

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Franklin Township Committee held its regular monthly meeting, via ZOOM, on Monday, April 5, 2021, hosted by Jean Paul Reece of ARAE Network. Mayor Mike Ferri opened the meeting, at approximately 7:01 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.

**ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bonnie Butler, Rich Herzer, Mike Toretta, Mayor Mike Ferri, (4) Present. Jeff DeAngelis, (1) Absent

Present were: Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk, Jim Onembo, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Finelli, Municipal Engineer, Ron Read/Joe Biel DPW, Kathleen Reinalda, CFO

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

(One Roll Call to approve the following agenda items 2-4)

- 2. **APPROVAL**
  - a. Meeting Minutes **RE: March 1, 2021**
  - b. Executive Meeting Minutes **RE: March 1, 2021**
  - c. Budget Workshop Minutes **RE: March 8, 2021**
  
- 3. **RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING/ADOPTION**
  - a. Res. 2021-33 **RE: LUB Re-Appointments due to vacancy**
  - b. Res. 2021-34 **RE: Tax Refund B58 L1 Qfarm**
  
- 4. **APPROVALS**
  - a. Letter of Support **RE: MWA Landscape Project**

**RESOLUTIONS: Res. 2021-33 – Res. 2021-34**

**RESOLUTION 2021-33**

**WHEREAS, Ordinance 2002-14** provides for the establishment of a "Land Use Board" consisting of nine members that shall be appointed by the Mayor of the Township of Franklin. A vacancy has occurred for the year 2019.

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor of the Township of Franklin, for the Class IV, Chris Hamler, 3 year term, vacancy effective 3/22/2021, hereby appoint Mike Handel to fill the remainder of the term to expire 12/31/2022.

**WHEREAS,** the Mayor of the Township of Franklin, for the Alt. #1, 1 year term, vacancy, expires 12/31/2021.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer the aforementioned **Resolution 2021-33** be adopted as read.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>
Bonnie Butler	X		
Jeff DeAngelis			X
Rich Herzer	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Mike Ferri	X	(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent	Motion Carried

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Franklin Township Committee at a meeting held on April 5, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise L. Becton RMC/CMR

Dated: April 5, 2021

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-34**

**WHEREAS**, an overpayment of taxes was made by the homeowner on Block 58 Lot 1 Qfarm, and

**WHEREAS**, the homeowner has requested a refund check be issued,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Committee authorize the Tax Collector to refund the amount of \$ 2,746.19 to Barry Tobias, 1055 River Road, Unit 706, Edgewater, NJ 07020.

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer the aforementioned **Resolution 2021-34** be adopted as read.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstained</b>
Bonnie Butler	X		
Jeff DeAngelis			X
Rich Herzer	X		
Michael Toretta	X		
Mayor Mike Ferri	X		
(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent Motion Carried			

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Franklin Township Committee at a meeting held on April 5, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise L. Becton RMC/CMR

Dated: April 5, 2021

On motion by Committeeperson Rich Herzer and seconded by Committeeperson Mike Toretta the Consent Agenda be adopted/approved as listed above.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REPORTS/UPDATES**

NJSP – no representation this evening

**DISCUSSIONS/APPROVALS/EXECUTIONS**

**Community Center Platform and Heat**

The new doors are installed per Mayor Ferri. Committeepersons Butler and Herzer will meet with Eddy Patient as to upgrades in the Center, e.g., heat and a new platform and storage container. Further discussion to ensue at next month’s meeting.

**Farmland Preservation Program-Richard Gardner B48 Lots 12.01 & 14 – Sale of Development Easement**

Township Committee’s consensus authorizing the mayor to execute the letter in support on behalf of the Township Committee.

**Old Main Street-Proposed Layout**

Basil Imbimbo present this evening reviewed his proposed layout for Old Main Street in Asbury, NJ. Pedestrian crosswalks, rumble strips, parking on one side of the street, three way stop at intersections Old Main and Maple Avenue. Engineer Finelli will reach out to further discuss with the WC Engineer, Bill Gleba.

**WC Public Works Shared Services Agreement for Road Department and Equipment**

Foreman Read advised that they have used, in the past, from the Warren County Road Department, oil/chip, a roller and dump truck.

On motion by Committeeperson Bonnie Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Rich Herzer to authorize the mayor to execute the Shared Services Agreement with Warren County.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstain</b>	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Jeff DeAngelis			X	
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X			(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent Motion carried

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF:**

**Final Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 2021-4**

**ORDINANCE 2021-4  
CALENDAR YEAR 2021  
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS  
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK  
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

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

No Public Comments

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

On motion by Committeeperson Bonnie Butler and seconded by Committeeperson Mike Ferri the aforementioned Ordinance 2021-4 be adopted at final reading.

<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent/Abstain</b>	
Bonnie Butler	X			
Jeff DeAngelis			X	
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X			(4) Yes (0) No (1) Absent Motion carried

**REPORTS/UPDATES:**

**Engineer Report –**

Engineer Finelli informed the committee that the gas line has been provided on Beidleman Road for servicing of the Habitat homes.

**Attorney Report – Not present this evening**

**Open Space Commission** – Committeeman Herzer advised nothing at this time going on with the Commission.

**Jim Onembo – Code Enforcement/Zoning**

Mr. Onembo updated the committee as to various happenings he has addressed in the township this past month.

**Fire Department/EMS – No one present this evening**

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

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

OEM Read is presently looking into Grants for Emergency Services.

**2021 Municipal Budget Introduction Discussion**

A lengthy discussion ensued as to the 2021 Municipal Budget. At this time, we are at a 2.16 cent increase equates to an annual tax increase of \$66 a year, based on 306,000 valuation. Outsource mowing this year was discussed and five quotes were received to mow our Open Space properties. Additional unplanned billings received from Knowlton Township Court and our Tax Appeal Attorney from last year. These bills should have been billed in 2020 but delayed in getting to us. Budget discussions will continue at our May meeting with a possible Introduction.

**REPORTS continued**

**DPW REPORT – Ron Read – Report submitted and on file**

Curbside Brush Cleanup has started today. We also need to advertise for a new hire for the road department. Mayor Ferri and Committeeperson Butler will sit down to discuss.

**Franklin Township Youth Association – Barbara Banes**

Mrs. Banes inquired if our road department will still be lining the soccer fields if the mowing is outsourced? Joe Biel does an excellent job lining the fields and they work well together. The mayor informed that they only plan on outsourcing the mowing and weed whacking.

OEM Read will be informed to search any available Generator Grants for the DPW and Municipal Offices.

**Township Committee Reports:**

**Rich Herzer –**

Committeeman Herzer inquired as to our Open Space properties and how we should get them back on the tax rolls. Possibly a solar field on the old Brandywine Property. Committeeman Toretta will research this further.

**Mike Toretta –**

Committeeman Toretta inquired if we will be sweeping our roads. Foreman read advised they will be cleaning up leaves in the developments, but salt does not need to be swept.

**Jeff DeAngelis – absent**

**Bonnie Butler-**

Nothing further to report

**Mike Ferri, Mayor –**

The Mayor would like an update from Bright Eye Solar as to the solar panels that have been installed on the municipal building roof.

**At this time on motion by Rich Herzer and seconded by Mike Toretta to open the floor to Public Session at 8:46 pm.**

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Karen Chiu – 14 Montana Road – Ms. Chiu would like an update as to the repair of the rock wall collapsing in front of her home and has this been figured into this year's budget? The mayor will meet with Ms. Chiu.

**At this time on motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Rich Herzer to close the floor to Public Session at 8:55 pm.**

**MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILL LIST:**

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Mike Ferri, 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				
Jeff DeAngelis			X		
Rich Herzer	X				
Michael Toretta	X				
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes	(0) No	(1) Absent Motion carried

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion by Mike Toretta and seconded by Rich Herzer, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 8:56 pm.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Bonnie Butler	X			
Jeff DeAngelis			X	
Rich Herzer	X			
Michael Toretta	X			
Mike Ferri, Mayor	X		(4) Yes	(0) No (1) Absent Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton  
Municipal Clerk