

The Special Meeting/Budget Hearing of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, New Jersey, was called to order by the Mayor at 7:06p.m.

Mayor Levine read the following statement: "In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Special Meeting/Budget Hearing of the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and by faxing to the officially designated newspapers, a notice indicating that the Special Meeting/Budget Hearing would take place in the Large Conference Room of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. on July 26, 2005. "

Everyone present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Township Clerk called the roll.

Present: Ms. Ashley-Williams, Ms. Danile, Ms. Eberle, Mr. Levine, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Regan (arrived at 7:30 p.m.), Ms. Ritchie (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), Mr. Sumter (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Mr. Vassanella.

Absent: No one.

Also present: Louis N. Rainone, Esq., Township Attorney, Kenneth W. Daly, Township Manager, Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk

RESOLUTION #05-342 – Adopt Temporary Capital Budget SFY2006

Mayor Levine presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, there is a need to adopt a Temporary Capital Budget SFY2006; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to adopt said Temporary Capital Budget SFY2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset that the following Temporary Capital Budget FY2006 herein appended be adopted.

Recorded Vote:	<u>AYES</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
	Ashley-Williams	Danile		Regan
	Eberle	Levine		Sumter
	McKenzie	Ritchie		
	Vassanella			

ABSTAIN

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the office of the Director of Local Government Services.

TEMPORARY CAPITAL BUDGET – SFY 2006

Local Unit Franklin Township, Somerset County

1 Project Title	2 Estimated Total Cost	6 Grants-in-Aid and Other Funds
MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS:		
Animal Shelter Improvements	952,825	313,325
Page Sub-Total	952,825	313,325

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor McKenzie, seconded by Ms. Ashley-Williams, the aforesaid resolution was adopted as follows upon call of the roll:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ashley-Williams	Danile			Regan
Eberle	Levine			Sumter
McKenzie	Ritchie			
Vassanella				

ORDINANCE #3563 INTRODUCTION

Mayor Levine presented the following ordinance as amended:

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 3345 HERETOFORE FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP ON DECEMBER 10, 2002 ENTITLED, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT PREPARATION RELATING TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE TOWNSHIP ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITIES, BY AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "TOWNSHIP"); APPROPRIATING \$52,500 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$49,800 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COSTS THEREOF," AS AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 3428 FINALLY ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 10, 2004, TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION THEREIN BY \$313,325

Mayor Levine stated that the foregoing ordinance is presented to the Township Council for adoption on first reading, posting, publication in accordance with law and public hearing and final adoption on August 9, 2005.

Deputy Mayor McKenzie moved the foregoing ordinance for adoption on first reading, posting, publication in accordance with law and public hearing and final adoption on August 9, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Ashley-Williams and carried as follows upon call of the roll:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ashley-Williams	Danile			Regan
Eberle	Levine			Sumter
McKenzie	Ritchie			
Vassanella				

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor McKenzie and seconded by Ms. Ashley-Williams to open the meeting for public discussion. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Harry Weber, Culver Street, indicated that prior to Mr. Daly, three versions of the budget were submitted – one with no increase, one with some increases and the other was a wish list. He stated that it seems that Council only votes on the wish list version. He asked what happened to the sewerage situation in District 2. He challenged the proposal of hiring ten (10) new police officers. He asked for summons statistics for the last five years. Mr. Weber asked why we loan officers to outside agencies.

John McConville, 5 Stone Leigh Way, congratulated newly appointed Councilman, James Vassanella. He expressed his concerns regarding increasing the appropriation for the improvements of the animal shelter. He asked if the proposed ten (10) new police officers include those being replaced by attrition. Mr. Daly replied in the negative. He expressed his concerns with the increases regarding police pensions.

Mr. Daly replied to Mr. Weber's statements stating that the budget can be prepared many different ways. He noted that this year is different because there is one-time money from the sale of the liquor licenses and code revenues that will be used for special projects.

Mr. Daly stated that summons statistics would be reviewed during the Police Department Budget Presentation. He stated that summonses have decreased because police officers are busy with calls and have less time for traffic violations. He stated that the Police Department loans officers to other agencies because of the benefits it brings to the Department such as County SWAT and County Drug Task Force.

Mr. Daly stated that the storm drainage project contract has been awarded and a pre-construction meeting will be held shortly.

There being no further comments from the public, a motion was made by Ms. Danile to close the meeting for public discussion. Said motion was seconded by Ms. Ashley-Williams and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Grants

Bonnie von Ohlen, Grants Coordinator, presented the Grants Budget.

Mr. Daly stated Bonnie von Ohlen is responsible for the increase in obtaining grants and the continued success with the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Ms. von Ohlen reviewed the following:

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP GRANTS RECEIVED – 2001-2005

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>	<u>2001-2001</u>
<u>PRIVATE</u>						
AT&T	Com. Fdn./Tech.			25,000		
B-M-Squibb	Sr Wellness Program					
Verizon	HSBCC Website	5,000	5,000	5,000		
		5,000	5,000	30,000		
<u>STATE</u>						
JDDP	Juvenile Com. Service			52,500	75,000	93,684
NJAG	Domestic Prep. – Radios			25,000	125,000	
NJDCA	ADA Compliance	20,000		16,324		
NJDCA	Neighborhd Pres. Prog.	100,000	125,000			
NJDCA	REAP					488,191
NJDCA	PEER Recreation	10,000	10,000	10,000	12,000	10,000
NJDCA	Playground Safety					10,000
NJDCA	Library Exp/Renovation	20,000		75,000		
NJDEP	GC/CSIPs/ES/Trails		25,000	2,500	2,000	
NJDEP	Green acres PIG/Dev.	600,000	753,625	600,000	450,000	750,000
NJDHHS	Family Plan/Pub Health		39,247	43,796		
NJDHTS	Child Safety/Drunk Driv			4,185	9,434	20,933
NJDOA	Farmland Pres. PIG		1,125,000	1,125,000	1,125,000	1,125,000
NJDOA	Farm Fresh NJ Farm			400		500
NJDOT	MA/COP/Liv. Comm	175,000	100,000	325,000	100,000	250,000
NJHC	Middlebush Dist. Nom.				10,000	
NJL&PS	Safe & Secure Comms.	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
NJL&PS	NJ Body Armor		9,339	9,095	9,090	9,011
NJL&PS	OP/AD/DD				19,333	16,020
NJOEM	FEMA Flood Planning					22,000
NJRA	Cyberdistrict Initiative					
NJT	FP Water/Substation	190,000	110,000			
NJT	Community Shuttle			20,000	30,000	94,000

NJ TOTAL		1,175,000	2,357,211	2,368,800	2,026,857	2,949,339
<u>COUNTY</u>						
SC	Planning Partnership		63,390	10,875	16,485	15,000
SC	YA & Rec. Program	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
SC	JAIBG		11,715	11,715		
SCCDBG	Neigh. Improvements					
SCDHS	Alliance Grant	45,379	45,379	37,500	35,558	35,699
SCEDIP	Eco. Dev. Projects	165,473	130,000	125,000	165,000	218,000
SCHP	Historic Pres.			10,000	100,000	
SCOSP	Open Space Acquisition		300,000	100,000	205,000	
SC TOTAL		225,852	565,484	310,090	537,043	283,699
<u>FEDERAL</u>						
USDOC	Census Grant					
USDOJ	BP Vests/COPS/TTC			90,000	150,000	15,000
USDOJ	LLEBG/JAG	13,635		22,989	31,357	31,130
USEPA	BHEEC Wetland Rest.					
USF&W/NRCS	Greenways Rest.		110,000			
USHUD	CDBG	364,845	388,000	388,000	288,000	
US TOTAL		378,480	498,000	500,989	469,357	181,130
TOTAL		1,784,332	3,425,695	3,209,879	3,033,257	3,414,168

A brief discussion ensued regarding the amount of grants received by the Township and the decrease in funding from State and Federal sources.

Purchasing

Joyce Miller, Purchasing Administrator, presented the Purchasing Budget.

Mr. Daly stated that Joyce Miller, Purchasing Administrator, submitted an excellent statement of lines of business of her department. He commended Ms. Miller for her work in public information regarding the newsletter, website and FTTV-25.

Ms. Miller reported that savings is provided in Purchasing when bids and quotes are obtained as per state statute. She reported that the Township participated in the County Action and received \$33,000 for surplus equipment.

Ms. Miller reported that over the last year there was a problem with the Township's phone system between Verizon and Avaya. She was glad to report that the problem has been resolved.

Ms. Miller announced that she is still involved with the Veterans Memorial pavers. In response to Mr. Sumter's question, Ms. Miller replied there are still pavers available for purchase.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the decrease in postage expenses because of the increased use of faxing and emails. In response to Ms. Ashley-Williams' comments regarding scanning, Ms. Miller replied she would look into purchasing/leasing copiers that would also scan and fax documents, thus providing more savings.

Ms. Miller explained the difference in costs of an 8-page newsletter - \$6000 and a 12-page newsletter -\$9000.

Collector

Carol Langone, Collector presented the Collector Budget.

Mr. Daly explained the Collector is responsible for collecting taxes and water rents. He noted that there is no major change to the Collector's budget.

Ms. Langone reported that the collection rate presently is 98.6%. She also reported that her office has collected \$400,000 in interest and fees. The budget remains constant. She stated that her office consists of three (3) employees and herself.

Ms. Langone reported that IT is working on an upgrade to the tax system that would allow payment on line. This information would be provided on the Township's website when it is completed.

Assessor

Burnham Hobbs, Assessor presented the Tax Assessor budget.

Mr. Daly reported that the major change in the Assessor's budget is the restoration of a mid-year letter. He stated that the Assessor's request for additional personnel is not included in the proposed budget.

Mr. Hobbs explained that \$17,434.35 is the estimated cost for sending assessment notices as required by the Somerset County Board of Taxation prior to the end of the 2005 tax year.

Mr. Hobbs reviewed the annual assessment program conducted by his office. He reviewed the following accomplishments in 2004:

- Caused \$67,474.50 to be collected under the COAH program.
- Added & Omitted Assessments - \$145,140,802 (Taxes billed \$1,630,465.96)
- Rollback Assessments 2000-2003 - \$79,944,004 (Taxes billed \$1,495,794.36)
- Continued to mail out 5 year abatement applications to property owners that took out building permits for homes that are 20 years of age or older. The abatement runs for 5 years and the maximum is \$25,000 of assessable improvement.

Mr. Regan asked how many inspections were conducted last year by the Assessor's Office. Mr. Hobbs replied approximately 6000+ inspections were conducted by four (4) field inspectors, the Deputy Assessor and himself. Mr. Regan asked how many homes were actually inspected. Mr. Hobbs replied he did not have that information at this time and noted that the Assessor's Office is working on a better tracking system for inspections this year. Mr. Hobbs explained these inspections ascertain information on the property and also located illegal two-family conversions and other code violations.

Mr. Hobbs requested an additional field inspector due to the increased new construction, new homes and alterations.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Assessor's responsibility of estimating the market value of all new construction (residential at this time) for the calculation of COAH contributions.

Health

Walter Galanowsky, Health Director presented the Health Department Budget along with Katie Nordhaus, Animal Control and Michele Samarya-Timm, Health Educator.

Mr. Galanowsky reported on the 2004 statistics for animal control services in the Township. He requested an additional animal handler to reduce the overtime accrued by the Animal Control Officer and the present animal handler and to eliminate turnover in the department. Ms. Nordhaus explained what a typical day is in her department.

Mr. Galanowsky reported there are increases in the conference and meetings line item as a result that registrars need to be State certified and CEU's are to be obtained to keep their licenses. The increase also includes funding for classes for the Health Educator.

Discussion ensued regarding the various line items included in the Health budget as well as types of inspections conducted. Discussion also ensued regarding the creation of

systems to connect indigent, uninsured and underinsured residents to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable. The Health Director also discussed with Council the development of relationships and program integration with Franklin Township schools to increase healthy messages to students regarding nutrition, exercise and injury prevention.

Ms. Ashley-Williams left the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Open Space

John Loos, Open Space Consultant and Randy Jones, Open Space Advisory Committee Chairman presented the Open Space Budget.

Mr. Loos reported on the projects layouts, trails and signage started last year: Griggstown Greenway, Negri-Nepote Grasslands, Memorial Forest Site and the Scott Farm. He noted that a major clean up is needed on the Memorial Forest Site. He reported that the Scott Farm had been cleared and there is a need for fencing along the border of the property.

A discussion ensued regarding various items in the open space budget.

Engineering/DPW

Thomas Zilinek, Township Engineer/Director of Public Works presented the Engineering and DPW budgets.

Deputy Mayor McKenzie left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Daly stated that Mr. Zilinek was hired last year and has done a good job in re-organizing the Engineering/DPW departments. He noted that the problems coordinating Public Works with Open Space have been resolved.

Mr. Zilinek gave a brief overview of his budgets. He stated that he has not requested any additional personnel in the Public Works Department. He reported that they have outsourced cleaning of the municipal buildings. He reviewed any large increases in his budgets.

Mr. Zilinek requested an additional three (3) personnel in the Water Department as a result of the increased size of the Township's water system that resulted from the increased development in the Township. A brief discussion ensued regarding the water meter positions and meter replacements.

Mr. Zilinek stated that he would be looking into contracting garbage collection. MR. Vassanella asked if the Township ever looked into other vendors for recycling. Mr. Zilinek replied he would look into private vendors going forward.

Mr. Zilinek reported that if residents bring their leaf bags to the Public Works Department facility, they receive free replacement bags.

Mr. Zilinek reported that the Stormwater Management Plan has been submitted to the State and County and is awaiting approval.

Finance

Marc Dashield presented the Finance budget. Mr. Daly announced that Mr. Dashield passed his Chief Financial Officer's State Exam. Mr. Dashield reported that his budget did not increase from last year. Mr. Regan suggested that Mr. Dashield look into paperless paychecks and the possibility of monthly paychecks instead of bi-monthly. A discussed ensued regarding various Finance line items.

05-456

Special Meeting/Budget Hearing – July 26, 2005

Mr. Daly distributed a Franklin Township Property Tax Sheet that is attached to the end of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Sumter and unanimously approved, meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie McCarthy
Township Clerk