

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 24, 2018**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 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, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegrini. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Jamie Hellen, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *December 13, 2017, December 20, 2017.* ► **MOTION** to Approve the December 13, 2017 meeting minutes by Mercer. **SECOND** by Jones. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION** to Approve the December 20, 2017 meeting minutes by Mercer. **SECOND** by Padula. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 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.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *None.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Ms. Raye Lynn Mercer, 5 Mercer Lane, representing the Black Box, discussed the February 16, 2018 event from 7:00-11:00 PM, celebrating Franklin's 240th birthday to be held at the Black Box. Mr. Joe Landry will present his collection of videos, photographs, and information of historic Franklin. There is a tiered ticketing process; information available on the Black Box website. All proceeds will benefit the Arts in Franklin. ► Ms. Teresa Burr, Town Clerk, stated that the 2018 Census has been mailed and all residents should have received it. She stated that the return address on the mailing envelope had an error. The vendor is aware of this and the town will be compensated for the mailing. She noted that the envelope was printed without her approval. She stated that the vendor will work to prevent this from happening again.

APPOINTMENTS: *None.*

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: ► *Table & Vine, Inc. – Change of Manager.* ► Mr. Jones read the license transaction. ► **MOTION** to Approve the request by Table & Vine, Inc. for a change of Manager to Jeffrey Michael Hilditch by Jones. **SECOND** by Mercer. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hilditch introduced himself to the Town Council. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *2017 Audit.* ■ Mr. Zackary Fentross, Audit Manager of Melanson Heath, Ms. Kerri Bertone, Treasure/Collector, and Mr. Christopher Sandini, Finance Director/Comptroller, addressed the Town Council. Mr. Fentross provided an overview of the Town of Franklin's Annual Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2017. He stated that overall the Town is in a good financial position; there are no major issues. He reviewed the Independent Auditor's Report which is what they were hired to produce for the Town. 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 noted the Management's Discussion and Analysis pages. He reviewed page 13 and focused on the Governmental

Activities column. Capital Assets increased by about \$4 million, mainly from work done to the Library. He discussed Net Pension Liability with balance of \$39,419,000. This is a decrease of approximately \$1.6 million from the prior year. This represents the Town's proportionate share of the Norfolk County Retirement System. The balance of Other Post-Employment Benefits is \$54,739,000. He stated there will be a change in 2018; the full balance of this liability will be recorded on the Statement of Net Position. The full liability is approximately \$69 million. He provided an overview of Franklin's Unassigned Fund Balance with a balance of \$10,661,000. This was equal to about 9.24 percent of the Town's budget which shows the Town is in a good financial position; this is a favorable figure for the Town. He stated that last year the percentage was at 10 percent. He reviewed the Fiduciary Statement of Net Position and focused on the OPEB Trust Fund. He stated that the Town is making consistent contributions which is what bond rating agencies like to see. He thanked everyone in the town that helped with the audit. ■Town Council members asked questions and thanked the presenters.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula stated he had nothing to report at this time.
2. **Capital Plan.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated they had the first meeting tonight; they reviewed the schools, IT, and facilities. Final meeting is next week and will present before the Town Council in mid-February.
3. **Economic Development.** ► Mr. Mercer stated the first meeting got postponed. They will meet for the first time on January 31, 2018.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

1. **Resolution 18-01: Acceptance of Gifts – Council on Aging (Motion to Move Resolution 18-01 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-01: Acceptance of Gifts – Council on Aging by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated thank you. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
2. **Resolution 18-02: Acceptance of Gifts – Franklin Police Department (Motion to Move Resolution 18-02 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-02: Acceptance of Gifts – Franklin Police Department by Mercer. SECOND by Padula. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
3. **Resolution 18-03: Local Adoption of G.L. Chapter 64N, Section 3, as Amended: Local Tax on Marijuana Retail Sales and Establishment of Tax Rate (Motion to Move Resolution 18-03 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move Resolution 18-03: Local Adoption of G.L. Chapter 64N, Section 3, as Amended: Local Tax on Marijuana Retail Sales and Establishment of Tax Rate by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that when the recreational marijuana ballot question passed, the Town Council moved to zone that use into the Industrial park. He stated that at the time, we were allowed to tax the sale at 2 percent; since then, the legislature has changed that to 3 percent. We are suggesting if/when a recreational facility opens, we would maximize the amount of revenue back to the town and that money would help offset any issues that may arise. ► Town Council members asked questions and discussed item. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
4. **Bylaw Amendment 18-798: Chapter 155, Streets and Sidewalks – 1st Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-798 to a 2nd Reading – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-798: Chapter 155, Streets and Sidewalks to a 2nd Reading by Mercer. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that he asked this to be added. It came to light when he was on Maple Street when trees were being cut for the 10-lot subdivision. There was mud, rocks, and dirt all over the road; this was a public safety issue. This bylaw amendment would allow the town to tell them to clean up their mess. ► Mr. Mercer asked that if the person(s) does not clean it up and the town has to, could that cost become part of the fine.

► Mr. Cerel stated he could add language to that effect. ► Mr. Nutting stated that would be put forward in the second reading. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

5. **Bylaw Amendment 18-799: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Sewer Rates – 1st Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-799 to a 2nd Reading – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-799: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Sewer Rates to a 2nd Reading by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is a proposal to increase the sewer rates for the first time in five years. Most of this is a result of an increase in the town's assessment from the Charles River Pollution Control District for the capital improvements to the Sewer Plant. It is about a \$40 increase for the average single-family use. A person with a well for water pays a flat rate for sewer. ► Chairman Kelly noted that any rise in costs is a burden to the town's residents on a fixed income. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
6. **Bylaw Amendment 18-800: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Water Rates – 1st Reading (Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-799 to a 2nd Reading – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Move Bylaw Amendment 18-800: Chapter 82, Fees, Appendix B – Water Rates to a 2nd Reading by Mercer. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the last rate increase was in 2012. They are looking for about a 10 percent rate increase which will produce about \$500,000 in revenue. He reviewed the proposed water capital projects. Another rate increase will probably be needed in three years. ► Mr. Mercer asked where the Well Stations were located and asked that in the future a street name be associated with the wells. ► Mr. Jones asked for a breakdown of the costs for the new wells and treatment plant. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Hellen gave kudos to all department heads; the town's insurance company gave the town an award for risk management community excellence. As a result, the town saved about \$60,000 on their insurance premium. ► Mr. Nutting noted a budget meeting will be held in a few weeks. He stated that the projections were close.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: *None.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Ms. Pellegri stated that in listening to the audit report, we should be very proud of our administration; nothing was negative in the report. Go Pats! ► Mr. Jones read a letter released today from the Franklin Education Foundation; he is one of the board members. The letter stated that the Franklin Education Foundation received a \$50,000 gift from the Middlesex Savings Bank to be used for the Franklin Education Foundation grant program for Franklin Public Schools. He reviewed the grant program. He stated he is grateful for the donation. ► Chairman Kelly noted that at the NEWEA annual conference in Boston, DPW Director Brutus Cantoreggi was awarded the Golden Raindrop Award for his work in stormwater; he commended Mr. Cantoreggi.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary