon any land at any reasonable time for the purpose of performing his or her duty under this chapter.
- C. Enforcement Procedure.
 - 1. Notice.
 - (a) Whenever the Zoning Officer determines that there is or has been a violation of any provision of this section, the owner, occupant and/or operator shall be provided with a written notice of violation and given 30 days from the date of the notice within which to abate the conditions on the property identified in the notice.
 - (b) Such notice shall be in writing and shall include a concise statement of the reasons for its issuance.
 - (c) Such notice shall be deemed to be properly and sufficiently served if a copy thereof is sent by regular mail to the last known address of the person or entity upon which the same is served, as shown by the most recent tax records of the Township, or a copy thereof handed to said person or persons, or a copy thereof left at the usual place of abode or office of said persons or entities.
 - 2. Extension of Time for Compliance.
 - (a) The Zoning Officer may extend the 30 day period for compliance if, in his judgment, the abatement, removal, prevention, cessation or cure of the condition violated cannot reasonably be effectuated within the thirty-day period, despite good faith efforts on the part of the owner, occupant and/or operator.
 - 3. Issuance of Complaint; Hearing.
 - (a) In the event that the violation is not abated, removed, cured, prevented or desisted from or otherwise fully remedied within the time established by the Zoning Officer, the Zoning Officer shall issue a notice of hearing to be held before the Township Committee at a regularly scheduled, advertised public meeting, not less than 30 days after the service of the notice. Notice shall be served upon the owner, occupant and/or operator either personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, and regular mail. All noticed individuals or entities may appear in person or by their attorney, and provide testimony and other evidence with respect to the subject matter of the notice of violation. The rules of evidence prevailing in the courts of law and equity shall not be controlling in such hearings. The scheduled hearing may be adjourned upon the timely written request of a noticed party, but failure to appear for any scheduled or rescheduled hearing shall not prevent the Township Committee from proceeding with the hearing and adjudicating the notice of violation issued by the Zoning Officer.

§ 48-5. Imposition of Costs.

Following a hearing as set forth herein, should a notice of violation be affirmed by the Township Committee, written notice of said determination shall be provided to the owner, occupant and/or operator by certified mail, return receipt requested, and regular mail. Thereafter, should the violation remain unabated, the costs of the cleanup of the subject property shall be established by securing at least two quotes from cleanup contractors. The Township Committee shall review the quotes, and if determined correct and reasonable, the lowest quote obtained shall be certified by the Township Committee, and shall forthwith become a lien upon the property, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.14. Any lien so established shall be added to and become and form a part of the taxes next to be assessed and levied upon the property, the same to bear interest at the same rate as taxes, and shall be collected and enforced by the Tax Collector and in the same manner as taxes.

§ 48-6. Abatement of Nuisance, Correction of Defect by the Township.

In addition to any other remedy provided for in this chapter, following notice to the property owner pursuant to this chapter, and the failure of the owner to abate the condition(s) noticed, the Township Committee, pursuant to the authority set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.12f, by resolution, may authorize the abatement of any hazard or nuisance regulated by this chapter and put any premises in proper condition such as to comply with the provisions of this chapter, at the cost of the owner, operator and/or occupant. Any municipal funds expended for such purpose shall be charged against the premises and the amount thereof, as determined by the Township Committee, shall be a lien against the premises and shall be added to and become and form a part of the taxes next to be assessed and levied upon such dwelling or lands, the same to bear interest at the same rate as taxes, and shall be collected and enforced by the Tax Collector in the same manner as taxes.

§ 48-7. Summons.

Notwithstanding any other remedy provided for in this chapter, the Zoning Officer may issue a summons for any notice of violation that remains unabated. Upon conviction, the fine shall be established pursuant to the penalty and fines provisions of chapter 106 of the Code of the Township of Franklin.

SECTION II. Severability. If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause of provision so adjudged and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

SECTION III. Repealer. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with the Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION IV. Codification. This Ordinance shall be a part of the Code of the Township of Franklin as though codified and fully set forth therein. The Township Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the official copies of the Code. The Township Clerk and the Township Attorney are authorized and directed to change any Chapter, Article and/or Section number of the Code of the Township of Franklin in the event that the codification of this Ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between the numbers and the existing Code, and in order to avoid confusion and possible accidental repealers of existing provisions not intended to be repealed.

SECTION V. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage, adoption and publication according to law.

NOTICE

is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced to pass on first reading at a regular meeting of the Committee of the Township of Franklin held on April 7, 2025, and ordered published in accordance with the law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a regular meeting of the Township Committee to be held on May 5, 2025 at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 2093 Rt. 57, Broadway, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer the aforementioned Ordinance **2025-6** be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on May 5, 2025, at **7:00 p.m. 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

OLD BUSINESS
PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-3
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHAPTER 110 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF FRANKLIN ENTITLED “SHORT-TERM RENTAL UNITS”

-Motion to open Public Hearing - Committeeperson Butler made the motion and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer, Unanimous Vote.
-Public Comments - none heard
-Motion to close/adopt Public Hearing - Committeeperson Herzer made the motion and seconded by Committeeperson Butler, Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Butler the aforementioned Ordinance 2025-3 be adopted as read.

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

REPORTS/UPDATES

Donna Becker, Engineer -
Dioxane Project crews scheduled for April 28th to begin could be earlier. MS4 Stormwater due end of month will coordinate with clerk/foreman. State Aid grants, still working on. Per Committeeperson Butler retention basins in the township are not our responsibility once we start with the MS4 reports. Mayor Guth received a call today from NJAW. They have a grant to replace galvanized pipes in homes built before a certain date and will start to solicit this. A virtual meeting this Friday will provide additional information. Also, per the mayor, PFAS a large plume, someone recently in Franklin Township had the highest level evaluated in their well.

Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney –
Attorney Benbrook informed us that as to Tigar he will file one more motion to ask the judge to take more serious action. One of the warehouses has been sublet to a third party and is strictly prohibited. We need to restrict access to this property and increase fines. Mr. Benbrook will need to discuss with our ACO additional information prior to introducing a new dog ordinance.

Jim Onembo, Zoning Officer – Report submitted and on file.
Mr. Onembo was informed of a home off Anderson Road had their well tested and is off the charts due to this new water contaminant. This appears to be heading toward the Musconetcong River. Attorney Benbrook will reach out to Valley Greene Estates HOA and those residents on Anderson Road in hopes to inform people of this matter.

Joe Biel, DPW Foreman – Report submitted and on file.
Mr. Biel presented quotes to repair a fence at the back of the Asbury Soccer Fields. Any large dangerous trees that should be removed prior to work will be assessed by Mr. Biel and Committeeperson Toretta.
Hollywood Fence located in Milford, NJ - \$1,978.00
Northway Fence located in Phillipsburg, NJ - \$1,350.00
Superior Fence located in Franklinville, NJ – 4,745.00

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne to approve the quote from Hollywood Fence in the amount of \$1,978.00 being the most responsive.

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

Franklin Township Fire/EMS – Crissy Brown
A new member has been voted into membership. Hose and Pump testing are complete.

March 2025 numbers as follows:
Fire 10 calls
EMS 22 calls

OEM - Shawna Tabert – Report submitted and on file.

Recycling – Mayor Guth reported the coordinator was unable to attend this evening and we will be receiving additional tonnage grant money this year.

Committee Reports:

Bonnie Butler – Nothing further to report.

Rich Herzer – Nothing further to report.

Mike Toretta – Nothing further to report.

Sarah Payne –
Warren Heritage Scenic Byway met March 24th, plans to look into grants for tourism and Highlands.

Mayor, David Guth – Nothing further to report.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION: (Limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
(The Franklin Township Committee uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen to citizen concerns. Please understand that public comment portions of our agenda are not structured as question-and-answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Mayor and Committee. The Committee may or may not respond to public comments. However, all comments are considered and will be investigated and addressed as appropriate. The Committee may respond to comments tonight, or at subsequent meetings under “Old Business”.)

At approximately 7:58 p.m. Mayor Guth opened the floor to the Public. Unanimous vote.

Laura Winiarsky – You can fill out a form through the DEP website to request your well to be tested, MWA had requested their well to be tested just for reference. An MWA Webinar informed back in the 1950s a fabric and dye company were re-selling their biproducts to local farmers for fertilizer and only certain farms were allowed to use it. You can go to the MWA website and sign up for updates.

Jackie Martinson – The public meeting to be held at the high school for the water contamination still has not been announced. Also, neighbors on Bloomsbury Road are not even aware of any water issue.

Janis Liepins – Concern of speeding on Asbury-Broadway Road starting at Rt. 57 to the Franklin Township School and would like support from the township committee to address to the county. Mayor Guth advised that we support his efforts.

Kathy Montgomery – Looking for any updates as to trucks turning right on to Stewartsville Road off of Rt. 57 heading east. Mayor Guth informed us of no further updates.

Karen Chiu – Kudos to our ACO as she called for his assistance early one morning needing his assistance. He does a bang-up job and educates you as well.

Hearing nothing further from the public, Mayor Guth closed Open Public Session at 8:12 p.m. Unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Contract Negotiations – Shared Services
Personnel – Employee’s salaries

BE IT RESOLVED on this 7th day of April 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 7th day of April 2025 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at approximately 7:58 p.m.

On Motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Payne to exit to executive session at 7:58 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Payne to return to the regular session at 8:37 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

FIRST READING/INTRODUCTION – Ordinance 2025-5 Salary Ordinance

Ordinance 2025-5
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:

Tax Assessor, per year	\$28,879.00
Tax Collector, per year	\$28,500.00 (as of 4/1/25)
	\$40/hr. (10 hours annually for tax billings)
CFO, per year	\$29,417.00

Assistant Treasurer, per year	\$ 6,304.00
Municipal Clerk, per year	\$77,514.00
Office Assistant, per year	\$20.60/hr.

Certified Protecting Child from Abuse	\$250/annually
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Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, per year	\$25,829.00
Land Use Board Secretary, per year	\$22,477.00
LUB Special Meetings to be paid at \$150, per mtg.	Out of Applicant’s Escrow

Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Clerk, per year	\$ 3,152.00
Maintenance/Event Supervisor	\$ 10.00/hour

Emergency Management Co-Ord., per year	\$ 5,253.00
Deputy OEM	\$ 1,318.00

911 Co-Ord., per year	\$ 1,051.00
Recycling, per year	\$ 6,304.00

DPW Foreman	\$ 81,990.00
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DPW Road Laborer I	\$51,500.00
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All Department of Public Works. - Employees time
and a half over 8-hour day

Day Laborer	\$25.00/hr.
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Emergency Call Out – (Snowplow Drivers)	\$ 25.00/hr.-NON CDL
	\$ 30.00/hr.-CDL

Emergency Call Out – (NON-Snowplow related)	\$45.00/hr.
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Part-Time Seasonal (Roadside/Lawnmowing)	\$30.00/hr.
Part-Time Road (Laborer/Mechanic)	\$30.90/hr.

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.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta to approve a salary increase for Joe Biel, DPW Foreman of \$9,000 in the amount of \$81,990.00 retroactive, January 1st, the aforementioned Ordinance **2025-5** be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on May 5, 2025, **at 7:00 p.m. 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

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Guth to approve the bills to be paid received by the CFO as submitted.

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 Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk