

Town of Franklin Regular Meeting
Town Hall, 7 Cold Brook Road
April 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM
Minutes as approved at the May 13th Board Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Dorothy Brown, Council Member Richard Brandt, Council Member Anne Marie Nightingale-Duprey, Council Member Leo Demong, Council Member Susan Alexander

Others Present: Jacques DeMars—Highway Superintendent, Amy McCormick—Town Clerk, Joe Shoemaker – County Legislator, Tim Santos – resident

CALL TO ORDER
Supervisor Brown called the meeting to order at **5:30 PM**. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Town Clerk noted a quorum present.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2026 MINUTES- Approved as presented (Supervisor Brown Council Member Brandt m/s/p) All Aye

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS
The board audited and approved the following claims:

General Fund	Abstract 4	Claims 72 -85	\$14,164.45
Highway Fund	Abstract 4	Claims 30 - 48	\$33,638.65
General Fund Prepay	Abstract 4	Claims 15 - 22	\$6,150.69

(Council Member Demong, Council Member Nightingale-Duprey m/s/p) All Aye.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT
Balances on hand as of March 31, 2026

General Fund

Checking	\$165,353.53
Savings	\$25,168.04
Historian	\$3,054.35
Kate Mt. SRF	\$2,125.77
Cemetery RF	\$5,783.88
CLASS	\$171,185.47
Kate Mt. CLASS	\$102,534.94***

Highway Fund

Checking	\$791,045.84
Savings	\$58,633.99
Cap Project HW	\$4,878.81
CLASS	\$377,676.62***

Landfill Closure Capital Reserve

Checking	\$1,522.12
CLASS	\$64.32***

Fire Protection

Checking	\$2,479.45
CLASS	\$1,781.49***

Capital Project Building

CLASS	\$337,604.27***
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**RF indicates Reserve Fund, SRF indicates Special Reserve Fund
***Class account balances have not been updated
(Council Member Brandt, Council Member Nightingale-Duprey m/s/p) All Aye

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Plowed and sanded as needed
Posted roads for spring – completed last month
Received payment 1 of 2 for snow and ice contract, given to Supervisor Brown to deposit to Highway Fund
Had men out several times due to high winds; numerous calls to 911 for tress on power lines
Had both loaders out pushing back snowbanks
Began prepping equipment for summer use

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Repaired a washout on a section of Alder Brook Road (ditch/shoulder)
Worked on a section of Alder Brook Park Road that had scoured on the surface
Barton & Loguidice were on Merrill Road drilling test holes for the bridge
Fuel and gas sheets give to Town Clerk
USB Backup of Highway Department computer given to Town Clerk for fireproof storage

Council Member Nightingale-Duprey mentioned ruts in the Union Cemetery which Superintendent DeMars feels can be tamped out once things dry out

RESOLUTION # 6 – COUNTY MOWING CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the Town Board contracts with Franklin County to be paid for the mowing of County roads two times per season (July 1st – September 15th) for a total of 20 miles of roads and \$200 per mile, on a motion by Supervisor Brown, seconded by Council Member Alexander; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin Town Board declines to enter into this contract for the 2026 season given a lack of staffing and insufficient reimbursement from the County.

Those Voting Aye:	Supervisor Dorothy Brown
	Council Member Richard Brandt
	Council Member Leo Demong
	Council Member Susan Alexander
	Council Member Anne Marie Nightingale-Duprey

Those Voting No:	None
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TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

4 spayed/neutered/1 unaltered/1 replacement tag for dog licenses issued
2 building permits
\$185 in fees turned over to Supervisor Brown and \$12 remitted to NYS Ag & Markets

Property tax collection concluded on March 31 and were transferred to the Franklin County Treasurer’s office on April 13th. \$2,042,971.67 in taxes were collected, \$2,720.08 in interest and \$277,806.83 in delinquent taxes still due.

NEW BUSINESS

A. OPENING MOWING BIDS

One sealed bid was received including certificate of insurance from Duprey’s Property Management, \$18,000 for the season including 6 mows per location. Discussion ensued regarding hiring a part-time individual on payroll to handle mowing/groundskeeping in addition to any other miscellaneous tasks for the Town and Highway Department.

RESOLUTION # 7 - ACCEPTANCE OF GROUNDSKEEPING BID

WHEREAS, the Town Board received one sealed groundskeeping bid for the 2026 season for maintenance of four (4) cemeteries, Kate Mountain Recreational Park, Franklin Town Hall and Merrillsville Town Hall including proof of adequate insurance, on a motion by Supervisor Brown, seconded by Council Member Alexander; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Franklin Town Board accepts the groundskeeping bid submitted by Duprey Property Management.

Those Voting Aye:	Supervisor Dorothy Brown
	Council Member Richard Brandt
	Council Member Leo Demong
	Council Member Susan Alexander
Those Voting No:	None
Those Abstaining:	Council Member Anne Marie Nightingale-Duprey

B. HIGHWAY SALT SHED – FINAL PAYMENT – GRANT MONEY

Remaining work to be done – concrete needs protective coating and cables may need readjustment from being installed over the weekend. We have submitted all requested paperwork in a timely fashion and payment has been approved to be sent soon.

C. YOUTH PROGRAM

Despite reaching out to local colleges and programs, we do not yet have an applicant for the camp recreation leader position, though four applications for the counselors’ positions have been received. Council Member Nightingale-Duprey and Supervisor Brown will follow up with contacts at the colleges again.

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D. AUDIT MAY 19TH – UNION HIGHWAY PAYROLL

Town Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Richard Meagher, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor Missy Begor and Supervisor Brown will meet with the New York State Teamsters auditor at the Town Hall on May 19th for a review of payroll records dating back to January 2019 through the current period.

E. BOTTLE REDEMPTION MONEY

One check received for \$136.10 so far from bottle and can donations. Supervisor Brown would like to reinstate a Town Scholarship Program with the funds. Town Clerk to review files for how this was handled in the past. Notice of bottle collection to be placed in the newsletter, on the website and on Facebook.

F. RESOLUTION #8 - FOOD PANTRY STRUCTURE

On a motion by Supervisor Brown, seconded by Council Member Demong, BE IT RESOLVED that the food pantry structure is to be removed as it is no longer in service, to notify in writing via certified mail that the responsibility to remove the building is that of the administrator(s) of St. Paul's Food Pantry and is to be done by an insured individual or contractor and proper permit on file with the Town of Franklin by July 31, 2026.

Those Voting Aye: Supervisor Dorothy Brown
 Council Member Susan Alexander
 Council Member Richard Brandt
 Council Member Leo Demong
 Council Member Anne Marie Nightingale-Duprey

Those Voting No: None

OLD BUSINESS

A. VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAQUES:

Plaques are currently being corrected, additional payment being remitted. Joe Arnold to hang the plaques in the Town Hall.

B. IT UPDATE – Illuminating Concepts LLC & SymQuest Copier

- a. Current copier under maintenance contract with SymQuest is estimated around 20 years old and parts are very hard to find. Estimate provided to replace the unit with a black/white copier of similar size and nature but without fax capabilities for \$97.72/month for 60 months plus a one-time document fee of \$125. Will revisit the copier at the end of the current SymQuest maintenance contract in SymQuest, reminder set by the Clerk.
- b. Illuminating Concepts LLC sent three estimates for services as follows:
 - i. \$200/month for management of network security including firewall, Battery backup, 24-port switch, wireless access point and equipment rack which are currently under contract with Twinstare Technologies
 - ii. Video Conferencing Equipment including a Logitech PTZ Pro USB Camera, Wired USB Conference Room Mic, Logitech Basic Wireless Keyboard and Mouse for \$549.93 plus any charges for assistance with setup. Town Clerk researched the necessary 55" Smart TV and appropriate mobile stand for approximately \$400. Basic monthly contract with Zoom approximately \$15/month.
 - iii. Microsoft Office 365 Business Standard, Exchange, SharePoint, Teams, Planner monthly subscription, Microsoft Exchange Online, SaaS Office 365 Backup for up to 12 users, Remote maintenance and management, weekly updates for Windows etc, CrowdStrike EDR security for \$313/month PLUS installation based on time and materials.

Discussion ensued regarding current contract and pricing with Twinstare Technologies which the Clerk has been working to confirm. A comparison is to be made between Illuminating Concepts LLC in conjunction with Spectrum for the phone system and Twinstare Technologies' current contract and pricing.

Motion made by Supervisor Brown to move forward with purchasing the teleconferencing equipment and TV/Stand and contracting with Zoom for monthly service in order to broadcast and record meetings moving forward, seconded by Council Member Demong, and to table the other two estimates pending further information from Twinstare Technologies and Spectrum regarding contracts. All Aye.

C. KATE MOUNTAIN PARK PAVILION –

Supervisor Brown and Council Member Demong yet to visit neighboring towns for ideas for enclosing our current pavilion. Council Member Brandt to investigate available grants.

D. NEWSLETTER -

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Franklin Flyer is on track to be published at the end of April with Compass Printing, several submissions have been received and still awaiting a few more. Estimate provided by Compass Printing for the newsletter to be printed on one sheet of 11 x 17” paper for \$391 including delivery to post offices. If a second sheet is required, the price increases to \$484 including \$40 delivery to post offices which can be deducted if Town Clerk delivers to post offices. Council Member Alexander will assist the Town Clerk with reviewing and editing the flyer.

E. TOWN HALL RENTAL UPDATE –

The committee continues to work on updating and reviewing the prior rental contract. Items left to review include insurance requirements, the capacity of the building and then Town Attorney Joel Peller will need to review.

F. TOWN HALL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT –

General discussion ensued regarding the removal of outdated and potentially hazardous playground equipment. Highway Superintendent and Supervisor to discuss in greater detail.

G. NYSERDA UPDATE –

Council Member Brandt advised \$10,000 had previously been set aside for changes to the heating system at the garage which Smith & Stender have determined the repairs are not necessary. As such, the computer system that was necessary to run the heating system should now be covered by the grant, leaving some funds for other repairs that may come up.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Broadband update from Legislator Joe Shoemaker, meeting again today for pole permitting (State, DOT, DEC etc), pivoting a lot of fiber underground, more money upfront, new permitting process but swifter action. Beneficial since no rental fees for poles, safer from a weather perspective. In response to Council Member Demong’s question regarding why the date “looms so large” – the state is pushing to get this done and also the ones holding us back.

MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING

There being no further business before the board, Supervisor Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm, seconded by Council Member Brandt. All in favor.

Amy McCormick, Town Clerk