

MINUTES
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE/BOARD OF HEALTH
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
7:30 PM

Franklin Township Municipal Building, 202 Sidney Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Homulak at 7:30 pm. Mayor Homulak read the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) Statement and led the flag salute.

Roll Call: Sebastian Donaruma (absent) Michael Homulak (present)
Craig Repmann (present) Deanna Seiple (present) Alexa Tarby (present)

Also present: Igor Bykov, Attorney (Lavery, Selvaggi & Cohen, P.C.)
Christine Burke, Municipal Clerk
Chief Timothy Snyder, Police Department

Mayor Homulak briefly explained the agenda.

Comments from the Public on Agenda Items Only:

No one from the public spoke on Agenda Items.

Proclamations & Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the September 12, 2024, Township Committee/Board of Health Work-Session/Regular Meeting & Executive Session minutes: Seiple Second: Tarby

Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Payment of Bills:

Motion to approve the Bills List: Repmann Second: Seiple

Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Ordinances:

1. Amendment & Re-Introduction of Ordinance 2024-08(A): Bond Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Bond Ordinance Number 2023-07 (Various Improvements to Municipal Buildings and Grounds) Finally Adopted by the Township Committee on November 9, 2023, to Increase the Appropriation Therein by \$1,000,000 (Including Grant Proceeds in the Aggregate Amount of \$368,223.98) and to Increase the Authorization of Bonds or Notes Therein by ~~\$952,380~~ \$601,691 to Finance Part of the Additional Costs Thereof.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for October 24, 2024.

Mayor Homulak read the provided explanatory statement:

The purpose of this bond ordinance is to amend Bond Ordinance No. 2023-07 which was adopted to finance the costs associated with the improvements made for the renovation of the municipal building, including the police headquarters under the requirements dictated by the Department of Corrections. It remains within the expected budget for the total renovation.

Provided by Cameron Keng, Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-08(A): Repmann Second: Tarby
Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

2. Introduction & First Reading of Ordinance 2024-09: An Ordinance of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, Providing for Various Capital Improvements, Equipment, Vehicles and Related Expenses in and for the Township of Franklin and Appropriating \$450,000.
 - a. Public Hearing and Final Adoption scheduled for October 24, 2024.

Mayor Homulak read the provided explanatory statement:

The Township annually enacts a capital ordinance to fund the capital projects planned for the current year. It is an annually recurring ordinance that is expected. This capital ordinance funds the improvements of our roads and the purchase of equipment and vehicles for municipal purposes based on our capital schedule.

Provided by Cameron Keng, Chief Finance Officer (CFO)

Motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-09: Repmann Second: Seiple
Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Resolutions:

1. Resolution 2024-45: Appointment – Department of Finance/Tax Collector – Assistant Finance Officer/Deputy Tax Collector – Olivia Tortorello.

Mayor Homulak explained that the resolution was in response to the topic discussed in Executive Session at the prior meeting.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-45: Repmann Second: Tarby
Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

2. Resolution 2024-46: Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit (CY 2023).
3. Resolution 2024-47: Accept and Approve Corrective Action Plan for CY2023 Audit.

Mayor Homulak briefly explained the results of the annual Audit, citing a “clean bill of health”, and indicated that the Audit document would be posted on the Township website the following day.

Motion to adopt Resolutions 2024-46 and 2024-47: Repmann Second: Tarby

Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

4. Resolution 2024-48: Memorializing Resolution – Appointment – Police Recruit – Tyler Sutton.

Mayor Homulak briefly explained that the resolution memorialized actions taken by the Township Committee after prior Executive Sessions.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-48: Tarby Second: Seiple

Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

5. Resolution 2024-49: Authorization to Advertise for Bids – Oak Grove Road Improvements Project – Phase III.

Mayor Homulak briefly explained the grant and the project, indicating that a contract needed to be awarded by November.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-49: Repmann Second: Tarby

Roll call: Donaruma (Absent) Homulak (Aye) Repmann (Aye) Seiple (Aye) Tarby (Aye)

Board of Health: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Committee Member Reports:

Committeewoman Seiple reported that she was compiling a newsletter and requested that articles be submitted by the end of the month.

Committeewoman Tarby reported that Community Day was a “great success”, described the event, and acknowledged Committeeman Repmann’s efforts to coordinate the event in prior years. She further reported that the annual “Trunk or Treat” event would take place the last Friday in October at the Clinton Elks on Sidney Road.

Committeeman Repmann reported that a Department of Public Works (DPW) employee was taking classes to obtain certification as a Certified Public Works Manager (CPWM). He explained that this effort assists in the Township’s succession plan for the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Comments from the Public:

Roy Emerson, 15 Landsdown Road, commented that Township Veterans had joined a team that would be rowing a boat across the Atlantic to promote veteran suicide awareness and requested that an article be placed in the Township newsletter.

Ingrid Taff, 41 Upper Kingtown Road, commented that she had attended the Land Use Board (LUB) meeting held on the online Zoom meeting application the prior evening, and indicated that the Township needed to provide hybrid or online Zoom meeting access in the New Municipal Building.

Elizabeth Basile, 16 Upper Kingtown Road, commented on topics mentioned at the prior evening's Land Use Board (LUB) meeting, specifically possible efforts being made by Kingwood Township to open their municipality to cannabis businesses and a Franklin Township Referendum question for the next year regarding allowing cannabis businesses in the Township. She further questioned the Township Attorney regarding the involvement of applicants in the drafting of an ordinance. Mayor Homulak thanked Ms. Basile for her comments.

Executive Session:

The Township Attorney explained the need to enter Executive Session, that action may be taken, and that all attendees of the meeting could wait outside of the meeting room except for the Committee, the Township Clerk, and the Township Attorney.

Upon confirmation of the absence of all but the required attendees, the Township Clerk stopped audio recording of the meeting.

Motion to enter executive session: Repmann
All in favor. Motion carried.

Second: Seiple

Committee entered Executive Session at 7:46 pm.

Topics discussed:

1. Attorney-Client Privilege/Litigation/Contractual – Lease of Township Owned Property – Quakertown Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (QVEMS).

Committee exited Executive Session at 8:02 pm.

Motion to exit executive session and resume regular meeting: Repmann
All in favor. Motion carried.

Second: Seiple

The Township Attorney explained the topics discussed in Executive Session, that no action would be taken, and that minutes would become available once the need for confidentiality was no longer required.

Action by the Committee: None.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Repmann Second: Tarby

All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Prepared by Christine Burke, Township Clerk



Adopted: 10/10/2024