

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 15, 2020**

*As stated on the agenda, due to the growing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, this meeting will be conducted as a Remote/Virtual Town Council meeting. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number, or citizens can participate by using the Zoom link provided on the agenda.*

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 as a **Remote Access Virtual Zoom Meeting**. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Brian Chandler, Robert Dellorco, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegri. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Chrissy Whelton, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

**CALL TO ORDER:** ► Chair Mercer called the **Remote Access Virtual Zoom Meeting** to order at 7:06 PM. He confirmed via roll call that Town Council members and Administrative personnel were present and could hear the Chair. ► Chair Mercer called for a moment of silence.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** ► Chair Mercer stated this meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's executive order of March 12, 2020, regarding the current state of emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings and as such the governor's order suspends the requirements of the open meeting law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. He stated that this meeting will feature public comment. He noted the availability of the posted call-in number and Zoom meeting link provided on the agenda for the public to join and participate in the meeting. He reviewed that all supporting meeting materials that have been provided to the Town Council are available on the Town's website unless otherwise noted. He announced this **Remote Access Virtual Zoom 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:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** ► *February 12, 2020 and March 19, 2020.* ► **MOTION** to Approve the February 12, 2020 meeting minutes by Kelly. **SECOND** by Jones. **No Discussion.** **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES. ► **VOTE:** Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. ► **MOTION** to Approve the March 19, 2020 meeting minutes as amended to indicate that Ms. Pellegri was in attendance by Dellorco. **SECOND** by Kelly. **Discussion:** Ms. Pellegri stated that she was in attendance at the March 19, 2020 Town Council meeting. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES. ► **VOTE:** Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS:** None.

**HEARINGS:** 7:10pm. ► *Zoning Map Changes on or Near Pleasant, Chestnut, and Brook Streets.*

*Chair Mercer declared the public hearing open.  
Mr. Bissanti recused himself.*

► Mr. Hellen stated this is the latest in a series of lot line clean ups that are part of the lot line clean-up project for parcels with multiple zoning districts on one parcel. He discussed the provided diagram of both the current zoning map and proposed zoning map changes. He stated that the Economic Development Committee approved these zoning map changes. The zoning bylaw amendment was then referred to the Planning Board which at their April 13, 2020 public hearing voted unanimously for recommendation to the Town Council. This will be the first of two readings for this Legislation for Action item to go forward. ► Mr. Jones confirmed the memorandum from the Planning Board dated April 14, 2020 to recommend this zoning bylaw amendment. ► Ms. Hamblen confirmed these zoning map changes were discussed and voted on unanimously by the EDC. ► **MOTION to Close the public hearing by Dellorco. SECOND by Kelly. No Discussion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0; Abstain-1. (Mr. Bissanti was listed as abstained as he had recused himself).**

*Mr. Bissanti re-entered the meeting.*

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: ► Dean College: New Section 12 All Alcoholic Beverages License, Located at 135 Emmons Street, Franklin, MA.** ► Mr. Jones read the license transaction. ► **MOTION to Approve** the request by Dean College to approve the New Section 12 All Alcoholic Beverages License, Located at 135 Emmons Street, Franklin, MA, and to approve the manager, Kenneth Corkran by **Jones. SECOND by Kelly. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen confirmed this is a new Section 12 All Alcoholic Beverages License. He stated that recently the Town's bylaw was changed for entities like Dean College to have full liquor licenses. Such entities used to come in on an almost weekly basis to obtain one-day liquor licenses. He stated that the Town worked with the ABCC, and the Town's bylaw was amended so such establishments can have a license for the entire year. ► Ms. Trish Farnsworth, Attorney representing the applicant, Dean College, introduced Mr. Kenneth Corkran, the proposed manager and Director of Law Enforcement Services and Risk Management at Dean College, and Mr. Dave Drucker, Dean of Students at Dean College. Ms. Farnsworth stated the college has been procuring one-day licenses in the past; however, administratively, the one-day licenses are burdensome for both the college and the Town. The proposed New Section 12 All Alcoholic Beverages License would be to license the Campus Center. There would be designated areas and floor plans submitted for various events and uses in the Campus Center. These events/uses are for students only, and not for the general public; however, students can bring guests. It was stated that IDs will be checked. Further, Dean College also wants to use this license for other kinds of events such as brunches and meetings. Everyone will be TIPS trained and all people entering must provide ID. People will not be able to take an alcoholic beverage and walk out of the building. ► Mr. Drucker said this would allow the college to have more flexibility and not worry about hitting a maximum number of one-day licenses; there are a number of events that the college runs throughout the year where they would like to use this license. He stated that Campus Safety and law enforcement are present at every event where alcohol is present, and IDs are checked. The college has been doing one-day license events for four to five years and there has never been an incident. This license would allow the college to host these types of events annually. ► Mr. Corkran confirmed such events have been held for four years; the areas have been cordoned off, and officers are present to make sure alcohol is used in the designated areas. ► Mr. Cerel said he has met with and provided direction to some folks at Dean College; this is a perfectly acceptable way to proceed. ► Mr. Hellen reminded Mr. Corkran and Mr. Drucker that TIPS certification training is required and mandated by the Town. ► Mr. Chandler asked for the percentage of students who are 21 years of age or older, and questioned who the manager of the license would be. ► Mr. Drucker said by spring semester 25 percent of Dean's population is 21 years of age or older. ► Ms. Farnsworth said Sodexo handles food and beverages at the

college; they will manage, store, and buy the alcohol. They have employees who are TIPS trained; however, Mr. Corkran is ultimately responsible as the manager on the license, and he will work with Sodexo. ► Mr. Drucker said Sodexo staff who are involved are TIPS certified; they have a locked facility where the alcohol is stored. ► Mr. Dellorco said he understands the events that are organized to bring people in for fundraisers, but asked why is alcohol needed for events for students. He asked how TIPS training would be handled. ► Mr. Drucker stated that at Boomer's Restaurant and in the Atrium in the Campus Center, the college hosts events for students 21 years of age and older to teach them about socially responsible alcohol use. It is a social gathering which averages about 30 to 35 students. It is part of the educational process. He stated Sodexo will provide a list of staff who are TIPS certified. ► Mr. Kelly asked if Mr. Corkran would be TIPS certified. ► Mr. Drucker said that Sodexo will do a train-the-trainer program for anyone else who wants to be TIPS certified. ► Mr. Kelly said the manager on record has always been TIPS certified; he would not like that precedent to be changed. ► Mr. Drucker said Mr. Corkran can be TIPS certified this summer. ► Mr. Cerel said the Town bylaw requires the manager to take the TIPS training. ► Mr. Bissanti reiterated that the manager must be TIPS certified. He stated that he would like to use scanners for ID confirmation rather than eyeballing the ID at the door. ► Ms. Hamblen asked for clarification on how the one-day licenses were handled regarding the manger on record. ► Mr. Hellen said that for the one-day liquor licenses there is a point of contact and not a manager. He confirmed the Sodexo employees and manger on record must be certified. ► Mr. Jones asked for the size of the Campus Center and if alcohol will be allowed to be served in the entire Campus Center or only in the Boomer's restaurant. ► Chair Mercer said alcohol will be allowed anywhere within the Campus Center building. ► Mr. Drucker stated Boomer's is where the majority of the student events would be held; however, Dean hosts many events throughout the year which take place in many different rooms/areas of the Campus Center. ► Mr. Jones stated that as Dean is going to be able to serve alcohol within the 118,000 sq. ft. Campus Center, the college can potentially serve alcohol throughout the entire building at the same time. He is uncomfortable with not having a manager on record for Sodexo. ► Ms. Farnsworth said they are sure they could provide a point person for Sodexo; however, that person's name would not be on the license. ► Mr. Corkran said that they typically do not have multiple events at the same time. ► Mr. Kelly confirmed that this license is just for special events. He asked if Dean College could actually set up a bar. ► Mr. Cerel said the college is requesting a New Section 12 All Alcoholic Beverages License; there is a great deal of flexibility in this. So, they could have this as a bar. However, the Town Council could limit or condition the license. ► Mr. Kelly said his fear is that this could take money from the community and small business owners. For instance, people may go to the bar at Dean and not go to Teddy Gallagher's in the downtown. ► Mr. Hellen stated that any part of the license could be conditioned. He confirmed that anything on Dean's campus is not opened to the general public; it is limited to Dean students, guests, alumni, or other affiliates of Dean College. This will not be another public bar. ► Mr. Kelly said he would like to condition this license; he would like a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prepared between the Town and Dean College. The Town community depends on the Dean Community to use and keep the downtown viable. The Town has been working hard to keep the downtown going and to keep downtown Franklin active and vibrant; the MOU is needed to get everyone on the same page. He is worried about the economic future. ► Ms. Pellegrini agreed with Mr. Kelly and stated that she does not want business to be taken away from the downtown area. ► Mr. Cerel confirmed there is the option to place conditions; he suggested that conditioning would be better than a MOU. ► Mr. Drucker said it is important to recognize there is a dining hall on campus, but the students still spend money at local restaurants; he does not see that changing. He stated that students are interested in supporting the local economy. ► Ms. Janet Bederian, on behalf of family members at 128 & 130 School Street, agreed with Mr. Kelly. She stated that she wants to make sure the alcohol is going to be contained in the building and not be outside like when Dean has its carnival event in the spring. ► Mr. Drucker said the college can still obtain one-day liquor permits for areas other than the Campus Center. ► Mr. Cerel confirmed the college can get a one-day liquor license for another part of the property. ► Ms. Bederian said there are not usually problems with the students except during the beginning and end of the school year. ► Mr. Bissanti agreed with Mr. Kelly. He expressed concern for the

merchants and small businesses in Town. He wants to be assured the bar at Dean will only be open for students. He recommended an agreement be formed so this will not hurt businesses in Town, and he recommended this license transaction be continued. ► Mr. Dellorco agreed with Mr. Kelly. He stated that although Mr. Drucker said the students will continue to use the downtown area, he thinks that when alcohol is thrown in, the students may stay on campus. ► Mr. Kelly stated he would like to make a motion that the license transaction be continued to the May 6, 2020 Town Council meeting so the Town Administrator and Dean College can work out a Memorandum of Understanding or an agreed upon set of conditions for the license. ► **MOTION to Continue the License Transaction to May 6, 2020, by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-NO; Dellorco-YES; Earls-NO; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-7, No-2, Absent-0.**

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► Coronavirus Updates.** ► Mr. Hellen provided updates related to COVID-19. He said Massachusetts is in the heaviest portion of confirmed virus cases with about 30,000 cases and about 1,000 deaths statewide. They anticipate this trend to continue for the remainder of the month and into early May with about 100 deaths per day expected. He stated that testing is greatly increased with 1,000 tests per day; the testing rate should continue to climb. He stated that as more people are being tested, more cases are confirmed. He stated the governor's stay-at-home advisory is still in effect, and there is now an advisory to wear a face covering when in public. He noted the state has only been in this situation for one month. He stated that he exercised two local options: payment for property tax bills was pushed back to June 1, 2020, and water/sewer/trash and excise tax fees and penalties are waived to June 30, 2020. He noted this is the furthest date that he could extend these options to help the citizens of the Town. He stated that dog licensing is postponed to June 1, 2020. He noted that if anyone has questions, they should call the Treasurer/Collector's office. He provided a public construction projects update. He stated there are weekly department head meetings, and he provided an update of each department. He stated that police and fire have plenty of PPE at the current time; they are doing an amazing job during these times. Facilities has done a great job on instituting a rotating staff schedule, building a disinfection schedule, and disinfecting the vehicle fleet for public safety and DPW. The DPW has a scaled-down crew and is working on an on-call basis to reduce risk to staff; some items can wait another month to be done while some work cannot wait such as repairs on a water break. The Recycling Center will be closed for another few weeks with the hope that it will be open again soon. The DPW administration is working remotely. The Highway/Grounds division is working on as-needed tasks. This is being taken week-by-week to see what the trend is. Employee safety is valued; employees will be working solo or following separation guidelines. He noted the recent storm brought down a lot of trees and much clean-up work was needed. He reviewed the Senior Center's ongoing work and stated that there has been a great level of outreach to seniors. He stated that discussions have been ongoing about a lunch pickup program for seniors; no final decisions have been made. The Public Library staff has been doing great work remotely. Recreation staff are working remotely from home. They will be faced with upcoming decisions regarding youth sports' spring and summer programs. Most communities around Franklin have canceled spring programs. He mentioned that they are going to continue with Earth Day in some fashion as they have the materials and the bags. There should be a self-policing policy of organizing this; he will keep everyone posted. He stated that the Municipal building is closed and everyone has been working remotely. Some staff have been coming in on an as-needed basis. All departments have remote work plans. Assessors have been doing work from home; next week they will be allowed to do inspections from the road. The Treasurer/Collector goes into the building three times per week to process billing and checks coming in. Payroll is being done remotely from home. Everything normally done in the Treasurer's office is continuing. Administrative Assistant Alecia Alleyne has been going in to the building twice per week and has done a great job coordinating all mail pickup for departments. Planning Board, ZBA, and Conservation Commission have been doing remote meetings and taking care of general business. At the recommendation of Town Attorney Mark Cerel, public hearings have been postponed until May. Conservation Agent Jen Delmore is still doing inspections and responding to complaints. Building

inspections are moving forward. He stated the departments should be called for specific information. The Board of Health has been responding to employee and citizen complaints; they are moving forward with their work. The Town Clerk's office staff has been working remotely; the Town Clerk goes into the office as needed and work is proceeding as usual. The Schools developed a remote work plan; he does not know about the date, if any, for schools to reopen; they are awaiting a decision by the governor. He noted that when staff needs access to the building, they must contact Mr. Hellen or the superintendent of schools for approval. He said all staff have been working together and doing a great job to keep services continuing. ►Chair Mercer stated that the recording of tonight's meeting is ongoing; however, Franklin TV's broadcast has been interrupted. ►Town Council members asked questions and agreed that all staff are doing a great job under the circumstances and working very hard. ►Mr. Jones noted that there is a meeting to determine a plan to transition to getting back to normal. He asked that based on available information, when could the employees and the public go back into municipal buildings and back into recreation areas. He stated that a date should be picked to be able to work towards; the date can always be adjusted; a plan must be put together. ►Mr. Hellen said he does not know when the coast will be clear to do this. He thinks there will be a slow incremental return to a new normal. A lot of this will depend on what the governor says. He stated that according to the governor, Massachusetts is just hitting the surge now. Currently, everything is closed until May 4, 2020 per the governor. ►Mr. Kelly expressed concern for the small businesses. If this is lifted on May 4<sup>th</sup>, he asked what the sanitation plan from the Board of Health is. They should be working right now on getting out simple guidelines for restaurants to reopen; the plan should be prepared now. ►Mr. Hellen said that they have been talking to department heads and Norfolk county managers about what are the incremental steps being taken to get back to normal. He stated the Department of Public Health will mandate the policies to be instituted for restaurants and bars to reopen. ►Mr. Kelly said support must be given to restaurants and small businesses. Those businesses must know what to do. As a community, we need to help them be ready to open on the first day that they are allowed. He wants people to come to Franklin and feel comfortable to shop, to eat, and to work. He stated that Franklin's Board of Health must know some of the things that are going to be needed for getting the small businesses prepared for reopening. Franklin needs to be ready to go. If it requires the Town Council to have a weekly meeting with the Board of Health, then it should be done. ►Mr. Hellen said he will talk to the Board of Health to see if this concern can be addressed at one of their next meeting. He does not think Franklin is behind on this. He thinks they are working on this very well. ►Chair Mercer agreed that Franklin should be the best prepared as possible when they are allowed to reopen. If they can find out what some of the criteria will be for the businesses to reopen, then the businesses can line up the subcontractors and be better prepared. ►Mr. Dellorco stated he agreed with his fellow Town Council members. However, he does not think anything will open up until June based on what he sees in the airport now; he does not want to see a second wave of this virus. He would like the small businesses back to work as soon as possible. ►Mr. Hellen noted that restaurants are open for take-out. Maybe there should be more promotion of this to the public. He noted that no liquor licenses have been returned at the time. ►Mr. Bissanti stated he feels there are many businesses that do not need to be closed right now. Restaurants could probably operate in a limited way with social distancing. He thinks there is arrogance on the governor's part that the governor thinks people can last this long without income. He understands a second wave may be coming. He noted there is some conflicting information and that some CDC information is coming from China; can that information be trusted. He stated he explored with Mr. Hellen what the enforcement is in Franklin; he thinks there is none. He stated that if there is no monetary penalty and there is no clear-cut enforcement, and people are going broke and worried about putting food on the table, what are they supposed to do? ►Mr. Hellen said this is uncharted territory. He said the Department of Public Health works with the governor to determine what businesses are essential and non-essential. There are businesses that could still stay open and do their business on the sidewalk. In terms of enforcement, that comes down to the Board of Health. Most of the time the Board of Health talks to the people if there is a complaint, and they do a public education campaign. There is usually a lot of progress. When doing a compliance check, there is usually a lot of compliance. If that does not work, there is an enforcement mechanism; the COVID-19 Task Force is about

compliance and enforcement. ► Mr. Cerel stated this is not guidelines or suggestions. The governor's order of March 23, 2020, COVID-19 Order #13, has its own enforcement mechanism in it which says the Department of Public Health along with any Board of Health or authorized agent will enforce this order if necessary with state or local police; violation of the terms may result in a criminal penalty, a civil fine, or injunction from district court compelling businesses to remain closed and comply with the order. This is all dependent on if it is an essential business; there are many categories and exceptions. If you fall within a prohibited business, you run the risk of criminal or civil action if you defy that. The governor asserted his authority under the law to do this. The only issue is how actively is this being enforced. ► Discussion commenced about actual enforcement of this order from both state and local levels. ► Mr. Hellen stated that as of now, it seems the Franklin community and businesses have rallied around the governor's orders. ► Chair Mercer stated this was a valuable conversation, and there is much more discussion needed moving forward.

► ***Community Preservation Act (CPA).*** ► Mr. Hellen stated there was a discussion in February on this topic; it was a positive meeting with a lot of community support. At the end of the meeting, after hearing feedback, the Chair of the CPA asked to put forth a ballot question. At this Town Council meeting, the Town Council will consider a possible ballot question; he would like to have further open dialogue about this ballot initiative. ► Mr. Chandler stated he supports the CPA. He asked that if this goes forward, are there any special costs for this to go on the ballot. ► Mr. Hellen stated additional costs would be required to print out a separate ballot in addition to the presidential ballot. ► Mr. Kelly said he was in favor of it, and it is worth putting on the ballot. He expressed concern about the requested percentage as it affects the tax rate. He said the voters should choose. ► Mr. Dellorco said he supports putting it on the ballot. The public must be given the information they need so when they cast their vote, they know what they are voting for. ► Mr. Hellen said if the Town Council is in agreement, the Town Attorney would draft a ballot question and put it on the May 6, 2020, Town Council agenda. The Town cannot do any type of perceived advocacy for this. Citizens and stake holders in the community are a core group of people who would likely start the third-party group to begin fundraising and send out information and educational materials to the public. These would be the months for the community to rally around the initiative before the November ballot. ► Mr. Cerel confirmed the percentage and exemptions must be designated. He recommended a decision be made quickly to allow enough time to provide the information to the community before the election. ► Mr. Bissanti stated support for this initiative, and said it would be a good thing for the Town. ► Chair Mercer asked if Mr. Cerel could proceed with drawing up the ballot question. He asked if the item could then be put on the next Town Council agenda for discussion and vote. ► Mr. Hellen stated yes. He would designate the three percent surcharge as there are then matching funds from the state. If the Town Council wants the three percent to be amended, that can be done. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated they will have to work very hard to get this passed. It is needed and will help the Town for schools, roads, museum and more. They have to think of a way to get the voters to think this is important. ► Mr. Earls agreed it will be challenging to get this passed due to the current times. He asked if it would be better to wait a little longer to engage the public to support it.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

#### **LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:**

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

***Mr. Bissanti recused himself.***

- a. ***Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-853: Zoning Map Changes on or Near Pleasant, Chestnut, and Brook Streets - First Reading (Motion to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-853 to a Second Reading - Majority Vote).*** ► Mr. Jones read the zoning bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-853: Zoning Map Changes on or Near Pleasant, Chestnut, and Brook Streets to a Second Reading by Dellorco. SECOND by Kelly. Discussion:** Mr. Hellen stated Director of Planning and Community Development Bryan Taberner is attending this meeting if anyone has questions. He noted that information on this item was provided during the public hearing earlier in this meeting. ► Ms. Hamblen, EDC Chair, stated the committee voted unanimously. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

*Mr. Bissanti re-entered the meeting.*

- b. ***Resolution 20-19: Solar Authorization - Maple Street Bellingham (Motion to Approve Resolution 20-19 - Majority Vote).*** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 20-19: Solar Authorization - Maple Street Bellingham by Dellorco. SECOND by Kelly. Discussion:** Mr. Hellen stated Maple Street Solar is continuing to move forward with their project which will provide additional revenue for the community. He noted that the other two solar companies involved in solar projects are also continuing to move forward ► Mr. Kelly pointed out this is Maple Street in Bellingham, not Franklin. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- c. ***Bylaw Amendment 20-857: Chapter 82, Trash and Recycling Fee Increase - First Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 20-857 to a Second Reading - Majority Vote).*** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Bylaw Amendment 20-857: Chapter 82, Trash and Recycling Fee Increase to a Second Reading by Dellorco. SECOND by Kelly. Discussion:** Mr. Hellen stated DPW Director Brutus Cantoreggi is attending this meeting to answer questions. They are requesting an increase in the curbside trash and recycling fee from \$248 annually to \$278 annually, effective July 1, 2020. This is a \$7.50 increase per quarter. The increase is a direct result of changes to the recycling market in China. He pointed out that this is also a result of the Commonwealth's prevailing wage increase. These are factors which the Town has little or no control. He reviewed the history of this fee and noted it is \$22 lower than it was 15 years ago. The contract in place was agreed upon prior to the COVID-19 crisis. They will continue to work with the contractor to make sure they get the most competitive rates possible. ► Mr. Chandler asked about the 18 percent increase for prevailing wage; he confirmed this means they are getting over \$50 per hour. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated they were very surprised by the prevailing wage set by the state. ► Mr. Kelly asked if it would be worth bringing the Recycling Committee back to work on this due to the cost of recycling and the direction recycling is going. ► Mr. Cantoreggi said he thinks they do not need to do that at this time. The community is still doing very good with the recycling rate. He noted they are almost paying more for recycling than trash; it would be less expensive to burn the recycling. It is a balancing act right now. ► Mr. Kelly said that is why he is asking if this should be looked into. He does not want to burn the recycling as it would be bad for the environment. Maybe the community would come back and determine it is better for the community to throw away the recycling or just recycle paper. He would like to recycle everything possible; however, the community should make that decision. Maybe the committee should have a few meetings. ► Mr. Hellen said that this may be worthy of a separate discussion in the future. He reviewed the process of the land swap for the Recycling Center facility. Possibly, a recycling center committee could look at what that would look like. Given the financial challenges, this may be a good opportunity to have that kind of committee. He explained that he will be trying to find the money to make the land

swap; they are really close. However, right now, they are looking at getting this fee increase passed for July 1, 2020. ► Ms. Hamblen said it is important for people to remember the fee is less than when they started this program, and smaller barrels are available for a smaller fee. ► Mr. Dellorco said he agrees with Mr. Kelly about getting a committee together. ► Mr. Bissanti said he agreed with all the Town Council members. He did some research on recycled plastics. He noted that China will not take the recycled plastics anymore. He thinks this fee increase is not horrible at this time or a big burden to put on the taxpayers. ► Mr. Jones asked if there is anything that can be done to get the Recycling Center open in light of the recent storm and tree waste. ► Mr. Hellen said they are trying to take it on a week-to-week basis regarding hours of operation at the Recycling Center. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-NO; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-1, Absent-0.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** ► None.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** ► Mr. Kelly said he would like to have a conversation with the Board of Health about a pandemic response to be prepared for anything in the future.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** ► Mr. Bissanti reminded the community that because of these times we are now an electronic community not just a physical community. This is breaking new ground, and it will get better. He thanked everyone for their understanding. ► Mr. Chandler said he is glad that the COVID-19 numbers are now getting released. He said that he thinks people are feeling frustrated about being inside and wondering what is going to happen next. ► Mr. Earls said this is a difficult time. He commended everyone for their efforts in social distancing and flattening the curve. ► Ms. Hamblen thanked Mr. Pete Fasciano and Franklin TV for helping the Town Council bring this meeting to the community. She thanked everyone for keeping the Town moving forward remotely and for all their hard work trying to keep everyone safe. She asked everyone to continue to follow CDC guidelines. ► Mr. Kelly thanked Franklin TV for helping to put on this meeting. He emphasized the need for the Recycling Center to be open. He gave condolences for the passing of John "Jack" Dean who was Mr. Kelly's mentor and good friend. Mr. Dean was the face of real estate in Franklin for many years and was a very good person. Mr. Kelly gave thoughts and prayers to Mr. Dean's family; he will be missed. He encouraged everyone to stay safe. ► Ms. Pellegrini thanked Mr. Hellen for keeping everyone up to date with information. She thanked all first responders for their hard work. She thanked her daughter who works at Mass General Hospital and all workers on the front lines who help everyone. ► Mr. Jones gave a shout out to DPW workers and first responders who responded to Monday's storm; they did a tremendous job. He is glad everyone is following to rules to prevent this virus from getting any worse than it is. He thanked everyone who helped put this meeting on tonight. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked the first responders and DPW for their hard work. He thanked the Town Council for all they do for the community. He encouraged everyone to stay safe. ► Chair Mercer thanked the Town Council members for their work with the community. He thanked the Town Administrator and department heads who have stepped up and gone the extra mile under this crisis situation. He stated that hopefully the plateau will be reached soon and then the downturn will occur to allow businesses to start coming back. He discussed the latest information about the Clark Cutler McDermott plant. He received a call about a machine at the factory that could make PPE. He put the person in touch with the new owner, Rick Kaplan. Mr. Kaplan is allowing the use of the facility, and the hope is to produce PPE gowns for first responders and hospitals. There is still a lot to be done to get the process started, but it is all working in the right direction. He has worked with the State legislature regarding the process and manufacturer to make a surgical gown. Once it is up and running, up to 100,000 PPE gowns could be produced per week. These gowns would be made for distribution in the New England area. Some regulatory approvals have already been received. It will be another 10 days to two weeks before any production. He will keep everyone apprised. It is such a good project to be happening in Franklin's



community; this is the Franklin community stepping up to the plate to do something good. He encouraged everyone to stay safe.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.**

**ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Earls. SECOND by Kelly. No Discussion. ► ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:18 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Judith Lizardi  
Recording Secretary