

WORKSHOP MEETING

Budget Workshop Synopsis

The Franklin Township Committee held a Budget Workshop Meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023, at the hour of 4:30 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-** Absent, **Herzer-Yes**(joined meeting at 5:00 p.m.); **Toretta-Yes.** (4) Present; (1) Absent

Present were: Joe Biel, DPW Foreman, Kathleen Reinalda, CFO, John Mooney, Municipal Auditor, Denise L. Becton, Municipal Clerk.

The CFO provided the committee with Preliminary Projected 2023 Tax Rate sheets and a memo from Engineer Finelli referencing the project on Millbrook Road Sections II & III, NJDOT 2022 & 2023 Local Aid Funds. A shortfall of \$35,164 is needed from Township Funds to complete Sections II & III and will have to be placed in this year’s budget. A discussion ensued as to the condition of the road and could oil/chip satisfy the other two Sections and cancelling grant money received from the State.

On motion by Committeeperson Mike Ferri and seconded by Bonnie Butler to cancel the Grants received from NJDOT for Sections II & III and our DPW can change the pipes and oil/chip (end of Section I up to the end of this road)using ARP Funds with no guiderail being replaced.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Mike Ferri	X				
David Guth			X		
Rich Herzer			X		
Mike Toretta, Mayor	X	(3) Yes	(0) No	(2) Absent	Motion carried

CFO Reinalda advised our Capital Improvement Fund needs to be cushioned, currently there is \$81,000. Auditor Mooney informed the \$20,000 for Shurts Road reimbursed to us can be placed in this Fund for 2023 with no impact to taxpayers.

Let the record reflect Committeeperson Rich Herzer joined the meeting at 5:00 p.m..

The Open Space Tax Rate last year was at zero per \$100 of assessed valuation for 2022 calendar year.

On motion by Committeeperson Bonnie Butler and seconded by Mike Ferri for 2023 calendar year increase the tax rate to \$0.25.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Mike Ferri	X				
David Guth			X		
Rich Herzer	X				
Mike Toretta, Mayor	X	(4) Yes	(0) No	(1) Absent	Motion carried

The DPW gas pumps are antiquated, and cards are not registering properly. Speaking with the manufacturer cards are discontinued. This will need to be addressed.

The DPW is responsible for traffic control for Section I work of Millbrook Road starting this Wednesday. Joe will have to find additional help to flag traffic this Wednesday and next. He will place letters in mailboxes informing residents on this road as to this work.

Committeeperson Butler and Guth as well as Foreman Biel will be interviewing those applicants chosen for the DPW Road Laborer position as soon as possible.

Mayor Toretta brought up the designation of Audrey Lane as “Public” after a search on the Engineer’s side for a resident selling a piece of property. The roads in that area have always been “Private” and would like for this to remain. The DPW will still maintain these roads and will continue to do so.

On motion by Committeeperson Rich Herzer and seconded by Bonnie Butler to have our attorney declare the following roads as “Private” Audrey Lane, Franklin Street, Mueller Lane, Skinner Court, and Olde Street.

Roll Call:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstained	
Bonnie Butler	X				
Mike Ferri	X				
David Guth			X		
Rich Herzer	X				
Mike Toretta, Mayor	X				
		(4) Yes	(0) No	(1) Absent	Motion carried

On motion by Bonnie Butler and seconded by Rich Herzer, hearing no objection, meeting stands adjourned at 5:19 pm. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Becton, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk