

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 19, 2022**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at the Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA. Councilors present: Brian Chandler, Theodore Cormier-Leger, Robert Dellorco, Cobi Frongillo, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegrini, Patrick Sheridan. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Alecia Alleyne, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

CALL TO ORDER: ► Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chair Mercer called for a moment of silence. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ► Chair Mercer reviewed the following as posted on the agenda. A Note to Residents: All citizens are welcome to attend public board and committee meetings in person. Meetings are live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. In an effort to maximize citizen engagement opportunities, citizens will be able to continue to participate remotely via phone or Zoom. He announced that this meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV; this meeting may be recorded by others. ► Chair Mercer discussed electricity rates. He stated that Massachusetts's customers through National Grid and Eversource are expected to have rising electricity rates. Residents are reminded that through Franklin's municipal aggregation program, they do not have to worry. Municipal aggregation is when a town utilizes the buying power of the residents and small businesses to bulk purchase an electricity rate for a pre-determined amount of time. Leveraging purchasing capacity allows the Town of Franklin to potentially have a lower electricity rate than an individual user may have received. Residents who did not opt out of the Town's municipal aggregation program will not see an increase in the price of 10.7 cents per kWh through the contracted purchase cycle which ends November 2023. He stated that comparatively, National Grid's rate is currently 11.5 cents per kWh and is expected to rise drastically to possibly 17.0 cents per kWh or higher. You can check if you are enrolled by looking at your energy bill. If you see Dynegy Energy named as the supplier, then you are enrolled. The Town has provided a sample bill online to compare your billing statements before and after enrolling. Please note that the changes may take up to two billing cycles to be processed which means that now is the perfect time to make the most of this program if you have not already. If you are not enrolled, you can opt in to this program by visiting <https://colonialpowergroup.com/Franklin/> or by calling the supplier Dynegy directly at 866-220-5696. This information is also available on the Town of Franklin's website by clicking on the municipal aggregation quick link from the home page.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello stated that ballots are in. She stated that 6,400 ballots have been mailed out. She stated that early voting starts this Saturday at the municipal building. She recommended checking the Town's website for days and times. She stated that they continue to get vote-by-mail requests, and they are getting them out the same day. She stated that the Town's annual report is available on the website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: ► *September 28, 2022 and October 5, 2022.* ► **MOTION to Approve** the September 28, 2022 meeting minutes by **Dellorco. SECOND by Jones. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Approve** the October 5, 2022 meeting minutes by **Dellorco. SECOND by Jones. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: None.

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Victor DaCosta - New Hire, Firefighter/Paramedic - Fire Department, and Nicholas Brosseau - New Hire, Firefighter/Paramedic - Fire Department.* ► Fire Chief James McLaughlin thanked the Town Council for their continuous support and talked about the Fire Department's new ambulance. He noted that the new truck was ordered in April 2021. He stated that with the addition of these two new firefighters, the department is brought to full staff. He introduced two new firefighters/paramedics, Victor DaCosta and Nicholas Brosseau. He reviewed Mr. DaCosta's education, background, and career. ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello performed the swearing in. ► Mr. DaCosta's two daughters pinned the badge. ► Fire Chief McLaughlin reviewed Mr. Brosseau's education, background, and career. ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello performed the swearing in. ► Mr. Brosseau's girlfriend pinned the badge. ► Fire Chief McLaughlin gave accolades to the three paramedics who delivered the baby in the back of the ambulance.

Chair Mercer called a one-minute recess.

HEARINGS: None.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: ► *License Modification - Change of Officers/Directors: Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. d/b/a Shaw's; Located at 250 Franklin Village Drive, Franklin, MA 02038.* ► Councilor Jones read the license transaction. ► **MOTION to Approve** the request by Shaw's Supermarket, Inc. d/b/a Shaw's, for a change of Officers/Directors as described, by **Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Ms. Alleyne stated that this is fairly routine; they are doing a change of officers/directors. She stated that there are representatives at tonight's meeting via Zoom, and all departments have signed off. ► Councilor Chandler stated that after reviewing the provided documents, he feels good that the company is doing a good job checking everything. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *Legislative Delegation: Senate President Karen Spilka, Senator Rebecca Rausch, Representative Jeffrey Roy.* ► Senate President Karen Spilka stated that Franklin is a wonderful community, proactive, kind, and caring. She stated that her time in representing Franklin will be coming to an end in January. She thanked the many people who have helped her serve the community and be a better senator in the State House. She thanked Town Administrator Jamie Hellen for all his help and other former and present Town staff. She stated that she wanted to provide a brief overview of the past few years. She discussed legislative accomplishments including school funding, Mental Health ABC Act addressing barriers to care, climate change bills, veterans' homes bill, transportation bond bill for infrastructure, securing significant funding for reconstruction for intersection and other transportation projects in Franklin, Chapter 90 funding and allocating additional amounts for winter road recovery, Student Opportunity Act, increase funding to school districts, continue assistance and funding with mental health needs in schools, and suicide prevention funds. She stated that she wanted to mention that despite all of this investment, it is still not enough; there are still a lot of needs across the state. She stated that the pandemic still has caused disruptions to the supply chain. She stated that the state still has good revenue forecasts. She stated that the state will be giving out the largest batch of tax relief to residents in the history of Massachusetts; \$2.9 billion in checks will be going to residents next month. She stated that she hopes to make permanent progressive tax relief. She stated that they are still working on the economic development bill. She is hopeful and believes that there will be significant dollars. She stated that Massachusetts saw a revenue increase during the pandemic. She stated that they did voting reform. She thanked the Town Council for the work they do in Franklin. ► Senator Rebecca Rausch discussed that they were able to get over the finish line this term regarding the destruction of reproductive rights at the federal level. She stated that we in the state were able to quickly act and pass reproductive rights protection legislation. She stated that regarding funding pieces, she wanted to highlight policy to help women re-enter the workforce, and on the mental health piece they created a program called Student Speak which is a legislative town hall just for youth in the district which is done by Zoom. She stated that

the students said they needed better and different mental health supports. She stated that she and her team got to work and within three weeks they were able to secure \$250,000 to pilot the first ever state sponsored youth mental health text line. She stated that it is fully anonymous and confidential; it is peer to peer and called Hey Sam. She stated that in the FY23 budget it is fully funded at \$1 million. She stated that they started a small business advisory council. She noted funding for the Franklin commuter rail station. She stated that it was a productive session with much more work to do. ► Representative Jeffrey Roy noted that he has been the state representative for 10 years. He stated that he appreciates the support and feedback with Franklin. He stated that Senate President Spilka was energetic, accessible, and a tremendous representative. He stated that he would miss her sharing Franklin with him. He stated he wanted to go through a few more things that have been accomplished. He stated that they put money toward the intersection of Pleasant Street and Chestnut Street; they were able to put \$10 million in a bill to correct that intersection. He stated that they know how dangerous it is. He reviewed that the MBTA station was put into two bills; hopefully they will get the money needed to renovate the station. He noted the Franklin Food Pantry got a \$500,000 grant for that building that they are renovating at the old Edwins. He stated that the SAFE Coalition has been funded at \$50,000 each year for the past five years. He stated that the Franklin Downtown Partnership has been funded in the state budget for the past four years at \$25,000 each year. He stated that the Quiet Zone study is underway. He stated that they did funding for King Street field renovation, and the SNETT trail has been getting funding. He applauded the Town for municipal aggregation. He discussed the benefits of wind farms to bring costs down in the future. He highlighted the following bills were priorities of his: Roadmap bill setting the goals, Clean Energy and Off Shore Wind bill. He noted that the legislature did two major climate bills in one session. He stated that with global warming, they probably will have to do a climate bill every session. He stated that they passed the Genocide Education Act. He noted the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution was a bill that he filed. He stated that 2026 is not far away, and we need to position Massachusetts as the cradle of liberty in America as the place to really celebrate this. ► Town Council members asked questions and made comments. ► In response to questions, Senator Rausch discussed the Small Business Advisory Council and noted that the rise in business rents has not come up in their meetings; she said she will take that information back to the council. ► Senate President Spilka responded to questions about the state flag. She stated that it was complicated and controversial. She stated that the commission is being very thorough, and she is hoping they come up with a recommendation in the near future. She stated that she would check on it. She stated that any citizen participation is helpful. She stated that people in the legislature really want to know what people think or are feeling over an issue. ► Representative Roy suggested they let the commission do their work and provide recommendations. ► Councilor Frongillo stated that there have been many residents who have expressed support for a change in the state flag. He stated that he wanted to advocate for transportation, and he reviewed improvements that he wanted to make to reflect the values of the citizens. ► Senate President Spilka stated that regarding transportation, what is important to her is regional equity. She stated that she hopes the federal will be able to help with the transportation. ► Senator Rausch noted components of the second climate bill. ► Town Council members thanked the legislative delegation for the work they do and the support they have provided to Franklin. ► Councilor Hamblen stated that she wanted more people to run for office and allowing campaign funds to be used for child care would help. She stated that she is excited about the economic development bill. She discussed MassDEP disposal bans for mattresses and textiles. ► Senate President Spilka discussed using campaign funds for child care; she discussed that they should add in parental care as well. ► Senator Rausch said that she was appointed the chair of the environmental committee. She stated that they have talked about mattresses, solid waste management, and recycling. She stated that there were a number of bills advanced about mattresses and many bills about plastics of many forms. ► Councilor Jones stated that he was proud of all the hard work they have done. He discussed that the Franklin Ridge senior living housing would complement the Eaton Place senior housing in Franklin. He stated that they have a major problem with the Beaver Street Interceptor. He stated that his major concerns are infrastructure; he stated that they need state and federal support to get the project through. He discussed funding to support the local schools. He noted the overall climate of teaching and teachers

and stated that at this point no one wants to go into teaching anymore. ► Senator Rausch stated that they have done some work to fund supports and improve diversity in the teacher workforce. ► Senate President Spilka discussed that one of her top priorities was early education and care; Covid highlighted the need for a stable well-paid workforce. ► Mr. Hellen thanked the legislators and their staff for their responsiveness. He stated that they got word last night that they got a grant award of \$3.2 million toward the Franklin Ridge project. ► Mr. Frank Edward Falvey, 920 Pond Street, stated that there are no restrooms on I-195, I-290, I-95, and I-93. He stated that there is sales tax on clothing that costs over \$175. He stated that I-495 going south at the Rt. 290 interchange is backed up two to three miles; there needs to be two exists. He stated that Framingham has the oldest women's prison in the U.S. He stated that he is opposed to changing the flag; he reviewed the prices to buy a flag. He stated that the three legislators have done great work over the years. ► Ms. Diane Lind, 26 Moore Avenue, stated that she gave her support for changing the flag. ► Ms. Denise Spencer, 59 Milliken Avenue, thanked the legislative delegation for supporting mental health services. She stated that her family was affected by mental health issues this year. ► Chair Mercer thanked the legislators for coming before the Town Council on a regular basis and for bringing updates. He presented Senate President Spilka with a proclamation honoring her for 17 years of outstanding representation of the Town of Franklin.

Chair Mercer called a five-minute recess.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Note: Two-Thirds Vote requires six votes; Majority Vote requires majority of members present and voting.

- a. ***Resolution 22-64: Appropriating Funds by Borrowing to Pay Costs of Land Acquisition: Land of Schmidt's Farm, Inc. off Prospect Street (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-64 - Two-Thirds Majority Vote).*** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-64: Appropriating Funds by Borrowing to Pay Costs of Land Acquisition: Land of Schmidt's Farm, Inc. off Prospect Street by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that the Town Council will be required to do two roll call votes this evening, one to exercise the right of first refusal under Chapter 61A and approve the purchase and sale. He stated that the Planning Board on Monday, October 17, held a hearing on the definitive subdivision plan and approved it unanimously. The Finance Committee met on October 18, and unanimously endorsed this purchase. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- b. ***Resolution 22-65: Town of Franklin's Exercise of Town's Chapter 61A, Section 14 First Refusal Option, Re: Land of Schmidt's Farm, Inc. off Prospect Street, Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Title Reference: Book 11712, Page 405 (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-65 - Majority Vote).*** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-65: Town of Franklin's Exercise of Town's Chapter 61A, Section 14 First Refusal Option, Re: Land of Schmidt's Farm, Inc. off Prospect Street, Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Title Reference: Book 11712, Page 405 by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is the vote. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- c. ***Resolution 22-66: FY23 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds - Red Brick School House (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-66 - Majority Vote).*** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-66: FY23 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds - Red Brick School House by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen reviewed that the action before the Town Council is to approve Resolution 22-66, to appropriate \$50,000 from Community Preservation for Red Brick School House renovations. He stated that this project was originally designed and

priced out in March, but by the time the project went out to bid, costs had increased. This appropriation is to cover the additional \$50,000. He stated that the CPC approved this appropriation unanimously at their October 4, 2022, meeting. He stated that \$200,000 was already appropriated earlier this year; this \$50,000 will make a total of \$250,000. He reviewed the exterior items that are covered by these funds. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

- d. Resolution 22-67: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4 (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-67 - Majority Vote).** ► **MOTION to Waive** the reading by Cormier-Leger. **SECOND** by Dellorco. **No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
 ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-67: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4 by Dellorco. **SECOND** by Hamblen. **No discussion.**
 ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- e. Resolution 22-68: Gift Acceptance - Police Dept. (\$1,000), Veterans' Services Dept. (\$100) (Motion to Approve Resolution 22-68 - Majority Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 22-68: Gift Acceptance - Police Dept. (\$1,000), Veterans' Services Dept. (\$100) by Dellorco. **SECOND** by Hamblen. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen thanked the donators for their generous donations. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Hellen stated that the DelCarte festivities are this Saturday from 9 AM to 12 PM, and the Police Department Halloween party is this Sunday.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Capital Budget Subcommittee.** ► None.
- b. Budget Subcommittee.** ► None.
- c. Economic Development Subcommittee.** ► None.

► Councilor Frongillo stated that GATRA met, but he has nothing major to report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Councilor Frongillo stated that he wanted to work with the administration on strengthening bike infrastructure.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Councilor Cormier-Leger thanked the administration at Dean for the great community meeting they had last week. He stated that it was a nice outreach to help to start the discussion about how the college and the Town can work better together. ► Councilor Pellegri noted that there are signs on Emmons Street near Dean College that indicate merchant parking; she asked why signs could not be put on the streets that residents are having problems with the Dean students. ► Mr. Hellen commented on signs that are up and stated that they are merchant spaces. He stated that there are some signs on some of the other streets as well. He stated that this is not an agenda item tonight, but it will be on the November 2, 2022, agenda. ► Councilor Pellegri requested a bus for the Senior Center. She stated that the ladybug ornaments are available at the Museum as well as other items. She stated that the lights uptown are beautiful. ► Councilor Sheridan stated that he is very happy with the rail trail. ► Councilor Frongillo congratulated Nick for being a firefighter. He stated that office hours at the Senior Center are at 8:30 AM. He stated that GATRA representatives will be there. ► Councilor Hamblen suggested everyone vote early on Saturday and then go to DelCarte for the event. She stated that the last Farmers' Market of the season will be on October 28, 2022; there will be a pumpkin weigh in contest and a pumpkin decoration contest at the Farmers' Market on October 28. ► Councilor Jones thanked the legislative delegation that attended tonight's meeting, congratulated the new firefighters, noted that there are four firefighter who retired last week, and congratulated the new chancellor and new president of Dean College. ► Councilor Dellorco stated that residents on Forest Street stated that they are afraid to get their mail as there are tractor trailers going down the street. He stated that the Police Department put the machine there to try to slow people

down. Mr. Hellen stated that he will talk to the police chief who will do an analysis to see if there is any calming that can be done and work with the DPW. ► Chair Mercer thanked the legislative delegation for coming to tonight's meeting. He reminded everyone that the firefighter memorial service is Sunday at 9:30 AM in front of the fire station.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Dellorco. SECOND by Jones. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary