



FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda & Meeting Packet

June 4, 2025

Meeting will be held at the **Municipal Building**

2nd floor, Council Chambers

355 East Central Street

7:00 PM

REVISED

A NOTE TO RESIDENTS: All citizens are welcome to attend public meetings in person. **To view the live meeting remotely, citizens** are encouraged to watch the live stream on the [Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel](#) or the live broadcast on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 29. Meetings are also archived by Franklin TV on the [Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel](#) and shown on repeat on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channel 29 for those who miss the live meeting. **To listen to the meeting remotely** citizens may call-in using this number: 1-929-205-6099. This will not permit participation in the meeting. **To participate in the meeting remotely** citizens are able to join a [Zoom Webinar](#) using the information provided below.

- Zoom Webinar ID # 817 0446 2330
- Zoom Webinar Link [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81704462330) (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81704462330>)
- **Any participants who wish to speak** during the webinar must enter their **full name and email address** when joining the webinar.
- All participants will be automatically muted upon joining the webinar. In order to speak, participants – who have entered full name and email address – will need to select the “Raise Hand” function to request to be unmuted.
- All speakers will be required to state their full name and street address before commenting.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a. *This meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may be recorded by others.*
- b. *Chair to identify members participating remotely.*
- c. *Upcoming Town Sponsored Community Events.*

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- a. *Citizens are welcome to express their views for up to three minutes on a matter that is not on the agenda. In compliance with G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20 et seq, the Open Meeting Law, the Council cannot engage in a dialogue or comment on a matter raised during Citizen Comments. The Town Council may ask the Town Administrator to review the matter. Nothing herein shall prevent the Town Administrator from correcting a misstatement of fact.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. [May 7, 2025](#)
- b. [May 21, 2025](#)

4. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS – None Scheduled

5. APPOINTMENTS – None Scheduled

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS – 7:00 PM

- a. FY26 Town Council Annual Operating Budget Hearing – *Continued from May 22, 2025*
 - i. FY26 Voting Document – *Revised as of June 4, 2025*
 1. [Option B](#)
 2. [Option A & B Comparison](#)
 - ii. [FY26 Town Administrator Budget Message \(per Town Charter Section 6-4-1\)](#)
 - iii. Appendix A [Town Administrator Recommended Budget Voting Document & Budget Book \(per Town Charter provision 6-5-1 & 6-5-2\)](#)
 - iv. Appendix B [Franklin Public School District Budget Book](#)

7. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – *None Scheduled*

8. PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION – *None Scheduled*

9. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a. [Adoption of the FY2026 Budget Appropriations – Budget Vote](#)
(Motion to Approve Resolution – Majority Vote)
- b. [Resolution 25–21: Salary Schedule: Full-Time Elected Official \(Town Clerk\)](#)
(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–21 – Majority Vote)
- c. [Bylaw Amendment 25–936: A Bylaw to Amend the Code of the Town of Franklin at Chapter 73, Departmental Revolving Funds \(EV Charging Stations\)](#) – First Reading
(Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 25–936 to a Second Reading – Majority Vote)
- d. [Bylaw Amendment 25–937: A Bylaw to Amend the Code of the Town of Franklin at Chapter 82, Fees, Municipal Service \(EV Charging Stations\)](#) – First Reading
(Motion to Move Bylaw Amendment 25–937 to a Second Reading – Majority Vote)
- e. [Resolution 25–23: Snow and Ice Transfer of Funds](#)
(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–23 – Majority Vote)
- f. [Resolution 25–35: Appropriation of Funds from Receipts Reserved to Road Repairs](#)
(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–35 – Majority Vote)
- g. [Resolution 25–25: Community Preservation Fund: FY26 Annual Appropriations and Reservations](#) **(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–25 – Majority Vote)**
- h. [Resolution 25–26: FY26 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds – Capital](#)
(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–26 – Majority Vote)
- i. [Resolution 25–24: Transfer of Funds from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to Water Line Project](#) **(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–24 Majority Vote)**
- j. [Resolution 25–34: Appropriation of Funds from Receipts Reserved for PFAS Remediation](#)
(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–34 Majority Vote)
- k. [Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25–935: A Zoning Bylaw Amendment to the Code of the Town of Franklin at Chapter 185, Section 24, Floodplain District](#) – Second Reading
(Motion to Approve Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25–935 – $\frac{2}{3}$ Roll Call Majority Vote)
- l. [Resolution 25–32: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per MGL Ch. 44 §53F3/4](#) **(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–32 – Majority Vote)**
- m. [Resolution 25–33: Acceptance of Gifts – Senior Center \(\\$1,510\)](#)
(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–33 – Majority Vote)
- n. [Resolution 25–22: Expenditure Limits for FY2026 on Departmental Revolving Funds Established by Franklin Town Code Chapter 73, as Provided in MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, as Amended](#) **(Motion to Approve Resolution 25–22 – Majority Vote)**

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

11. SUBCOMMITTEE & AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Capital Budget Subcommittee

- b. Economic Development Subcommittee
- c. Joint Budget Subcommittee
- d. Police Station Building Committee
- e. GATRA Advisory Board

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION – *None Scheduled*

15. ADJOURN

Note: Two-Thirds Vote: requires 6 votes

Majority Vote: requires majority of members present and voting '

FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 7, 2025

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 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, Deborah Pellegrini, Thomas Mercer, Patrick Sheridan. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

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 meetings in person. To view the live meeting remotely, citizens are encouraged to watch the live stream on the Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel or the live broadcast on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 29. Meetings are also archived by Franklin TV on the Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel and shown on repeat on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 29 for those who miss the live meeting. To listen to the meeting remotely, citizens may call-in using the provided number. This will not permit participation in the meeting. To participate in the meeting remotely, citizens are able to join a Zoom webinar using the information provided on the agenda. Any participants who wish to speak during the webinar must enter their full name and email address when joining the webinar. All participants will be automatically muted upon joining the webinar. In order to speak, participants who have entered full name and email address will need to select the “raise hand” function to request to be unmuted. All speakers will be required to state their full name and street address before commenting. ► Chair Mercer announced upcoming events. Town Council will hold office hours on May 15 at 8:30 AM at the Senior Center. In person early voting for the June 3 Proposition 2 ½ override special election will be starting on May 16. Saturday, May 24, is the last day to register to vote. For more information contact the town clerk’s office. The Town of Franklin is seeking poets and writers to contribute original works focused on mental health, healing, and positivity for Overdose Awareness Day on August 31 and National Suicide Awareness month in September. For submission guidelines and additional information please visit the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy page on our website. ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello informed residents that the special election for Proposition 2 ½ override will be held at the Franklin High School on June 3, 2025, from 6 AM to 8 PM. She said she will be hosting in-person early voting from May 16 through May 30 at the Town Hall in the town clerk’s office. She said they are closed on Memorial Day which is on May 26, but will be in the office on Saturday, May 24 from 9 AM to 3 PM. She said if you are not a registered voter, May 24 is the last day to register. She said a robo text/call went out today to inform residents of the special election. She said registered voters will not be mailed a ballot automatically; you need to request the ballot. She reviewed the process. She said if there are any questions please call or email her office. She said last week she requested Councilor Frongillo put information on the GATRA bus and he did. She thanked all for their support for the town clerk’s office. ► Mr. Dave Callaghan, 30 Plain Street and Chair of the Franklin School Committee, said the School Committee talked about what the schools are doing to save money. He said he has spoken at length about the transformative reorganization that the schools are doing consolidating from 10 schools to 7 and efficiencies. He said schools are coming up with \$3.1 million in savings year over year. He said bus registration has just opened up, and they are optimizing bus routes. He said the bus company next year will be increasing the rates by about 12 percent. He said a couple of weeks ago he was talking about the Early Childhood Development Center. With the reorganization, they have a bit more space, and the Early Childhood Development Center is going to be able to expand into Pond Street where Kennedy is currently at. He said this is a tuition-based program so by expanding it, they will increase that revenue opportunity. He said the schools have been diligently looking at grants. In

total, they have been able to secure almost \$1.7 million. He said additionally, they have talked about some of the specialized education programs they have in Franklin for some students with disabilities that are unable to kind of be in the normal classroom setting. He said if we are unable to teach those kiddos here in Franklin, we are going to be oftentimes kind of providing transportation out of the district at schools and programs that cost substantially more than what we are normally used to paying. He said the schools have been continuing to invest and expand the in-district programming that we have for those students. He said there are amazing benefits to be able to make sure that we have Franklin kids going to Franklin schools. He said it is also providing about \$5 million in savings by having those students here in Franklin. He noted school resource officers that are in Council Chambers tonight. He said it is a great relationship that he is seeing between the schools and all other departments and reviewed examples. He said a big thank you to everyone. ► Chair Mercer thanked Mr. Callaghan for his coming to the Town Council meetings to give updates as to what is going on in the schools. He said this hits a different audience.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Ms. Jane Callaway-Tripp, 607 Maple Street, said she was unable to attend the last meeting as she was sick. She said she thanked them for putting in writing that the Parmenter property will always honor the man from which the land was donated. She said the commitment matters. She said she realizes the town had to officially reclaim the ownership. She said she wants to be clear that the property was donated to the Town of Franklin, not nine Town Council members or a town administrator. The land belongs to the 36,000 people of the town who own the land. She said historically, the town held a vote to determine its use, reflecting the will of the people. She said she believes the land transitions back under the town jurisdiction; any future decisions regarding the use must once again be determined by the residents by a townwide vote. She said this is not about process, but about honoring Franklin's identity and the principles upon which this land was entrusted to use. She said while the deed does not specifically state the land must always be a school, it was meant to serve Franklin's children. The intent can be honored in many ways. She said we can come together to ensure it continues to serve in a way that aligns with the vision of the original donation. She recommended the formation of a Parmenter Reuse Committee. She explained that the town should not make unilateral decisions. She said when the committee is formed, she is requesting to serve on it bringing forward concerns and hopes of many residents. ► Mr. Mark Minnichelli, 31 Longfellow Drive, said he wanted to speak on two subjects. He said he would start with philosophy and gave a quote by Yogi Berra. He said several months ago he requested the town have a target for the desired level of subsidized housing inventory. He said the current proposed project at 444 East Central Street has produced public debate around the fact that Franklin has already met and exceeded the minimum 10 percent threshold. He said until the town sets a target of where we want this metric to be, he is concerned they will end up somewhere else. He said that secondly, he enjoyed being interviewed on Franklin TV. He said when the topic of the Proposition 2 ½ override came up, the interviewer referred to it as a school budget override while he referred to it as a town budget override. He requested that all town leaders clearly communicate the impact to all town departments should the override not pass. ► Mr. Jeff Nutting, 2 Magnolia Drive, former town administrator, said he appreciates the Town Council members hard work along with Mr. Hellen and his team. He said we live in a great community and get a great bang for the buck. He said he is here to encourage people to say yes to the override. He said we are a very well managed community, but look around at other communities having overrides because we just cannot sustain local government. He said the schools have been sliding for years, and we need to support the next generation of kids. He noted police and fire calls for mental health. He said if he needs to call police or fire, he does not want to be in the queue and waiting for the professionals. He said we cannot afford to lose one of those professionals. He said he loves everything about this town, and he does not want it to start to go downhill. He said whether you agree or disagree, let's be respectful. You have an opinion, and let's not bad mouth people that you disagree with. Vote your conscious, and let's be respectful. ► Mr. Steve Sherlock, 13 Magnolia Drive, noted the budget hearings and Finance Committee last week did their three set. The watch, listen, and read is two-thirds done and posted today on Franklin News. The transcript for the third one will be out in the next day or so. You can watch the video, listen to the audio, or read the transcript to get all the information. He said the other audio he did was a pen to picture event targeted for middle schools. There is an author coming. There is a

great audio as well. ► Ms. Jenna Cohen, 14 Elm Street, requested that Town Council members and other town leaders help to create clarity in the conflating issues showing up around the override as it relates to building in town in particular. She said it is a lot to wrap our heads around as citizens as how things do or do not relate to one another. She said she can appreciate ways in which this town can collect resources; she noted from fees, local spending, and other sources. She said if any of those go down, other things need to go up. She said there is benefit from a building perspective and to maintain that in a reasonable way as was mentioned earlier and in service of also having affordable housing in town through an override that is generally manageable for most households. She said she wanted to acknowledge that for some people increasing anything from a budget perspective is hard, and that is real and human and a reality especially in our current day. She said and, it is not that much of a reach for most of us. She said and we all need to do our part as members of this community, as neighbors who care deeply, and to engage in discourse as has also been mentioned tonight with respect and with curiosity and with a genuine interest to understand how all this works so that we can make our community as great as we know it can be. She said so again, just a call in to our leadership to help dispel myths and help clarify the noise of the conflation of the issues around building projects in town and the override. She said voting no on the override is not voting no on building. She said there is information that is digestible available. She encouraged all to reach out to the town's leaders with any questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: ► None.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► *Police Department - Swearing in of New Police Officer: Tyler Hosley.* ► Chief of Police Thomas Lynch said he wanted to clarify that this new officer is a replacement for a retirement that occurred in October. He reviewed new Police Officer Tyler Hosley's background, career, and education. ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello performed the swearing in. ► Chief of Police Lynch performed the badge pinning.

