

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Franklin Township Committee held its regular monthly meeting, via ZOOM, on Monday, July 12, 2021. Mayor Mike Ferri opened the meeting, at approximately 7:00 pm, 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 a **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bonnie Butler, Rich Herzer, Mike Toretta, Mayor Mike Ferri, (4) Present.

Present: Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk, Jim Onembo, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin Benbrook, Municipal Attorney, Mike Finelli, Municipal Engineer, Ron Read & Joe Biel DPW.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**(One Roll Call to approve the following agenda items 2-3)**

**(Kober’s was not entertained for renewal as nothing has been received if still in active operation)**

**2. APPROVAL**

- a. Meeting Minutes **RE: June 7, 2021**
- b. Junkyard Renewal **RE: Kober’s**

**3. RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING/ADOPTION**

- a. Proclamation **RE: Jeff DeAngelis**
- b. Res. 2021-49 **RE: Brush, Noxious Weeds, Grass, etc, for several abandoned properties**
- c. Res. 2021-50 **RE: Appointment of LUB Alternate #1**
- d. Res. 2021-51 **RE: Tax Refund B7 L17 Tax Sale Cert#2020-001**
- e. Res. 2021-52 **RE: REM Foreclosures**

The approval of the June 7th, 2021 meeting minutes, Proclamation and Resolutions 2021-49 – 52, on motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Toretta.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>
Mayor Mike Ferri	X		
Bonnie Butler	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Richard Herzer	X	(4)Yes	(0) No (0) Absent
			Motion carried

**RESOLUTUIONS/PROCLAMATIONS: Res. 2021-49 – Res. 2021-52**

**PROCLAMATION  
HONORING  
JEFF DEANGELIS**

**WHEREAS**, Jeff DeAngelis has served the Township of Franklin, since 2006, as a Township Committee Member, and;

**WHEREAS**, Jeff DeAngelis has served as Mayor for nine of those thirteen years and;

**WHEREAS**, Jeff has served as liaison to the Township for Insurance, Fire and EMS and the FTYA and;

**WHEREAS**, Jeff has served as a member of the Land Use Board for nine years,

**WHEREAS**, he has pledged to be ever mindful of his neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all, Jeff has shown unselfish devotion to the community knowing he has shared in its growth and success; civic dedication such as his is the measure through which achievement is attained, and, therefore, the strength of every community; and,

**THEREFORE**, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of

**JEFF DEANGELIS**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Township Committee of Franklin Township, Warren County, in the State of New Jersey, does hereby recognize Jeff DeAngelis for his dedication to public service and his many accomplishments on behalf of the residents of Franklin Township.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnie Butler, Committeeperson

Rich Herzer, Committeeperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Toreta, Committeeperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Ferri, Mayor

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Proclamation by the Franklin Township Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting, held on Monday, July 12th, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

Dated: July 12, 2021

**RESOLUTION 2021-49**

**WHEREAS**, the General Code of the Township of Franklin, Chapter 48, Article 1 and Article 2 Regulating the growth of Brush, Noxious Weeds and Grass, Etc. Authorizes the Department of Public Works to remove debris, brush and noxious growth after Providing the notice required by the ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the required notice was sent to the below properties by certified mail return receipt requested and regular mail; and

**WHEREAS**, ten days has elapsed since the notices were received; and

**WHEREAS**, the property owners failed to remove the debris, brush and noxious growth within ten days of their receipt of the notice; and

**WHEREAS**, the outside contractor, for Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ caused the debris, brush, and noxious growth to be removed; and

**WHEREAS**, the outside contractor, for Franklin Township, Warren County, NJ has certified to the Mayor and Committee the cost of the removal of the debris, brush and noxious growth.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The certification of the costs of removal of the debris, brush and noxious growth has been examined and found to be correct.
2. The tax collector is hereby directed that the following costs shall be charged against the land and shall be added to and become part of the taxes next to be assessed and levied upon such land, 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:

Property Address	Block	Lot	Property Owner	Cost
<b>36 Halfway House Rd.</b> (05/19/21 & 06/02/21 & 06/16/21)	15	15	Richard & Lisa Standish	\$180
<b>2511 Rt. 57</b> (05/19/21 & 06/05/21 & 06/16/2021)	34	13.01	Floyd & Alice Stecker	\$210
<b>2517 Rt. 57</b> (05/25/21 & 06/16/21 3 ft. grass tractor/brush hog)	34	16	Amy Poleselli	\$600



**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-51**

**WHEREAS**, US Bank-Cust for PCB, First Trust Bank holds Tax Sale Certificate #2020-001 on Block 7 Lot 17 and,

**WHEREAS**, the property owner has redeemed this lien,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Township Committee authorizes the Tax Collector to refund the redemption amount of \$ \$12,253.81 to US Bank-Cust for PCB, 2500 McClellan Blvd., Suite 200, Pennsauken, NJ 081009.

The within **Resolution 2021-51** was moved by Committeeperson Rich Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Mike Toretta and upon roll call vote was passed.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>
Bonnie Butler	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Mike Ferri	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent Motion Carried

**CERTIFICATION**

It is hereby certified that this is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the governing body of the Township of Franklin at a meeting held in the Municipal Building, on July 12, 2021.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

**Res. 2021-52  
RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING IN REM FORECLOSURE OF  
MUNICIPALLY HELD TAX SALE CERTIFICATES**

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 54:5-104.35 provides the authority for a governing body to proceed with the In Rem Foreclosure process on those municipally held tax sale certificates held for more than six months from the date of Tax Sale and contain real estate taxes that are unpaid for at least 21 months:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021 by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Franklin that the Township Attorney is hereby authorized to proceed with the In Rem Foreclosure of the Tax Sale Certificates reflected upon the certified foreclosure list, prepared by the Tax Collector and attached hereto, pursuant to the Rules of Civil Practice in the Superior Court of New Jersey.

The within **Resolution 2021-52** was moved by Committeeperson Rich Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Mike Toretta and upon roll call vote was passed.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>
Bonnie Butler	X		
Rich Herzer	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Mike Ferri	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent Motion Carried

### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Franklin Township Committee at a meeting held on July 12, 2021.

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Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR  
Municipal Clerk/Registrar,  
Franklin Township

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**NJSP- no representation present**

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
Ordinance 2021-8  
(Tabled until 08-09-2021 Agenda waiting on proposals)**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$40,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT IN CONNECTION WITH THE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MONTANA ROAD GABION RETAINING WALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

### **DISCUSSIONS:**

**Request for Proposals- Professional Services** – The consensus of the committee is to entertain proposals for 2022 for all municipal professionals, as this hasn't been done in quite some time.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF:**

**Final Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-6**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-6**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN**

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Rich Herzer to open the Public Hearing.

No Public Comments

On motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Toretta to close the Public Hearing.

On motion by Committeeperson Rich Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Mike Ferri the  
aforenoted Ordinance 2021-6 be adopted at final reading.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstain</b>	
Bonnie Butler		X		
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X	(3) Yes (1) No	(0) Absent	Motion carried

**Final Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-7**

**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
WARREN COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
Ordinance 2021-7**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$108,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT IN CONNECTION  
WITH THE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MILLBROOK ROAD (SECTION I)  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Mike Toretta to open the Public Hearing.

No Public Comments

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Mike Rich Herzer to close the Public Hearing.

On motion by Committeeperson Mike Toretta and seconded by Committeeperson Rich Herzer the  
aforenoted Ordinance 2021-7 be adopted at final reading.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstain</b>	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X	(4) Yes (0) No	(0) Absent	Motion carried

**REPORTS/UPDATES:**

**Engineer Report** – No formal report submitted. The 2022 DOT Grant Application has been submitted.  
The Good Springs Road Drainage Improvement Project is ongoing.

**Attorney Report** – Report on file – Not present this evening

**Open Space Commission** – Committeeman Herzer advised there was no meeting.

**Musconetcong River Management Council** – MRMCC – No representation this evening

**Jim Onembo – Code Enforcement/Zoning**

Mr. Onembo updated the committee as to various Zoning matters. A complaint as to chickens was addressed earlier this month. Resident Elizabeth Pereira, 6 Quarry Road, in attendance at tonight’s meeting and neighbors on her behalf. The Township Committee will look into this matter further.

**Recycling –**

Spring Clean Up held at the WC Pollution Control was a success. The total cost for cleanup was \$2,245.32, previous years \$8,000 plus.

**Office of Emergency Management - Denise Becton, DOEM**

Deputy Becton informed that OEM Read filed for reimbursement for the snowstorm through FEMA. Also, two non-profit grants were filed for Fire/EMS for equipment.

**Fire Department/EMS – Chief Jan Verkade – not present**

**Franklin Township Community Center – Eddy Patient – not present**

Committeeperson Butler spoke to Eddy and he would like to see the platform to be entertained in the Community Center. Can we move this project with a not to exceed amount? Consensus of the committee is to complete the renovation of the bathroom first then entertain the platform.

**DPW REPORT – No Report submitted – Joe Biel**

A discussion as to oil/chip, 1.2 miles of road, oil has increased 24.5 cents per gallon. We will wait to Oil/Chip next year and use bond monies. With all the bad weather it has been hard to keep municipal roads clear of debris. The Help Wanted Ad for Road Repairer I, has been sent to the newspaper and NJLM as well as posted on the website. Waiting on Mr. Kaiser to grind brush and stumps at road garage.

**Franklin Township Youth Association – No one present**

**Township Committee Reports:**

**Rich Herzer –**

Committeeman Herzer would like to solicit solar on the property on Beidleman Road. Engineer Finelli will follow up with Mark Bellin for further guidance. Mr. Herzer would like to see Joe Biel to start working in with Ronnie, overseeing the day-to-day operations and move into the Foreman position once Mr. Read retires.

Committeeperson Bonnie Butler moved this motion to promote Joe Biel to DPW Foreman effective 12/1/2021 date of retirement for Ron Read seconded by Committeeperson Mike Toretta.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X	(4)	Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion carried

Mr. Herzer questioned if the township would entertain waiving of the late fees for the renewal of dog licenses, since the office wasn’t open for residents to come in the building. Dog Licensing Official Becton informed that licensing has been running smoothly, especially when the office was closed to the public, receiving checks by mail or were left in the outside drop box.

**Mike Toretta –**

Committeeman Toretta had a phone conference as to the Community Solar Project, at the Blue Army Shrine. Once you sign up you receive 10% off your electric bill. Looking to reduce costs for the DPW building and street lighting throughout the township. Franklin Township BOE has been contacted and residents if they qualify could also benefit. Fire/EMS should be noticed as to the Community Solar Project.

**Bonnie Butler-**

Committeeperson Butler is looking into renewing health insurance for eligible employees through the State Health Benefits in January. Renewing now through our current agent until we can apply with the State.

**Mike Ferri, Mayor –**

Mayor Ferri would like to see the new hire for the road department to start by October, due to a three- month waiting period for health insurance. This way the new hire can be placed on the State Health Benefits.

**At this time, the floor was open to Public Session**

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Hearing no public comments.

**Close the floor to Public Session**

**MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILL LIST:**

On motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Bonnie Butler, to pay, the Bills List as submitted by the CFO, accordingly.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent	Motion carried

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Mike Ferri, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 8:04 pm.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Rich Herzer	X				
Michael Toretta	X				
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes (0) No (0) Absent		Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton  
Municipal Clerk