

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 20, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Patrick Casey, Robert Dellorco, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Peter Padula. Councilors absent: Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegrini. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Jamie Hellen, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Chrissy Whelton, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER: ► Vice Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ► Vice Chairman Kelly announced the meeting is being recorded by *Franklin TV* and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may also be recorded by others.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Mr. Alan Earls, 23 Marvin Avenue, gave a public service announcement for the Charles River Meadowlands Initiative to improve access to and management of more than 500 acres of natural resources along the Charles River. He showed the areas on a map. On Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 6:30 PM, at the King Street Fire Station, there will be an input session, the presentation of the results of a recent study, and a look at possible next steps. He encouraged the community and the Town Council members to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *None.*

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *None.*

APPOINTMENTS: *None.*

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *None.*

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:

- a. ***Auditors-Independent Auditors Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2018.*** ► Mr. Christopher Santini, Finance Director; Mr. Zackary Fentross, Audit Manager of Melanson Heath; and Ms. Kerri Bertone, Treasurer/Collector, addressed the Town Council. ► Mr. Fentross reviewed highlights from the financial statements and discussed the Independent Auditors' Report (page 1). He stated that the Town has received a clean opinion which means there are no exceptions; it is the best opinion that can be received from an independent audit firm. This is the same opinion the Town has received in prior years. He discussed the Management's Discussion and Analysis. He noted and reviewed the Statement of Net Position (page 14), with focus on the governmental activities' column. He noted that Land and Construction in Progress has approximately \$18.7 million balance which is about \$10 million less than the prior year. It is offset by an increase of approximately \$12 million in other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, due to the library project completed in 2018. He noted the Net Pension Liability with a balance of \$40.8 million which is approximately \$1.5 million increase from the prior year; he reviewed the reasons for the swings in this account. He reviewed the net OPEB liability with a balance of approximately \$73.4 million. He stated that this is the big change for the Town and for all communities. In the past, this liability was presented differently; however, governmental accounting standards changed and must it be presented as the full liability and not presented over a 30-year period. He noted page 16 and focused on the General Fund. He stated that this page does not include any long-

term liabilities or long-term assets. He explained the \$1.3 million balance under property taxes. He stated the unassigned fund balance of \$11.9 million was a good position for the Town and increased over last year. He noted information on the General Fund (page 20) which highlighted the increase in the unassigned fund balance. In total, from revenues and transfers in, to expenditures and transfers out, there was a favorable variance of \$3.3 million. He discussed the Statement of Fiduciary Net Position (page 24) and focused on the OPEB Trust Fund. The Town has set aside so far \$4.4 million which is about 5.72 percent of that liability which is about average for communities of this size in the Commonwealth.

► Town Council members asked questions about meeting the OPEB liability needs. ► Mr. Nutting stated all the OPEB Trust money is invested with the State investment vehicle so we pay very small management fees. The investments are for the long term. He reiterated that when Dan Sherman came in, he said steady as she goes; increase it each year. The pension liability will be paid off in approximately 2032 and then those funds can be put toward OPEB. ► Mr. Fentross stated there were no irregularities or issues that needed to be addressed; the Town is in a very strong financial situation. He thanked Mr. Santini and Ms. Bertone for their help and kindness in completing the audit. ► Vice Chairman Kelly thanked the Town staff for their help in the audit process.

- b. **Recreation Department.** ► Mr. Ryan Jette, Director of Recreation, addressed the Town Council. Mr. Jette presented a slideshow with an overview of the Recreation Department including statistics, programs, and events. He noted that in 2018 there were 5,277 participants enrolled in programs and the department brought in just under \$500,000 in revenue. Their goal is to be self-supporting. In 2018, they offered 95 unique programs with 401 different class offerings. He provided a list of all the programs and noted the list is available online, as well. He reviewed the sports, programs and events for the fall, winter, spring, and summer. He noted that pickleball is the fastest growing sport at this time. They try to offer something for everyone. He noted Earth Day is April 27, 2019, 9:00-12:00 PM, at Beaver Pond. Bags and gloves will be provided for the cleanup event. Community service certificates will be provided. He stated the Recreation Department provides many community education programs such as CPR/AED and first aid classes. He stated the department has two full-time staff and one part-time administrative assistant. Forty-five percent of personnel budget is made up of seasonal payroll. There are 19 senior tax workout volunteers. Mr. Jette recognized Gloria Rollinson and stated that she was honored and presented with the Franklin Recreation Department Lifetime Achievement Award for her 25-plus years of service to the children of Franklin. He thanked her for her dedication to the Recreation Department and the school. He discussed the fields and playgrounds; they are all up to code and are safe. He said he put a list of fields and playgrounds on the Town website, as well. He talked about the Eagle Scout projects that have been worked on and completed through the department. He reviewed new initiatives and planned improvements. He thanked Mr. Nutting for being a good leader and teacher, and a strong advocate for recreation. ► Mr. Casey asked if Mr. Jette had heard any concerns from parents about lack of recess time in the schools. ► Mr. Jette said he has not heard anything about lack of recess time, but he noted he has heard some gym classes are being taken away at the high school level. He stated that physical education is very important for children. ► Mr. Dellorco stated he thinks the Town has the best recreational director in the state; Mr. Jette does a great job. ► Mr. Jette thanked his staff and volunteers for all their hard work. ► Mr. Jones stated he thinks highly of what the Recreation Department does for the Town. ► Mr. Padula stated that keeping kids involved in sports and keeping them active is wonderful; the Recreation Department does a great job. ► Mr. Nutting said Mr. Jette is a hard worker and very passionate about his work. ► Vice Chairman Kelly thanked Mr. Jette for his hard work and dedication.
- c. **Department of Public Works-Recycling.** ► Mr. Brutus Cantoreggi, Director of Public Works, and Mr. Chris White, Environmental Affairs Coordinator, addressed the Town Council during Legislation for Action, Item d.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Capital Budget.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated he had nothing to report at this time.
- b. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula stated he had nothing to report at this time.
- c. **Economic Development.** ► Vice Chairman Kelly stated everything is status quo.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

- a. **Resolution 19-25: Appropriation Police & Fire Station Improvements (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-25 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 19-25: Appropriation Police & Fire Station Improvements for \$50,000 by Padula. SECOND by Dellorco.** **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that originally the regional dispatch center (RDC) was going to pay for all this. There are things that need to be done at both locations to make up for a lack of dispatcher. We were given short notice and we need the funds to complete these upgrades at both locations quickly. These upgrades are for the safety of the officers. ► Town Council members asked questions. ► **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

- b. **Resolution 19-26: Appropriation Transfer Funds Public Works Curbside (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-26 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 19-26: Appropriation Transfer Funds Public Works Curbside for \$100,000 by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco.** **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the curbside program is an Enterprise Account. In the last 12 months, the recycling market is in chaos. It is costing the Town a great deal of money. We will be \$100,000 short for this fiscal year. In the final resolution on tonight's agenda, we will be asking for a rate increase for the next fiscal year. It is well beyond the Town's control. ► Mr. Casey noted this issue is everywhere. ► Vice Chairman Kelly asked Mr. Cantoreggi about how they can find out who puts non-recyclables in their recycling bucket. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated the Waste Management trucks have cameras on the sides in the hopper. A picture is taken every time the truck arm tips the bucket over; the trucks are GPS tracked so they can verify what house it was at. The driver will get out and put a sticker on something that should not be in the recycling bucket. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated letters are sent out to violators and fines are threatened. It is more about public education. The recycling rate has gone up, but it is less than other communities because the Town's contamination rate is very low. ► **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

- c. **Bylaw Amendment 19-839: Municipal Service Fees - Recycling Sticker Rate Increase - 1st Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment to a 2nd Reading - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Bylaw Amendment 19-839: Municipal Service Fees - Recycling Sticker Rate Increase to a 2nd Reading by Padula. SECOND by Dellorco.** **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that this is basically the same issue; we will lose money if we do not up the fee. ► **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

- d. **Bylaw Amendment 19-840: Municipal Service Fees - Curbside Trash/Recycling Rate Increase - 1st Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 19-840 to a 2nd Reading - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Bylaw Amendment 19-840: Municipal Service Fees - Curbside Trash/Recycling Rate Increase to a 2nd Reading by Padula. SECOND by Dellorco.** **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is a direct result of the changes to the recycling market as well as normal increases in our costs. This should allow us to hopefully break even in FY20. The fee increase is large, but the rate is not outside the long-term rates. ► Mr. Earls asked about the rate changes over the years. ► Mr. Nutting explained the Enterprise Account and that fees went up when the barrels were purchased and when paid off the cost went down. He thinks the fee will continue to go up with inflation. ► Town Council members asked questions. ► Mr. Nutting stated that if a customer wants a 35-gallon cart instead of a 65-gallon cart, they can call the DPW and request a change. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated that Mr. White is the passion and innovation for the solid waste program. ► Mr. Dellorco noted that if the recycling market changes, the price could go up or down. ► Mr. Hellen stated that recycling may be coming to the U.S. from China which may make rates go down. ► Mr. White stated the tonnage change annually has not been significant. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated that Mr. White has pushed for picking up at the 55-plus residences and some condos because the Town's rates were lower than what the condos could get. He noted they do not necessarily make as much trash as a larger home, so that helps the rates. ► Mr. Nutting stated that when the Town changed to using carts, the tonnage went down about 30 percent; the recycling rates went up and our trash went down. It was a win-win. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated

there is more accountability with the barrels. ► **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.** ► Mr. Nutting discussed the two-week \$10 pass fee for Beaver Street. Only 240 people used it last year. It seems that most people use it for moving out of town and getting rid of their trash. He recommended either eliminating the \$10 pass or increasing it to \$25. He would like to put it on a future agenda for discussion. He stated that this \$10 pass was a trial; it should either be put into the bylaw or be eliminated.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated all is well. ► Mr. Hellen congratulated Teresa Burr and Nancy Danello as they have both become certified municipal clerks. ArtWeek begins April 27, 2019, at 4:00-9:00 PM, on the Town Common.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: *None.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Jones noted that March 30, 2019, is Arts Advocacy Day. It will be held at the Senior Center. Mr. Joe Kennedy is coming to Franklin on that day around 11:30 AM. He noted that in regard to Earth Day, he has noticed quite a bit of litter around Town. He gave a shout-out to the Recreation Department. He suggested citizens go to the Recreation Department website for more information. ► Mr. Nutting stated he is amazed at the amount of litter. ► Ms. Hamblen and Mr. Dellorco said Happy Spring. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated there were 20 snow events this year; we are about \$40,000 under budget. One-third of the budget money was spent on salt.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: ► **MOTION** to Adjourn by Dellorco. **SECOND** by Jones. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.** Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary