

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

The Franklin Township Committee held a Budget Workshop meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 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: Margaret Pasqua, CFO, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk

Margaret Pasqua, CFO, reviewed the updates and adjustments made to the 2025 Municipal Budget per our last budget meeting. At this time our tax rate would be 0.3571 with an increase of 0.0091, keeping the tax increase under a penny. \$100,000 was pulled out of the budget for map digitization once the budget is adopted then a Special Emergency Appropriation can be adopted and paid for in the next five years. The DPW Foreman requested a \$7,000 raise to utilize his CPWM certification. The CFO advised that the increase is already built into the budget. After the mayor spoke with our past engineer, he informed us that the CPWM certification applies more in the big towns as it deals more on the administrative end. Committeeperson Toretta would still like to see the raise given as it is deserved and feels he is underpaid in comparison to neighboring municipalities. Majority of the committee would like additional information on other salaries prior to considering an increase without the certification being a factor. We should also consider providing our employees with cost of fringe benefits on top of their salaries as well.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Toretta to increase the DPW Foreman’s salary by \$7,000.

Roll Call Vote	Yes	No	Absent/Abstained
Bonnie Butler	X		
Rich Herzer			X
Sarah Payne			X
Mike Toretta	X		
David Guth, Mayor			X
(2) Yes (0) No (3) Abstained			
Motion DID NOT Carry			

The CFO informed that a Seasonal employee is defined as working up to 6 months out of the year. NJ Unemployment is 20 weeks. We might not get billed but our rate could increase if people keep hitting unemployment per our CFO. For someone hired to roadside mow should work no more than 18 weeks. Committeeperson Payne asked why we aren’t training our other employees to use this tractor as well.

Committeeperson Butler spoke with the Tax Collector, currently she is \$2,000 behind the Tax Assessor’s salary. Following up on her letter of consideration, she is requesting an additional \$2,000. Plus, an additional \$40/hr. for no more than 10 hours for tax sale and stuffing tax bills.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Personnel – Part-Time positions Shared Services

BE IT RESOLVED on this 20th day of March 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 10th day of March 2025 by the Franklin Township Committee, that the matter stated will be discussed in executive session, said session to commence at approximately 4:30 p.m.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Herzer to exit to executive session at 4:30 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Payne to return to the regular session at 4:49 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Guth to increase the Tax Collector's salary by \$2,000 and \$40/hr. for no more than up to 10 hours for tax sales and stuffing tax bills annually.

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

RESOLUTIONS-First Reading/Adoption – Resolution 2025-30

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:

1. 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

2. 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

Resolution 2025-30 will be tabled until further information is obtained as to what this program does for the students of Franklin Township, bus stops in Franklin Township and activities. This discussion will be placed on our April 7th meeting agenda.

On motion by Committeeperson Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Guth, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk

