

WORKSHOP MEETING

Budget Workshop Synopsis

The Franklin Township Committee held a Budget Workshop Meeting on Monday, January 31, 2022, at the hour of 5:00 p.m. Mayor Mike Toretta 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.

ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Butler-Yes, Ferri-Yes, Guth-Yes, Herzer-Yes; Toretta-Yes. (5) Present; (0) Absent

Present were: Joe Biel, DPW Foreman and Brandon Lisa, Road Laborer I, Raymond Read, OEM, Jan Verkade, Fire Chief, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk.

The committee reviewed the department and employee wish lists submitted.

Fire Department/EMS

Chief Verkade attending this evening submitted the 2022 Fire and EMS Division Budget Requests. Chief Verkade advised for the Fire Department budget money is needed for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), turn out gear, service and repairs on trucks and equipment, pumps, replace some fire hose and nozzles. A total budget request for fire division \$57,900. EMS division, 924 calls in 2021. Request for COVID related supplies, equipment repair, medical supplies, EMS training and Electronic EMS Charting annual state mandated charting software fee. A total request for EMS Division \$21,680. Workers Compensation reimbursement initial physicals discussed for new members.

OEM

OEM Read informed a replacement for DOEM will be needed since DOEM Becton will be resigning effective March 31, 2022.

DPW

A discussion ensued with Brandon Lisa and Joe Biel as to enrollment into the State Health Benefits Plan, the cost out of employee's pocket Direct 10 vs Direct 15. Looking for accurate numbers per paycheck and the statutory payroll deduction for health/dental insurances. Also, looking to receive their dental/health insurance cards for doctor visits. The township committee conferenced called the CFO into this meeting to assist with this matter at 5:31 pm. CFO informed the deduction from your paycheck is based on your salary and the plan you choose. The CFO will have our Auditor John Mooney re-calculate the figures to compare. At approximately 5:50 pm CFO disconnected from the meeting.

The DPW is looking to increase their boot allowance and purchase winter jackets instead of renting, as this will save money. Joe Biel is now a certified CPWM, and individual letters received for salary increase consideration.

A minor accident with one of our plow trucks and a vehicle running a red light, ripping our plow off the truck has been submitted to the insurance company.

Open Space/Recycle/Office Assistant

The positions of the Open Space Secretary and Recycle Coordinator will need to be filled and a job description will be needed to be created to hire an Office Assistant for 2 days a week and 7 hours a day to assist the Municipal Clerk effective March 31st due to retirement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED on this 31st day of January, 2022, 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

Personnel – Land Use Board Resumes

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 31st, day of January 2022 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at 6:19 pm.

On Motion by Mike Ferri and seconded by David Guth to exit to executive session at 6:19 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded Rich Herzer to return to the regular session at 6:38 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

Committeeperson Mike Toretta made a motion to hire effective immediately Kelley Smith for the Land Use Board Secretary, seconded by Rich Herzer, pending salary.

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

Mayor advised to digest all that has been discussed this evening. Next workshop meeting, Monday, February 7, 2022, at 5 pm.

Committeeman Herzer thanked all those involved with the Dioxane issue, it was a group effort that made it so successful.

Lime Kiln Road still experiences trucks that shouldn't be on the road getting stuck. More aggressive signage is needed.

Committeeperson Butler suggested we need a SALT Fund.

Additional plow drivers are needed to assist during the winter months.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 7:19 pm. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk