

BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH  
Regular Meeting  
March 1, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Branchville Borough Council has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof sent to the New Jersey Herald.

FLAG SALUTE was led by Councilman Van Stone.

ROLL CALL was conducted by Clerk Leissler, Present were Councilmembers Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Also present were Attorney Valenti, Commissioner Hayden, Mike Clune, Michelle Shelton and Planet Network Representatives.

PROCLAMATION – None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

1. February minutes (Regular)

Motion to approve February regular meeting minutes was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilman Bellis. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

CONSENT AGENDA – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilman Bellis to enter into public session. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Altice did a presentation on the phone discussing their plans to enter into service with the Borough of Branchville. They provide fiber cable.

Planet Network made a presentation discussing their plans to enter service in the Borough of Branchville. They provide fiber cable.

Commissioner Hayden introduced himself to the council.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to close the public comment portion of the meeting. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

#### RESOLUTION

Discussion took place concerning the Resolution # 14-2023, Drug Alliance. Attorney Valenti asked for explanation on what amount the Borough of Branchville contributes to this and his other question was what does Branchville Borough have to do as requirements with the grant. What does term and conditions mean in the language.

(Resolution was tabled)

Resolution # 15-2023, Franklinite, was approved by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Resolution follows minutes)

#### ORDINANCE

Ordinance #01-2023 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF was approved on motion of Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve this on first reading. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(Ordinance follows minutes)

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Motion was made by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to give approval to the American Legion to hold their parade on May 29, 2023 in the Borough of Branchville. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve the facility use agreement for use of Struck Park on May 29, 2023. The \$100 has been provided. This approval includes that the correct insurance must be provided. Roll Call

Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to authorize a \$300 donation for the annual Memorial Day parade. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None. Councilman Bellis will talk to Jeff Lewis about having a sheriff officer present.

A quote was reviewed from Willco regarding new parts needed on one of the furnaces located in the basement at 34 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, NJ. Three quotes are needed. Discussion will continue in April.

The agreement for Branchville/Frankford OEM was passed by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Christine Rolef, Branchville Borough CFO, provided an email about a grant that may be beneficial to the Borough of Branchville. Discussion took place on this grant and Michelle Shelton was asked to run it by our RCAP representative to see his thoughts on the same. Councilman Orr stated he will look into same as well. The clerk was asked to list this on the April agenda.

Motion was made to approve the NJ Coed Softball League by Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell. Approval is only after the clay has been laid and Councilman Bellis approves same. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Discussion took place about the correspondence received from Dave Simmons showing work to be done at a cost of \$8500.00 regarding the water grant. Councilman Orr stated that preparation items should already be at Dave's fingertips. Discussion also took place concerning Councilman Orr's request for flood zone map from Pellow's office. Discussion continued about checking Historic Preservation website too.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Whitesell, seconded by Councilman Bellis to authorize Councilman Orr to email Dave Simmons asking about all questions discussed at the council meeting. His email will include the governing body who has his backing in doing so. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Van Stone, seconded by Councilman Bellis to approve advertisement of help wanted for plumbing and construction subcode. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Whitesell to approve Viersma Companies to provide labor, equipment, and material to the Branchville Borough ballfield in the amount of \$8,962.50 provided that material and labor is completed by May 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Bellis discuss changing the way that the Borough of Branchville covers road department employees clothing. Action was tabled until the Cintas agreement is reviewed for terms of cancelling.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bathgate, Councilman Bellis approved a special meeting for budget discussion to be held on March 29, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Motion was made on motion of Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to authorize Attorney Valenti to attend the special budget meeting to be held on March 29, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Councilman Orr stated that SWAC will not let him join again.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilman Bellis to authorize the clerk to forward a letter to each department head stating that the Branchville Borough Website must be maintained by each department. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

CFO Rolef forwarded an email concerning the Rescue funds. She will be asked to explain same at the budget meeting.

Discussion took place on the roof replacement. This was to be tabled until after the budget is set.

Motion was made by Councilman Orr, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate to authorize the clerk to forward Dave Simmon's review of the proposed Verizon work on the cell tower to Verizon for further review. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

Attorney Valenti discussed the new law concerning business owners in the Borough and insurance requirements. No action taken.

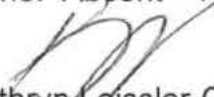
Attorney Valenti reviewed the apprenticeship requirements for contractors in NJ.

Clerk Leissler asked on behalf of Mayor Frato that each council member forward to Kate their desires in regard to Borough projects over a 1, and 3 year plan before the budget meeting.

The following bills were presented for payment. On motion of Councilwoman Bathgate, seconded by Councilman Bellis they were ordered paid after being properly audited, paid out of correct account and subject to the availability of funds. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

(List of bills follows minutes)

On motion of Councilman Bellis, seconded by Councilwoman Bathgate the meeting was adjourned. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Bathgate, Bellis, Orr, Van Stone, Whitesell. Nay – None. Absent – None. Abstain – None.

  
Kathryn Leissler-CMR CTC RMC

**BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX**

**RESOLUTION # 15-2023**

**SUPPORTING DESIGNATING "FRANKLINITE" AS THE OFFICIAL MINERAL  
OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a long history of mineral mining, including two world-famous zinc mines in Sussex County, at Franklin and at Ogdensburg.

**WHEREAS**, in 1968, New Jersey passed a resolution declaring the Borough of Franklin the "Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World."

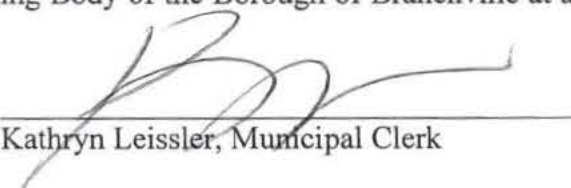
**WHEREAS**, in order to pay recognition to the scientific, economic, and historic importance of Franklinite, it is fitting and appropriate to designate Franklinite as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, "We strongly support "Franklinite for New Jersey State Mineral." This bill, S1727, unanimously passed the NJ Senate on October 17, 2022 and the identical bill is in the Assembly, bill A3393. This bill designates Franklinite as official mineral of State of New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, the mineral has unique properties that are found almost exclusively here in the Franklin area, have made the area world-famous, through a NJ DEP poll has been recognized as the best representative of NJ mineral, has a main element of zinc which has strengthened America's economy along with iron that has helped us in the Revolutionary War and the 1800s, and has brought immigrants and livelihood to the State over the last 150 years."

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Branchville, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, hereby supports Bill No. S-1727 and identical bill A3393 in the Assembly, as attached, designating "Franklinite" as the official mineral of the State of New Jersey and urges the Legislature to approve and pass the bill for the reason expressed herein.

**CERTIFICATION:** I, Kathryn Leissler, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Branchville, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Branchville at a regular meeting held on March 1, 2023.

  
Kathryn Leissler, Municipal Clerk

**Borough of Branchville**  
**County of Sussex, State of New Jersey**  
**Ordinance # 01-2023**

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF

BE IT ORDAINED the Borough Council of the Borough of Branchville, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, that the following be properly authorized:

Engineering Services for the Water Department      \$35,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the financing for the above is as follows:


WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND                      \$35,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the period of usefulness of the improvements is in excess of the five (5) year statutory requirement, and that no debt shall be incurred by the Township for this improvement authorization.

The capital budget conforms with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full details of the Capital Budget and Capital Program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services as on file with the Municipal Clerk is available for public inspection.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with the law.

TAKE NOTICE that the above ordinance was passed on the first reading at a regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Branchville held on March 1, 2023 and that a public hearing on said Ordinance will be held at a regular meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. on April 5, 2023 at the Branchville Borough Municipal Office, 34 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, NJ at which time and place all interested parties may appear and be heard.

  
Kathryn Leissler, CMR CTC RMC  
Branchville Borough Clerk

Report Printed 2023-03-01 09:21:41 Borough of Branchville

Check Register - (0110101001000) Cash Checking

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
3/01/2023	234	524 Barry Norman	310.26			
3/01/2023	235	519 BKJ Productions, LLC	1,437.15			
3/01/2023	236	455 Bob VIERSMA & SONS, INC	1,050.00			
3/01/2023	237	332 Branchville Historical Society	100.00			
3/01/2023	238	573 Branchville United Methodist Church	100.00			
3/01/2023	239	128 Crystal MOUNTAIN SPRINGS	65.49			
3/01/2023	240	238 DANFORTH'S INC.	36.80			
3/01/2023	241	425 Elizabethtown Gas	1,231.73			
3/01/2023	242	101 FRANKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION	100,476.50			
3/01/2023	243	2 HAROLD E. FELLOW & ASSOC INC.	737.25			
3/01/2023	244	502 HBCBS of NJ	133.51			
3/01/2023	245	62 HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	70,955.84			
3/01/2023	246	51 JCP&L	1,547.28			
3/01/2023	247	116 LAFAYETTE AUTO PARTS SUPPLY	5.98			
3/01/2023	248	205 Lowe's	372.41			
3/01/2023	249	574 Lowel and Morgan Tamayo	349.71			
3/01/2023	250	558 Lumen	1,131.62			
3/01/2023	251	80 MITCHELL HUMPHREY and Co.	1,090.00			
3/01/2023	252	64 MONTAGUE TOOL & SUPPLY CO.	44.71			
3/01/2023	253	322 North East Parts Group	31.99			
3/01/2023	254	320 R&L Data Centers Inc	687.74			
3/01/2023	255	69 STAPLES ADVANTAGE	113.85			
3/01/2023	256	409 Stavola Beaver Run	347.51			
3/01/2023	257	492 SUSSEX COUNTY ASSESSORS ASSOC.	100.00			
3/01/2023	258	94 SUSSEX COUNTY MUN. CLERKS ASSOC.	20.00			
3/01/2023	259	86 Sussex County Muni. Utilities Autho	2,458.14			
3/01/2023	260	72 Sussex Rural Electric	89.46			
3/01/2023	261	1 Times Herald-Record Localiq	32.76			
3/01/2023	262	75 VERIZON WIRELESS	38.01			
3/01/2023	263	418 Viking Termite & Pest Control, Inc	54.46			
3/01/2023	264	6 WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NJ, INC.	10,017.91			
3/01/2023	265	11 Allied-Griffith Trucking	6.33			
3/01/2023	266	15 Century LINK/ Brightspeed	686.89			
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			195,861.29			
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			195,861.29			



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**Check Register - (0710101001000) Cash Checking**

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
3/01/2023	1292	226 FOLEY, INC.	3,654.30			
3/01/2023	1293	51 JCP&L	403.73			
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			4,058.03			
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			4,058.03			

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**Check Register - (0810101001000) CASH CHECKING**

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
3/01/2023	1023	563 Ad Edge	4,753.20			
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			4,753.20			
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			4,753.20			

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Check Register - (0910101001000) CASH CHECKING

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
3/01/2023	1288	2 HAROLD E. PELLOW & ASSOC INC.	2,687.73			
3/01/2023	1289	51 JCP&L	747.92			
3/01/2023	1290	66 ONE CALL CONCEPTS	42.90			
3/01/2023	1291	140 SCHMIDT'S WHOLESALE, INC.	396.49			
			-----			
			3,875.04			
			=====			
			3,875.04			

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**Check Register - (1210101001000) CASH-DOG LICENSE**

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT	VOID AMOUNT	VOID DATE	REASON
3/01/2023	1110	102 NEW JERSEY STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH	141.00			
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			141.00			
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			141.00			