

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held their regular schedule monthly meeting at the hour of approximately 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 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, Jim Kyle, (for first executive session only), John Mooney and Brian Ko, Municipal Auditors (for Adoption of 2025 Budget only), Margaret Pasqua, CFO, (for Adoption of 2025 Budget only), Kevin Murray, Recycle Coordinator, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

The first order of business per Mayor Guth is an executive session with our Municipal Planner, Jim Kyle, on motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer. Unanimous Vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Attorney-Client-Privilege – Cannabis

BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of May 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 the executive session can be publicly disclosed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved on this 5th day of May 2025 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in the executive session, said session to commence at approximately 7:03 p.m.

On Motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer to exit to executive session at 7:03 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer to return to the regular session at 7:20 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

Public Hearing/Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget
Introduction/Adoption of Res. 2025-33 Authorizing the Budget to be read by title

RESOLUTION 2025-33
Authorizing the Budget to be read by Title

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only, a the time of public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of the hearing a complete copy of the approved budget as advertised has been posted in the Municipal Building, and copies have been made available by the Clerk to persons requesting them; and
WHEREAS, the Township Committee does advise that these conditions have been met.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the budget shall be read by title only.

The within Resolution 2025-33 was moved by Committeeperson Payne and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta 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			

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, In the County of Warren, New Jersey, at a meeting held on May 5, 2025.

Witness my hand and the SEAL of the Township of Franklin.

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

-Motion to open Public Hearing

On motion by Committeeperson Payne seconded by Committeeperson Herzer, Unanimous vote.

-Public Comments – none heard

-Motion to CLOSE/ADOPT the 2025 Municipal Budget

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer the 2025 Municipal Budget be adopted.

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

Resolutions (First Reading/Adoption of)-Resolution 2025-34, Resolution 2025-35, Resolution 2025-36, Resolution 2025-38 (TABLED until next month)

RESOLUTION 2025-34

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPEICAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE 2025 BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, WARREN COUNTY PURSUANT TO NJSA 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, PL 1948)

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:4-87 permits the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the Municipal Budget when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof shall not have been determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin has been awarded \$1,433.81 from NJ Department of Environmental Protection under the Recycling Tonnage Grant; and, WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to increase its anticipated revenues by \$1,433.81; and, WHEREAS, The Township Committee wishes to appropriate the funds in accordance with grant requirements. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin not less than two-thirds of the full membership thereof affirmatively concurring that application is hereby made tot eh Director of the Division of Local Government Services for an increase of a special item of revenue in the 2025 budget entitled:

Miscellaneous Revenues-Section F
Public & Private Revenues offset with Appropriations;
NJ DEP Recycling Tonnage Grant \$1,433.81

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the application is hereby made for the insertion of a like amount of increase to the appropriation entitles:

Operations-Excluded from “CAPS”
Public & Private Programs Offset by Revenue
NJ DEP Recycling Tonnage Grant Other Expenses \$1,433.81

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director, Division of Local Government Services.

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT
FORM OF RESOLUTION 2025-35**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2024 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and,

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations, and,

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and,

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and,

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Township of Franklin, Warren County, NJ, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING HELD ON Monday, May 5, 2025.

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

**CERTIFICATION OF GOVERNING BODY OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT
GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM
NO PHOTOCOPIES OF SIGNATURES**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF Warren**

We, members of the governing body of the Franklin Township, in the County of Warren, being duly sworn according to law, upon our oath depose and say:

- 1. We are duly elected (or appointed) members of Franklin Township, in the county of Warren;
- 2. In the performance of our duties, and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, we have familiarized ourselves with the contents of the Annual Municipal Audit filed with the Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 for the year 2024;
- 3. We certify that we have personally reviewed and are familiar with, as a minimum, the sections of the Annual Report of Audit entitled “Comments and Recommendations.”

(L.S.) Bonnie Butler, Committeeperson	(L.S.)
(L.S.) Sarah Payne, Deputy Mayor	(L.S.)
(L.S.) David Guth, Mayor	(L.S.)
(L.S.) Rich Herzer, Committeeperson	(L.S.)
(L.S.) Mike Toretta, Committeeperson	(L.S.)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
5th day of May, 2025
Notary Public of New Jersey

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

The Municipal Clerk (or Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders as the case may be) shall set forth the reason for the absence of signature of any members of the governing body.

IMPORTANT: This certificate must be sent to the Bureau of Financial Regulation and Assistance, Division of Local Government Services, P.O. Box 803, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY
AUDIT REPORT YEAR: 2024**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
RESOLUTION 2025-36**

Whereas, the Township Committee of Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ has received and reviewed the Annual Audit Report for the Year 2024 and;

Whereas, the Chief Financial Officer has prepared the following Corrective Action Plan in accordance with the reports findings as follows;

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF AUDIT REPORT FOR PUBLICATION**

It is recommended that:

1. An adequate segregation of duties be maintained with respect to the recording and treasury functions.

Action: Current budget does not allow for additional hiring in Finance Office.

2. The Township pursue the maintenance of a fixed assets accounting and reporting system which identifies additions, deletions and changes in the location of the Township’s fixed assets.

Action: Township has hired a vendor to perform a fixed asset accounting which will be updated internally in the future.

3. A requisition or purchase order is created and approved prior to the purchase of any goods or services and that all required authorizing signatures are obtained.

Action: Finance Office has taken measures to pre-encumber purchase orders and to acquire all required signatures.

4. The Township tax department maintain an updated listing of municipal tax title liens held and of foreclosed properties held by the Township.

Action: Tax Collector will maintain an updated list.

5. All unfunded General Capital ordinances are funded within a reasonable time frame.

Action: In process of getting all old ordinances fully funded

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A Corrective Action Plan, which outlines actions Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ will take to correct the findings listed above, will be prepared in accordance with federal and state guidelines. A copy of it will be placed on file and made available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk of Franklin Township no later than 60 days from when the audit was received in compliance with directives from the Division of Local Government Services.

The above summary or synopsis was prepared from the Report of Audit of the Franklin Township, County of Warren, for the calendar year 2024. This Report of Audit, submitted by John J. Mooney, Registered Municipal Accountant, of Nisivoccia, is on file at the Municipal Clerk's office and may be inspected by any interested person.

Implementation Date:
Immediately

Now, therefore be it resolved by the Township Committee of Franklin that a certified copy of this corrective action plan resolution be transmitted to the Director of Local Government Services.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Payne Resolutions 2025-34, 2025-35, 2025-36 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

FIRST READING/INTRODUCATION of CAPITAL ORDINANCES 2025-7 and Ordinance 2025-8, Ordinance 2025-9, Ordinance 2025-10

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 2025-7

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$50,000.00 FROM THE RESERVE FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS ROADS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00

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

- SECTION ONE:

The sum \$50,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Reserve for Road Improvements in the General Capital Account, for the purpose of road improvements to various township roads.
- SECTION TWO:

The period of usefulness of the Road Improvement 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 us available for public inspection.
- SECTION FOUR:

The gross debt of the Township of Franklin, as defined by NJSA 4A:20-43 will not be increased by this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect 10 days after publication, following final adoption, as provided by 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 May 5, 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 June 2, 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 Payne and seconded by Committeeperson Butler the aforementioned Ordinance 2025-7 be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on June 2, 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

CAPITAL ORDINANCE 2025-8

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$30,000.00 FROM THE OPEN SPACE FUNDS, \$15,000.00 FOR CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT AND \$55,000.00 FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DPW VEHICLE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00

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

- SECTION ONE:

The sum \$55,000.00 is hereby appropriated from the Reserve for Road Projects in the General Capital Account, \$30,000.00 from Open Space Trust & \$15,000 from Clean Communities Grant for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle for the DPW.
- SECTION TWO:

The period of usefulness of the equipment 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 4A:20-43 will not be increased by this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect 10 days after publication, following final adoption, as provided by 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 May 5, 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 June 2, 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 Payne and seconded by Committeeperson Butler the aforementioned Ordinance **2025-8** be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on June 2, 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				

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-9
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 63 OF THE CODE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN ENTITLED, “DOGS”

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that Chapter 63 entitled, “Dogs” is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION I.

A.

§63-17. Dog Warden; Control of dogs.

This section is hereby amended as follows:

All references to “Dog Warden” are deleted and replaced with “Animal Control Officer.”

There shall be a new paragraph C. as follows:

If a dog is impounded at a kennel, and the name and address of its owner is ascertainable, the Animal Control Officer shall provide written notice as soon as practicable to the owner that the animal will be offered for adoption or humanely euthanized if not claimed within seven (7) days after service of the notice. Any owner claiming a dog shall, in addition to paying the expenses the kennel may charge by statute, shall as a condition of

the dog’s release from custody, pay all expenses incurred by reason of its detention, including the usual and customary per diem maintenance and boarding charges that would be chargeable to the Township of Franklin.

B.

§63-18. Violations and penalties.

This section is hereby amended as follows:

This section is renumbered to §63-20 and is revised to read in its entirety as follows:

- A. A violation of this chapter shall be subject to the Penalties and Fines provisions set forth in chapter 106 of the Code including the establishment of a minimum fine of \$100.00 as established in §106-1 D.
- B. The Township Committee may certify any and all costs associated with the detention of a dog at a kennel incurred by the Township, with any municipal funds expended for such purpose to be charged against the premises of the dog owner, and 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.

C.

§63-19. Dogs on playing fields; penalty.

This section is renumbered to §63-18 and revised to read in its entirety as follows:

All dogs on any municipal recreational facility attending any function must be leashed and must remain a minimum of thirty (30) feet from any playing fields during sporting events.

D.

§63-20. Curbing of dogs.

This section is renumbered to §63-19 and revised to eliminate existing subparagraph B.

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 May 5, 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 June 2, 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.

Denise L. Becton
Municipal Clerk

On motion by Committeeperson Payne and seconded by Committeeperson Butler the aforementioned Ordinance **2025-9** be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on June 2, 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

Attorney Benbrook recapped our executive session informing there is an outdoor entity interested in cultivating cannabis. Our previous ordinance we opted out of all classes prohibiting cannabis. We can opt back in at any time and control the number of licenses issued. The committee’s consensus is to opt in to one class at this time, Cultivation, only, and allowing one license only in the township.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHAPTER 52 OF
THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
ENTITLED “CANNABIS”

BE IT ORDAINED By the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, that there be and hereby is established a new Chapter 52 entitled, “Cannabis Transfer Tax,” as follows:

SECTION I. Chapter 52, entitled CANNABIS, is hereby created to read as follows:

Chapter 52
Cannabis

Article I
Purpose; Definitions.

§ 52-1 Purpose of Chapter.

Notwithstanding any Federal law to the contrary, this Chapter is enacted to regulate and govern the use of Cannabis and the number and types of permits issued in the Township pursuant to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Enforcement Assistance and Marketplace Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6I-32 et seq. ("CREAMMA") (the "Act").

§ 52-2 Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, words and phrases shall have the same meanings they have in the Act and as follows:

CANNABIS

Shall mean all parts of the plant Cannabis sativa L., whether growing or not, the seeds thereof, and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds, except those containing resin extracted from the plant, which are cultivated and, when applicable, manufactured in accordance with CREAMMA for use in cannabis products as set forth in that act, but shall not include the weight of any other ingredient combined with cannabis to prepare topical or oral administrations, food, drink, or other product. "Cannabis" does not include: medical cannabis dispensed to registered qualifying patients pursuant to the Honig Act and N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22 et al.; marijuana as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2 and applied to any offense set forth in chapters 35, 35A, and 36 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, N.J.S.A. 2C:35B-1 et seq., or marijuana as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-2 and applied to any offense set forth in the "New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substances Act," N.J.S.A. 24:21-1 et al.; or hemp or a hemp product cultivated, handled, processed, transported, or sold pursuant to the "New Jersey Hemp Farming Act." N.J.S.A. 4:28-6 et al.

CANNABIS CONSUMPTION AREA

Shall mean a designated location operated by a licensed cannabis retailer for which both a State and local endorsement has been obtained, that is either: (1) an indoor, structurally enclosed area of the cannabis retailer that is separate from the area in which retail sales of cannabis items occurs; or (2) an exterior structure on the same premises as the cannabis retailer, either separate from or connected to the cannabis retailer, at which cannabis items obtained from the retailer may be consumed. This definition shall be consistent with the Recreational Marijuana Act and all amendments thereto.

CANNABIS CULTIVATOR

Shall mean any person or entity holding a Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license issued by the State of New Jersey that grows, cultivates, or produces cannabis in the State of New Jersey, and sells, and may transport, this cannabis to other cannabis cultivators, or usable cannabis to cannabis manufacturers, cannabis wholesalers, or cannabis retailers, but not to consumers.

CANNABIS DELIVERY SERVICE

Shall mean any person or entity holding a Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license issued by the State of New Jersey that provides courier services for consumer purchases of cannabis items and related supplies fulfilled by a cannabis retailer in order to make deliveries of the cannabis items and related supplies to that consumer, and which services include the ability of a consumer to purchase the cannabis items directly through the cannabis delivery service, which after presenting the purchase order to the cannabis retailer for fulfillment, is delivered to that consumer.

CANNABIS DISTRIBUTOR

Shall mean any person or entity holding a Class 4 Cannabis Distributor license issued by the State of New Jersey that transports cannabis in bulk intrastate from one licensed cannabis cultivator to another licensed cannabis cultivator, or transports 40 cannabis items in bulk intrastate from any one class of licensed cannabis establishment to another class of licensed cannabis establishment, and may engage in the temporary storage of cannabis or cannabis items as necessary to carry out transportation activities.

CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT

Shall mean a cannabis cultivator, a cannabis manufacturer, or a cannabis wholesaler. For the purposes of Township Code, "cannabis establishment" does not include cannabis retailers; not does it include Class 6 cannabis delivery service.

CANNABIS ITEM

Shall mean any usable cannabis, cannabis product, cannabis extract, and any other cannabis resin. "Cannabis item" does not include: any form of medical cannabis dispensed to registered qualifying patients pursuant to the Honig Act and N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.22 et al. or hemp or a hemp product cultivated, handled, processed, transported, or sold pursuant to the "New Jersey Hemp Farming Act," N.J.S.A. 4:28-6 et al.

CANNABIS MANUFACTURER

Shall mean any person or entity holding a Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license issued by the State of New Jersey, that processes cannabis items in this State by purchasing or otherwise obtaining usable cannabis, manufacturing, preparing, and packaging cannabis items, and selling, and optionally transporting, these items to other cannabis manufacturers, cannabis wholesalers, or cannabis retailers, but not to consumers.

CANNABIS RETAILER

Shall mean any person or entity holding a Class 5 Cannabis license issued by the State of New Jersey that purchases or otherwise obtains usable cannabis from cannabis cultivators and cannabis items from cannabis manufacturers or cannabis wholesalers, and sells these to consumers from a retail store, and may use a cannabis delivery service or a certified cannabis handler for the off-premises delivery of cannabis items and related supplies to consumers. A cannabis retailer shall also accept consumer purchases to be fulfilled from its retail store that are presented by a cannabis delivery service which will be delivered by the cannabis delivery service to that consumer.

CANNABIS WHOLESALER

Shall mean any person or entity holding a Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license issued by the State of New Jersey that purchases or otherwise obtains, stores, sells or otherwise transfers, and may transport, cannabis items for the purpose of resale or other transfer to either another cannabis wholesaler or to a cannabis retailer, but not to consumers.

COMMISSION or CRC

Shall mean the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission established pursuant to CREAMMA.

MANUFACTURE

Shall mean the drying, processing, compounding, or conversion of usable cannabis into cannabis products or cannabis resins. "Manufacture" does not include packaging or labeling.

MICROBUSINESS

Shall mean a person or entity license by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission as a cannabis cultivator, cannabis manufacturer, cannabis wholesaler, cannabis distributor, cannabis retailer, or cannabis delivery service that may only, with respect to its business operations, and capacity and quantity of product:

- a. Employ no more than 10 employees;

- b. Operate a cannabis establishment occupying an area no more than 2,500 square feet, and in the case of a cannabis cultivator, grow cannabis on an area no more than 2,500 square feet measured on a horizontal plan and grow above that plane not higher than 24 feet;
- c. Possess no more than 1,000 cannabis plants each month, except that a cannabis distributor's possession of cannabis plants for transportation shall not be subject to this limit;
- d. Acquire each month, in the case of a cannabis manufacturer, no more than 1,000 pounds of usable cannabis;
- e. Acquire for resale each month, in the case of a cannabis wholesaler, no more than 1,000 pounds of usable cannabis, or the equivalent amount in any form of manufactured cannabis product or cannabis resin, or any combination thereof; and
- f. Acquire for retail sale each month, in the case of a cannabis retailer, no more than 1,000 pounds of usable cannabis, or the equivalent amount in any form of manufactured cannabis product or cannabis resin, or any combination thereof.

PUBLIC PLACE or QUASI-PUBLIC PLACE

Shall mean any place to which the public has access that is not privately owned; or any place to which the public has access where alcohol consumption is not allowed, including, but not limited to, a public street, road, thoroughfare, school, sidewalk, bridge, alley, plaza, park, playground, shopping area, public transportation facility, vehicle used for public transportation, parking lot, public library, or any other public building, structure, or area.

Article II
Consumption, Possession and Unregulated Sale

§ 52-3 Prohibition In Public Places.

No person shall consume, use, smoke, vape, aerosolize, imbibe or possess in any open container any cannabis or cannabis product in or upon public or quasi-public place.

§ 52-4 Prohibition In Vehicles.

No person shall consume, use, smoke, vape, aerosolize, imbibe any cannabis or cannabis products in or upon any private vehicle while the vehicle is in motion or parked upon any such public or quasi-public place.

§ 52-5 Prohibition Where Other Laws In Effect.

No person shall smoke, vape, or aerosolize cannabis items in any place that any other law prohibits the smoking of tobacco, including N.J.S.A. 2C:33-13 and the "New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act." (N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 et seq.).

§ 52-6 Prohibition Of Unregulated Sale Of Cannabis.

- a. No person shall sell cannabis in the Township of Franklin without a state license and a Township permit.
- b. No person shall gift cannabis in the Township of Franklin as part of a sale of another item or items.

§ 52-7 Violations and Penalties.

Any person who violates any provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to, upon conviction, a penalty as set forth in the General Penalty Ordinance Chapter 106. The minimum penalty is hereby established in the amount of \$100.00. This Chapter may be enforced by the Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Officer, or other official of the Township designated by the Township Committee.

Article III
Permitting and Regulation

§ 52-8 Purpose.

This Article is enacted to regulate and to implement the provisions of the Act. Permits granted pursuant to this Article shall be issued upon receipt of State License granted by the CRC.

§ 52-9 Classes Prohibited.

This chapter prohibits the issuing of permits for all Classes of cannabis, with the exception of Class 1, Cultivation.

- a. The Township of Franklin shall not issue any permits for Classes 2, 3, 5 and 6 as defined in § 52-2 of this chapter and further identified by the State of New Jersey.
- b. The Township shall not issue any permits for any Class of microbusiness.

§ 52-10 State And Township Licenses And Permits Required.

- a. To operate any Class of permit within the Township, a State license and Township permit is required.

§ 52-11 Issuance Of Licenses and Permits.

- a. All applications for licenses and permits, all licenses and permits issued and all proceedings under this chapter shall be in accordance with all applicable laws of the state.
- b. All licenses and permits required by this chapter shall be issued by the Committee, which shall also administer the provisions of this chapter.
- c. No person shall retail cannabis without having obtained a license in accordance with CREAMMA and a license or permit in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

§ 52-12 Maximum Number of Permits.

- a. Number. The maximum number of permits in the Township for a Class 1, Cultivation Permit, shall be one.
- b. Location of Permits. The permit for a Class 1 Cultivator shall be limited to the RC Rural Conservation Zone.

§ 52-13 Permit Fees.

- a. The applicant shall submit all required nonrefundable fees for the application and year one of the conditional license pursuant to this chapter.
- b. The applicant shall submit all annual registration fees required in accordance with this chapter, which shall be refunded in the event the applicant does not receive a license.
- c. Fee.
 1. Application and Year One: \$2,500.
 2. Subsequent Annual Renewal Permit Fee: \$2,500.

§ 52-14 Permit Process.

- a. Application. Persons wishing to obtain a permit for any Class of license authorized in this Chapter shall file a permit application with the Clerk, on a standardized form established by the Clerk and available in the Clerk's office. The Clerk shall establish a reasonable application period and deadline for all applications. An application shall be deemed incomplete and shall not be processed by the Clerk until all documents and application fees are submitted. To be deemed complete, all applications shall be accompanied by the following:
 1. The applicant shall submit proof that the applicant has or will have lawful possession of the premises proposed for the cannabis retail store, which proof may consist of: a deed, a lease, a real estate contract contingent upon successful licensing, or a binding letter of intent by the owner of the premises indicating an intent to lease the premises to the entrant contingent upon successful licensing.
 2. The applicant shall submit an affidavit and documentary proof of compliance with all state and local laws regarding affirmative action, anti-discrimination and fair employment practices. The applicant shall also certify under oath that they will not and shall not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.
 3. The location proposed for permitting by the applicant shall comply with all applicable municipal zoning laws and the location restrictions set forth in this Code.
 4. The applicant shall submit, to the satisfaction of the Township Committee, proof of financial capability to open and operate the cannabis establishment for which the applicant is seeking a permit. Standards for proof of financial capability shall be determined by the Township's Chief Financial Officer.
 5. In addition to complying with any State requirement related to good character and criminal background, any person proposed to have an ownership interest in the permit shall not have had any cannabis license or permit revoked for a violation affecting public safety in the State of New Jersey or a subdivision thereof within the preceding five years.
 6. The applicant and the application shall otherwise comply with any and all qualification standards set forth in the State and Township laws or regulations.

§ 52-15 Notification of Award and Conditional Municipal Permit.

Notwithstanding the foregoing application process, a notification of award and conditional municipal permit shall entitle the recipient applicant to pursue a State permit or license in the appropriate classification for up to 12 months, which may be extended in the Township Committee’s discretion for an additional six months for good cause. No permit to operate shall be issued until the applicant has received a State permit and satisfied other prerequisites of municipal licensure.

§ 52-16 Term of Permit and Permit Award.

- a. Any local permit issued pursuant to this chapter shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance and shall be renewed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
- b. The Clerk may, at his/her/their discretion, adjust the renewal date of the local permit to correlate with an applicant's State licensing and renewal schedule.
- c. Renewal of any permit shall be governed by any code amendments, additional restrictions or changes in regulations adopted since the previous permit was issued or renewed.
- d. Transfer of ownership of any local permit or change of location of any permit or modification to expand a permitted premise shall be subject to approval by the Township Committee and Township Land Use Board. The appropriate escrows must be posted in order to review any application with the Township's Land Use Board.
- e. Except where the Clerk has received a complete renewal application along with the requisite fees, and has issued a permit renewal, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate after the date of permit expiration.

§ 52-17 Revocation of Permit or Licenses.

Any permit or license issued under this chapter may be suspended or revoked for violation of any provisions of the Township Code of Ordinances, or any applicable statute or any of the rules or regulations promulgated by the CRC. Suspension or revocation of a permit or license shall be in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed for a violation of Township ordinances. No refund will be issued by the Township for any suspended or revoked permit.

Article IV
Cannabis Transfer Tax

§52-18 Purpose.

It is the purpose of this article to implement the provision of New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act, P.L. 2021, (signed into law February 22, 2021), which authorizes the governing body of a municipality to adopt an ordinance imposing a transfer tax at a uniform percentage rate not to exceed two percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis cultivator; two percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis manufacturer; one percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis wholesaler; and two percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis retailer located in the Township, which shall be in addition to any other tax or fee imposed pursuant to statute or local ordinance or resolution by any governmental entity upon the dispensary.

§52-19 Cannabis Transfer Tax.

The tax rate for each category of license shall be as follows:

- a. Cannabis Cultivator: Two percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis cultivator.
- b. Cannabis Manufacturer: Two percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis manufacturer.
- c. Cannabis Wholesaler: One percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis wholesaler.
- d. Cannabis Retailer: Two percent of the receipts from each sale by a cannabis retailer.

§52-19 Remission of Taxes.

Every cannabis business and/or licensee shall remit taxes collected and due and owing on a quarterly basis to the municipal chief financial officer, along with certified copies of sales receipts and product transfer ledgers or documentation. The dates of tax remission shall be on or before January 2, April 1, July 1 and October 1, or as established by the chief financial officer. Each licensee shall certify to the truth and accuracy of the receipts and product transfer ledgers or documentation and shall remit a return in a form determined by the chief financial officer.

§52-20 Delinquent Taxes.

All unpaid taxes as required under this Article shall be subject to the accrual of interest and penalties at rates and penalties set forth and established for delinquent ad valorem taxes within the Township of Franklin.

§52-21 Liability for Taxes Owed.

Each cannabis establishment owner and/or licensee shall be personally liable for any and all taxes imposed under this Article and any interest and penalty accruing thereon. In addition, any unpaid balance and interest and penalties accruing thereon shall constitute a lien on the real property in which the cannabis establishment is located and such liens shall be enforced in the same manner as municipal tax liens.

§52-22 Audit.

Every cannabis establishment and/or licensee within the Township of Franklin is subject to audit, no greater than once per annum, of the establishments or licensee’s business records, receipts and accounting books, such audit to be performed at the chief financial officer’s discretion, by a certified public accountant. Every cannabis establishment and licensee shall be obligated to fully comply with the requirements of an auditor. Failure to cooperate with the audit, or any misrepresentation or fraud committed by the establishment or licensee, shall result in the immediate suspension of the license.

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 May 5, 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 June 2, 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 Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta the aforementioned Ordinance **2025-10** be adopted as read. Final reading and adoption to take place on June 2, 2025, **at 7:00 p.m. or near that hour.**

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

NJSP – Trooper Shupe was present this evening providing statistics for traffic of their full coverage area not specific to just Franklin Township, 918 motor vehicle stops, 18 drunk driving arrest, 34 invest, 33 accident reports to name a few. Hearing no questions on the floor from the public.

PRESENTATION – Tim Duryea – Franklin Township Board of Education

Board Secretary Tim Duryea presented the 2025-2026 Budget. A handout was supplied to the township committee. Student enrollment is up to 251pupils and necessary to contract and additional bus route adding \$40,000 to the budget. Preschool aid has been reduced. Regular state aid will see a modest increase over the past year, resulting in an increase in the tax levy. Contractual salary increases more than \$100,000 due to no one retiring in 25-26. The health insurance premium will increase by 11% resulting in \$100,000 in health cost. A result of a tax levy increase for 25-26 in the amount of \$121,165. Future financial considerations, increase in enrollment, births have risen, roofing project, solar panels, parking lot paving, new curriculum to align with new state standards.

CONSENT AGENDA

(One Roll Call to approve the following agenda items 4-5)

5. APPROVAL OF
- a. Meeting Minutes

RE: March 7, 2025
- b. Executive Minutes

RE: March 7, 2025
6. RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING/ADOPTION
- a. Proclamation

RE: Older Americans Month

Older Americans Month 2025
A Proclamation

Whereas, May is Older Americans Month, a time for us to recognize and honor Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ older adults and their immense influence on every facet of American society; and

Whereas, through their wealth of life experience and wisdom, older adults guide our younger generations and carry forward abundant cultural and historical knowledge; and

Whereas, older Americans improve our communities through intergenerational relationships, community service, civic engagement, and many other activities; and

Whereas, communities benefit when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have the opportunity to participate and live independently; and

Whereas, Franklin Township must ensure that older Americans have the resources and support needed to stay involved in their communities — reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and connectedness; and

Now, therefore, the Mayor and Franklin Township Committee of Warren County, NJ do hereby proclaim May 2025 as Older Americans Month. This year's theme, "Flip the Script on Aging" focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. It encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and have meaningful conversations that can help dispel misconceptions.

We call upon all residents to join us in recognizing the contributions of our older citizens and promoting programs and activities that foster connection, inclusion, and support for older adults.

David Guth

David Guth, Mayor
Dated: May 5, 2025

Denise L. Becton

Attest: Denise L. Becton
Municipal Clerk

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta the Regular and Executive Meeting Minutes of March 7th and the aforementioned **Proclamation Older American Month** be adopted as read.

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

OLD BUSINESS
PUBLIC HEARING:

ORDINANCE 2025-5
SALARY ORDINANCE
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NJ

- Motion to open Public Hearing Committeeperson Butler seconded by Committeeperson Payne.
Unanimous Vote.
- Public Comments – none heard
- Motion to **CLOSE** the Public Hearing and **ADOPT**

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Payne the aforementioned Ordinance 2025-5 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

PUBLIC HEARING:

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”

- Motion to open Public Hearing Committeeperson Butler seconded by Committeeperson Payne.
Unanimous Vote.
- Public Comments – none heard
- Motion to **CLOSE** the Public Hearing and **ADOPT**

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer the aforementioned Ordinance 2025-6 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

NEW BUSINESS
SHARED SERVICES – Washington Township for Uniform Code and Construction Services

Attorney Benbrook advised this is a 5-year agreement as a Shared Service Agreement with Washington Township, replacing NJDCA for construction permits in Franklin Township. A one-time fee of \$6,300.00 for transfer of records. Washington Township will collect and receive all permit fees representing payment of salary/benefits for their personnel paid through the provider.

TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION #2025-37

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN AND THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR UNIFORM CODE AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act”, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. (the “Act”) authorizes local units of this State to enter into an agreement with any other local unit or units to provide or receive any service that each local unit participating in the Agreement is empowered to provide or receive in its own jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin, County of Warren (hereinafter “Recipient”) is in need of the services of licensed personnel in order to perform Construction Official duties pursuant to the Uniform Construction Code Act (also referenced as the “services”) within the Recipient’s jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington, County of Warren (hereinafter “Provider”) is willing to assist the Recipient by permitting its personnel to provide the services to the Recipient; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of inter-municipal cooperation, and in furtherance of the principles underlying the Act, the Provider and the Recipient (collectively the “parties”) have negotiated an Agreement for the shared provision of the services within their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of this undertaking are set forth in the Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Warren hereby authorizes the execution of the attached Agreement for the Township of Washington, County of Warren to provide Uniform Code and Construction Services to the Township of Franklin.

The within Resolution 2025-37 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	

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, In the County of Warren, New Jersey, at a meeting held on May 5, 2025.

Witness my hand and the SEAL of the Township of Franklin.

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

Adopted May 5, 2025

REPORTS/UPDATES

Jim Onembo, Zoning Officer – Report submitted and on file.
The old municipal building has been converted into a childcare type of facility.

Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney –
Attorney Benbrook advised he filed the motion on Tigar seeking daily and weekly fines as well as additional cleanup of the property.

Donna Becker, Engineer -
The Dioxane Project commenced May 1st and the NJDEP permit was not in hand so the water company shut it down, hopefully the work will begin soon. The MS4 reports were due on May 1st and submitted and the mapping is in due by January 2025. The Willow Grove Road Grant will be lost if we don’t respond by November 2025. The 2026 Grant application is due by July 1st will need to coordinate with our CFO and DPW Foreman and Liaison prior to submitting.

Joe Biel, DPW Foreman – Report submitted and on file.
Mr. Biel was informed of a tree on Mountain View Road West that needs to be looked at. Working on generator quotes for the OEM.

Franklin Township Fire/EMS – Karen Chiu, EMS Captain
The annual Car/Vendor/Craft show had a tremendous turnout this past weekend. Thank you to Frigid Freeze for donation of food items, we couldn't have don't it without Jason Banghart and Dave Leary. Thank you as well as our DPW for mowing the lawn. Deputy Mayor Herzer thanked Ms. Chiu for all that she does and secondly please inform the Chief of a mountain of pallets outside of the Archives building, which could be a fire hazard.

OEM - Shawna Tabert – Report submitted and on file.
Finishing up on the paperwork for the Millbrook Road project. Looking to purchase through the EMAA grant Stop the Bleed kits as well as AEDs for religious organizations in our territory. June 28th will be the Bicentennial Celebration for Warren County; our municipal parking lot will be used for overflow parking and shuttle to the college. Mayor Guth thanked OEM Tabert for all her hard work; it is quite tedious.

Recycling – Kevin Murray –
The 2024 Tonnage grant has been submitted, a grant allowance of \$600 increase for 2024 was received a total of \$1,433.81. Regarding Clean Communities we have equipment per capital with that a 5-year average can be used up to 25% of the grant per year for equipment purchase and can roll those funds over from last year, a total of \$17,353.90 can be used towards equipment. Free handouts purchased through the Clean Communities Grant were placed in the back of the room, reusable grocery bags, pens with stylus on the end, and dog waste bags, please help yourself.

Committee Reports:

Bonnie Butler – Liaison Butler met with the Historical Commission. Foreman Biel is waiting on a pipe to erect the flagpole at the road garage. The commission needs access to the office for use of the photocopier on meeting dates, would like Amy Perkins to have the access code. Approval of budget items will go through Liaison Butler. Twelve historical markers will be put up around the municipality on historical sites. Foreman Biel was informed to keep track of all manhours while working on historical projects to be paid out of the trust. Relocation of the Indian stones, bench and time capsule on the front lawn and add a tree. This will be coordinated with the DPW and Historical Commission.

Rich Herzer – Nothing further to report.

Mike Toretta – Nothing further to report.

Sarah Payne – Committeeperson Payne informed that the Habitat Homes to be built is a lottery for anyone interested and will need to apply by June 17th.

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 8:20 p.m. Mayor Guth opened the floor to the Public. Unanimous vote.

Karen Chiu – Ms. Chiu informed that fire and EMS have a tentative date to cleanup three roads through the Clean Community funds. Bags and gloves will be supplied, and the garbage can be left on the side of the road for the DPW to pick up afterwards. CPR/First Aid fund raiser will be held at the school.

Laura Winiarsky – there was no representation from Franklin Township at the April 30th meeting pertaining to the PFAS water contamination. Mayor Guth informed us that it is not in the Franklin phase yet and we have not received any information. We are on the NJDEP's list.

Basil Imbimbo – Any progress for the 3-way stops on Old Main Street. Attorney Benbrook will follow up on this.

Jackie Martinson – Inquired to anything new with Tobias/Heritage properties, none. The MWA tested high for PFAS.

Keith Russell – Mr. Russell presented an overview from NJAW of drinking water supplied and pumped into your homes that we pay for and surrounding areas, PFAS water contaminant exceeds the maximum federal requirements and is a health and environmental risk. Are there any state and/or federal grants to aid filtration systems and bottled water. provided information packets for anyone that would like one. NJAW is not responsible for coming into compliance until 2029. Annual reports of NJAW are posted on their websites of PFAS increasing since 2022. Mayor Guth spoke with Mr. Russell earlier and would like to confirm his findings with the NJAW and EPA.

Dave Leary – The best way to rid yourself of pallets piling up is put a Free Pallet sign in front of your business and people will take them. As to the Dioxane project, no free water was delivered to those residents affected this month, Engineer Becker will follow up with this.

Hearing nothing further from the public, Mayor Guth closed the Open public session at 8:40 p.m. Unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Contract Negotiations – Kober’s Solar Farm

BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of May 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 the executive session can be publicly disclosed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved on this 5th day of May 2025 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in an executive session, said session to commence at approximately 8:40 p.m.

On Motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta to exit to executive session at 8:40 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Butler to return to the regular session at 9:11 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer 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

Attorney Benbrook recapitulated the contractual discussion in executive session with the developer of the former Kober’s Solar site to discuss an acquisition from us of a license to install conduit down the public Right-of-Way on White’s Road. They made an offer and the committee’s consensus is for the attorney to negotiate this contract with a counteroffer on behalf of the township.

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