

# Town of Franklin

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TOWN OF FRANKLIN  
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## Joint Budget Subcommittee

(Comprised of members of the Town Council, School Committee & Finance Committee)

July 24, 2019

## Minutes

**Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Chairman Peter Padula.**

**Members Present:** Town Council: Peter Padula, Chair; Thomas Mercer, Matthew Kelly, Deborah Pellegri. Finance Committee: Michael Dufour and George Conley. School: Anne Bergen, Denise Shultz, and Virginia Zub.

**Also in Attendance:** Jamie Hellen Town Administrator, Chrissy Whelton Assistant to the Town Administrator, Christopher Sandini Finance Director, Sara Ahern Superintendent of Schools, Lucas Giguere Assistant Superintendent, Joyce Edwards Assistant Superintendent, Miriam Goodman, Steve Sherlock, Franklin Matters (recording).

Town Administrator Jamie Hellen gave an update regarding the budget being passed by the House and Senate Conference Committee budget and we are waiting on the Governor. He also gave another brief overview on the Town's Five Year Fiscal Forecast in an abridged format (copy here) and the struggles Franklin will face to maintain high quality school and municipal services given the fiscal constraints that the town operates under. Mr. Hellen also wanted to point out the the State Legislature was able to get the Town funding of \$100,000 for the State Forest Parking lot, as well as several initiatives for the schools.

School Superintendent Sara Ahern gave a short overview of the Charter School Tuition assessment and informed the committee that the State Aid in Budget Reimbursement will decline. Dr. Ahern stated that a decrease in students can't always mean a decrease in teachers and that more complex needs are rising which drive the costs up.

Resident Kit Brady raised and questioned the Parking lot fees. Dr. Ahern stated that as part of the budget reduction the parking lot fee was proposed reluctantly. The fee was examined and assessed as in other towns/districts. The fee goes towards the snow removal and maintenance of the lot. Mr. Brady had concerns that this should be coming out of the DPW budget.

Mr. Hellen informed Mr. Brady and the Committee the town does the best they can with what they have. No one likes fees and hopefully these issues will engage more residents.

Councilor Thomas Mercer informed the Committees that they are starting to get names and build a team to start discussions on how to proceed with getting the word out to the community about the financial state the Town is in.

Councilor Thomas Mercer informed the committee that there will be an informational meeting on September 11, 2019 at 6pm at the Senior Center to discuss the Financial situation and process of getting facts to the community.

Councilor Deborah Pellegrini asked the School to provide the Number of Students, Number of Teachers and Number of Speciality teachers in the Davis Thayer for next meeting to address what would be saved if they were to close the building.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:47 PM.**

This is a meeting of the Franklin Town Council Sub-Committee; under the Open Meeting Law, this subcommittee is a separate "public body" from the Town Council. Therefore, unless the Town Council has separately noticed and posted its own meeting, Councilors who are not members of this subcommittee will not be permitted to speak or otherwise actively participate @ this meeting, although they may attend and observe. This prohibition is necessary to avoid the potential for an Open Meeting Law Violation.