► *Police Department - Recognition of New Town of Upton Chief of Police: Chief Nicholas Palmieri, former Sergeant of the Franklin Police Department.* ► Chief of Police Thomas Lynch said he wanted to recognize an individual who is moving on as they advance in their career in law enforcement and to thank them for all they did for the Franklin Police Department. He reviewed former Sergeant of the Franklin Police Department and now the new Town of Upton Chief of Police Nicholas Palmieri's background, career, and education. He wished the new Upton Chief of Police and his family the very best and wished him nothing but the best in his future endeavors. Chief of Police Lynch read aloud from the appreciation plaque that was given to Upton Chief of Police Palmieri. ► Upton Chief of Police Palmieri thanked Chief of Police Lynch for the opportunity to serve the community that he lives in. He said the community has been incredibly supportive. He said this town is lucky to have the department it has. He said this town should not take for granted the services it receives from this police department.

► Chair Mercer said he wanted to acknowledge all of the police officers who are here tonight to support our new patrolman as well as the new Upton Chief of Police. He said it was good to see Ben and Frankie in the back as well. He congratulated the new police officer and new chief of police.

Chair Mercer called for a two-minute recess.

APPOINTMENTS: ► None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - 7:00 PM: ► **a. New Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License and Approval of Karan Goswami as the Manager - Kaushik Restaurants Inc. d/b/a Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Located at 14 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038 (License Transaction #7a).** ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing open. ► Mr. Hellen said departments have signed off on the application. He said Mr. Matthew Porter, attorney for the applicant, is available via Zoom. He noted that Mirchi was a restaurant in Franklin for years, and they went for their liquor license renewal earlier this

year. At the request of the ABCC, they asked that the Town Council rescind that license, and now they are back for the brand-new license again. He said this is for consumption on premises; it is a restaurant license. He said the applicant was unable to attend tonight's meeting. ► Chair Mercer said he has a problem if the applicant is not here. ► Attorney Matthew Porter said his client is available online. He said he wanted to clear up a couple of things Mr. Hellen said. He said the town had granted this license a couple of months back, but the license had never been approved by the ABCC. So, this was not an active license that was rescinded. He said the application was withdrawn at the ABCC level essentially. His client attempted to put together the ABCC application on their own and what ended up happening is once he got to the state level there were a lot of clerical errors that needed to be cleared up so they reached out to his office to engage their services. He said it was easier for them to restart the process than to correct an application that had already gone up to the ABCC. He said this is not in any way a rescission of a license or a license that existed. He noted it is the same ownership group and license manager; it was clerical errors. ► Town Attorney Mark Cerel said what Mr. Porter said is correct. However, your client's principal was present again remotely by himself and really never made a further presentation to the Town Council at that time. His recommendation is to assume this is a completely new application and take it from square one representing his client's experience, what he is proposing to do, etc. ► Attorney Porter reviewed that this is an all-alcohol pouring license for Mirchi. He reviewed they purchased Mirchi about a year ago and found that through the year they realized the clients would like a glass of wine or alcoholic beverage. He reviewed the proposed manager's background and experience. He said nothing is changed with the operation of the business; this would just allow the serving of alcohol in addition to the food. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger reviewed that the previous restaurant in that location had a full alcohol license and customers may expect to be able to be served alcohol at this new restaurant which may have resulted in some loss of business. He said it would be good to help this restaurant. ► Mr. Cerel noted that Mr. Porter indicated the applicant is available and asked that he introduce himself to the Town Council. ► Mr. Karan Goswami (via Zoom) noted his background and said he works at a liquor store. ► Councilor Chandler said on page 3 of the application item 6B says no. ► Mr. Porter explained that question 6B is for anyone with an ownership interest in a license, not just working at a store. ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing closed.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: ► *New Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License and Approval of Karan Goswami as the Manager - Kaushik Restaurants Inc. d/b/a Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Located at 14 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038.* ► Councilor Jones read the license transaction. ► **MOTION to Approve** the New Common Victualler Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License and Approval of Karan Goswami as the Manager - Kaushik Restaurants Inc. d/b/a Mirchi Indian Cuisine, Located at 14 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038 by **Jones. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PUBLIC HEARINGS - 7:00 PM (continued): ► **b. Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-935: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter 185, Section 24, Floodplain District (Legislation for Action #9a).** ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing open. ► Mr. Hellen summarized that this is a mandatory element from FEMA to make sure the floodplain overlay district is updated. He said we have to have this approved by late July. He said this was done five years ago, and there are minimal changes to this. At their April 28, 2025 meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend this bylaw amendment, as presented, to the Town Council. He said this will require two hearings: tonight and probably in three weeks. He reviewed that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires an updated flood plain in order to qualify to be reimbursed for federal aid in the event of a natural disaster. ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing open. ► Councilor Dellorco said this is going to help us. ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing closed.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS (continued): ► *License Modification - Change of Manager of a Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License: The Chateau Restaurant of Franklin, Inc. d/b/a The Chateau; Located at 466 King St., Franklin, MA 02038.* ► Councilor Jones read the license transaction.

► **MOTION to Approve** the License Modification - Change of Manager of a Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License: The Chateau Restaurant of Franklin, Inc. d/b/a The Chateau; Located at 466 King St., Franklin, MA 02038, with the new manager to be Derek Nocera by **Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Chair Mercer said Mr. Nocera is in the audience. ► Councilor Jones asked if Mr. Nocera knows Marty. ► Mr. Nocera said no. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION: ► **Presentation: FY24 Financial Audit - Scott McIntire, CPA, Managing Director, CBIZ.** ► Mr. Hellen reviewed that not every community does this. He said we have been public with this, and we do a public presentation on this. He reviewed that we have made huge improvements in this, and we are proud of the progress that we have made over the years. He said after Mr. McIntire is done with the presentation everyone will have an opportunity for questions. ► Mr. Scott McIntire (via Zoom) reviewed the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts, Financial Statements and Required Supplementary Information for the Year Ended June 30, 2024 (With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon) document which was provided in the meeting packet. He said the town staff was well prepared and cooperative for the audit. He said he would give a broad overview of the results of the audit. He said Mr. Hellen was going to pass out the single audit report which will show the result of the internal control evaluation not only of the town as a whole but also of the expenditures in compliance of the federal grants received in fiscal year 24. He said he would start with PDF page 4 which is the opinion. He said the audit went very well. He said in the most basic terms they found the town's books and records in good working order, and as a result of that they did not need to propose any significant audit entries. He said there were no disagreements between the management of Franklin and his auditing firm as to the application of generally accepted accounting principles. He said there are significant estimates and the largest one deals with the net pension liability as well as the net OPEB liability. He said with both the pension and OPEB liabilities, there are related accounts. He said a relatively new item deals with their non-audit services or technically they are called non-attest services. He said they assist Franklin the way they do with virtually every community they work with. He said these are Franklin's financial statements; however, we do assist which we did in doing some non-audit work during the audit. He began on PDF page 4. He noted the change in name of the firm and the merger and it is now CBIZ. He said he has been doing work in the Commonwealth for 40 years. He explained the opinion is an unmodified opinion; it is called a clean audit opinion. He said they followed generally accepted auditing standards. He reviewed PDF page 16 which is the second half of the Statement of Net Position which he calls the long-term perspective balance sheet. He discussed the net pension liability of about \$53 million He said there is an increase in that liability by about \$9 million attributable to a drop that the county system made in its discount rate. He discussed the discount rate. He said Franklin is on a funding schedule with the county where they make an annual required contribution. He reviewed the net OPEB liability which is retiree healthcare of about \$63.5 million which was up slightly from the prior year. He said the town is doing well in this area. He reviewed PDF page 15. He said this is the short-term perspective. He said this is the first place most readers will turn. He reviewed the Total Fund Balance of almost \$32 million which is an increase over the prior year. He said you would expect to see fund balance increase in most years. He reviewed the various components of the Fund Balances as shown on the document. He said much of the increase lies in the Committed Fund Balance of approximately \$12.4 million. He reviewed PDF page 24 which are the town's enterprise funds. He said there are three components of the town's enterprise funds financial statements: the balance sheet which is technically a statement of net positions, the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in fund balance, and the statement of cash flows which he thinks is the most important. He reviewed the sewer fund has a net cash provided by operations which is almost \$1.6 million. He talked about the page related to the OPEB Trust Fund titled Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position. He noted the Change in Net Position of a little more than \$2 million and said that change is directly attributable to cash contributions that the town made into the plan in fiscal year 2024 as well as investment earnings on the existing assets of the plan. He reviewed PDF page 60 which is the budget versus actuals comparative schedule. He said it is consistent with the prior year. He explained the revenues, expenditures, and other financing sources as shown on the document. He explained this shows a favorable budgetary performance of about \$4.3 million. He discussed the use of free cash and said in

FY24 Franklin was not using it for operations, but using it for one-time costs and adding to its existing stabilization funds. He noted there were two reports in the document. He explained that generally accepted governing auditing standards require that we evaluate the town's internal controls and determine whether or not there are any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in those internal controls. He said he is pleased to be able to report that again in FY24 our audit disclosed no material weaknesses in internal control and no significant deficiencies in internal control. He reviewed the second report which is required by what is known as uniform guidance. He said what that really means is that as a recipient of federal grants and having expended some of those dollars in FY24, we as the outside auditors must perform internal control evaluation over the administration of the federal dollars as well as testing for compliance with uniform guidance. He noted the ARPA dollars utilized in FY24. He said as summarized in the second of the two reports, our audit disclosed no issues of non-compliance with the ARPA program and no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control surrounding the administration of federal grants. ► Town Council members made comments, asked questions, and thanked the presenter for the report and presentation. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger said this is the proof that we are a well-managed town; there were no recommendations or errors found, and we have a AAA bond rating. ► Councilor Frongillo clarified this is an assessment of our ability to pay back a debt or rather the likelihood of defaulting on a debt payment. He said this is not a report card of the town services or likelihood of maintaining quality roads or having a certain level of police officers to residents. ► In response, Mr. McIntire said the financial statement audit is a snapshot of a point in time and in this case, it was June 30, 2024, and that the numbers were fairly stated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. It is possible for one to look at this and judge the credit worthiness, and therefore the ability to pay back debt, but really that opinion would come from rating agencies. He said the purpose of the audit is to determine if the numbers are in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles. He said from the audit, that is where the credit rating comes into play. ► Mr. Ken Ojukwu, 73 South Street, commented that he has heard concerns about our finances and questions about our need for an audit. He had hoped there would be more people here to voice those concerns. He said he appreciated the presentation. He said in the financial highlights section on slide 6, the third bullet point speaks to the \$7.5 million of this increase that was a result of recognizing a fiscal year 2023 non-spendable fund balance amount related to a pension contribution made to the balance sheet. He asked for an explanation of why that \$7.5 million is not new money that we can spend for anything. ► Mr. McIntire reviewed the date June 29, 2023, which was one day before the fiscal year ended. He said Franklin paid its county pension assessment at the beginning of the fiscal year because you get significant savings when you do that. He said June 30 was on a Saturday, so the payment was made on June 29. He explained generally accepted accounting principles and discussed that this asset is not in a spendable form. He explained had the money been wired out on July 1, this requirement to put \$7.5 million in a non-spendable fund balance would not have occurred. He explained the \$7.5 million increase is due to a one-day timing issue. ► Mr. Ojukwu discussed the financial audit done every year. He asked about a forensic audit and when and why it would be necessary. ► Mr. McIntire reviewed that it would be considered if you thought there was an irregularity, waste, or abuse, and things like that could trigger people to want to do a forensic audit, and he explained types of forensic audits. ► Mr. Mark Minnichelli, 31 Longfellow Drive, asked about the independence of the auditing firm. He asked for information that would make everybody feel comfortable that your firm is acting as an independent auditor during this process. ► Mr. McIntire said it has been several years that he has come before the Town Council as the face of the firm. He discussed if he is too familiar with things and said that would be in the eyes of the management of the Town of Franklin. He explained they follow all professional and government standards and rotate people around for all their audits. ► Chair Mercer reviewed the points that Mr. McIntire made. He said the team that did this year's audit was a different team than last year's audit except for Mr. McIntire. ► Mr. Hellen explained they had to get a new bond rating just recently. He said as of yesterday, May 6, 2025, the Town has maintained for the third time its AAA bond rating. He read aloud an important piece that stuck out to him from a paragraph from S&P Global who is independent and a whole different level of people. He discussed how proud the community should be for the AAA bond rating. He acknowledged the Finance Committee, Town Council, School Committee, and others for all they do. He said this is a team effort for the staff and

whole organization. ► Mr. Mark Minnichelli, 31 Longfellow Drive, asked Mr. Hellen to explain why the AAA rating is so important and how it affects our pocketbooks. ► Mr. Hellen discussed the ability to pay debt. He said when you get the top bond rating, it is telling you not only that you are accounting well, but we are financially solvent to pay our bills. It affects your pocketbook because when you do go out to borrow money, you can get the lowest interest rate possible which can save millions of dollars on a large project such as the Beaver Street project. ► Chair Mercer thanked Mr. McIntire for his presentation. He thanked the administrative staff and all those involved for the great job.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

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

- a. ***Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-935: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter 185, Section 24, Floodplain District - First Reading (Motion to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-935 to a Second Reading – Majority Vote).*** ► **MOTION to Waive the reading by Hamblen. SECOND by Cormier-Leger. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-935: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter 185, Section 24, Floodplain District to a Second Reading by Dellorco. SECOND by Hamblen. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- b. ***Resolution 25-28: Extension of the Time Period for the Automatic Reverter Contained in the Deed of Former Town-owned Land Off Panther Way Previously Conveyed to the Franklin Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund (Motion to Approve Resolution 25-28 - 2/3 Majority Vote).*** ► **MOTION to Waive the reading by Hamblen. SECOND by Dellorco. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 25-28: Extension of the Time Period for the Automatic Reverter Contained in the Deed of Former Town-owned Land Off Panther Way Previously Conveyed to the Franklin Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund by Dellorco. SECOND by Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen said this is a resolution to allow the Franklin Ridge project to have authorization for the parcel through 2036. The previous legislation was to 2026. The tree clearing for the roadway and the sewer and water infrastructure begins two weeks from now. It would be jeopardizing to the project just as the proponents are going out to talk to the lending institutions with our state and federal tax credits that we were awarded last year; we are proposing to extend this reverter out to 2036 to give everyone proper enough time. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- c. ***Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-927: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter 185, Section 3 of The Code Of The Town of Franklin, Definitions (Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen) – Second Reading (Motion to Approve Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-927 - 2/3 Majority Roll Call Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the zoning bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Approve Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-927: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter 185, Section 3 of The Code Of The Town of Franklin, Definitions (Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen) by Dellorco. SECOND by Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Councilor Hamblen said she thanked Gus Brown and Cathy Liberty who worked on this bylaw, and the Planning Board approved it; this is going to be great. ► Councilor Jones asked if there has been interest in this. ► Chair Mercer said multiple requests. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- d. ***Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-928: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter 185, Attachment 3, Use Regulation Schedule, Part II Principal Uses (Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen) – Second Reading (Motion to Approve Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-928 - 2/3 Majority Roll Call Vote).*** ► Councilor Jones read the zoning bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Approve Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-928: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter 185, Attachment 3, Use Regulation Schedule, Part II Principal Uses (Shared-Use Commercial Kitchen) by Dellorco. SECOND by Hamblen. Discussion:**

► Councilor Hamblen said thank you. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Sheridan-YES. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: ► Mr. Hellen noted the AAA bond rating. He reviewed that budget hearings before Town Council will start May 21 and May 22. He said it is anticipated we will recommend a motion to continue the second night’s hearing to June 4, and we will do the appropriate resolutions that go with the budget on June 4. He said he wanted to acknowledge Ms. Jen Cohen’s earlier comment, and he will do his best if questions come up about how development affects budget and how the two are interrelated, but there is an impression that overdevelopment has caused our budget problem, and that is completely 100 percent false. He said on May 22 they could talk more in depth about how development affects the taxes in town and what kind of revenues we get and do not get. He said he was going to be attending the ZBA meeting which is the second hearing on Thursday. He said we have been inundated with a tremendous number of questions and concerns about Stobbarts. He said that in his 10 years here he has never attended a permitting board meeting without being asked by the chair of the board. He explained he gives the elected boards their independence. He said he is losing a lot of time answering the same questions over and over again, and he wants to be present for the community to answer them so everyone can hear the same answer in the same context. He said he is going to try to attend all ZBA meetings that pertain to Stobbarts. He said he respects everyone’s feedback. He said regarding the Best Western Hotel that has been housing the migrant families, now all of those families will no longer be in there after June 30 of this year. He said that the town has not spent a local dollar on anything regarding the shelter. He said at 10 AM today, bids came in for the cupola on the Historical Museum. The contract will be done by the end of this month, and he hopes work will start in June or July when the contractor is available. He discussed how the bid process worked for this starting last year. He reviewed that a resident from Franklin is starting a cricket academy as well as a cricket facility for practices and leagues in Franklin on Union Street. He said the resident said this is the seventh facility that he and his business partners have built. The resident was trying to coordinate a ribbon cutting for the facility. He said Franklin was the most friendly, responsive, helpful, and business friendly community that he has done business in. Mr. Hellen noted there is a renaming of the Franklin Housing Authority Community Center in honor of Peter Brunelli on May 12 from 4 PM to 5 PM. He said there will be a ribbon cutting at the Senior Center on May 15 at 10 AM to unveil the new pavilion and the van. He noted the work of the Department of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy and said there are now a new set of sculptures at the Sculpture Park. He gave a shout-out to the DPW for cleaning out all the brush throughout the park. He noted Porchfest is scheduled for June 7. He said Corey has come up with an amazing idea to have local artists make cornhole boards. There will be a competition for that at Porchfest. ► Councilor Pellegrini asked to be given notice about the cupola as there are events at the museum so they will have to know when. ► Mr. Hellen said he will let people know when the start of project will be.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Capital Budget Subcommittee.** ► None.
- b. **Economic Development Subcommittee.** ► None.
- c. **Joint Budget Subcommittee.** ► None.
- d. **Police Station Building Committee.** ► None.
- e. **GATRA Advisory Board.** ► None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Councilor Sheridan asked about the housing bill. ► Mr. Hellen said at the July meeting. ► Councilor Chandler asked about the home rule petition they are waiting on for Rich Martini. ► Mr. Hellen said he has contacted Rich and told him we do not do a home rule petition because they are part of Norfolk County Retirement. He explained for instance that the City of Quincy has their own retirement system, but we are part of Norfolk County Retirement System so the home rule does not come from the Town of Franklin. He said there is nothing the Town Council has to do. He said Representative Jeff Roy has already filed a bill. He said there were some typos in the bill, and the changes

will be made in committee at some point. ► Councilor Dellorco said Mr. Hellen was wrong. He said he did talk to Kathleen today, and it is very simple; we just do a home rule petition, and Jeff already filed this with the clerk at the state house, and he said he cannot do anything unless the Town Council does a home rule petition. ► Mr. Hellen said we have to get Kathleen on the phone. ► Chair Mercer asked Mr. Hellen to get a written response from Kathleen.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Councilor Cormier-Leger said this is a community PSA to parents. He said to look in your emails for an email from the Superintendent about an important safety notice regarding kids doing inappropriate things with their devices because of a Tik Tok trend. He said they are putting things in the charging ports of Chromebooks causing them to overheat and smoke and possibly catch fire. He said there is nothing funny about this; it is destruction of property and dangerous. He recommended parents have a conversation with their kids. He noted the override and housing and everyone being very angry. He said from the comments on Facebook and social media he does not hear a lot about affordability. He said if this is about affordability for you, I respect that you have to vote no. He said but what we are hearing is people saying on principle they are not going to vote in favor of the override because they feel like it is somehow sticking it to the nine of us. He said the people feel like the Town Council is not listening, and they are going to vote no, and it will make us pay closer attention. He said that just bugs him to no end. He said he feels like he is paying attention and is responding. He said regarding the Stobbarts vote of over one year ago, that ship has sailed and that has moved on and has gone off to other committees to be reviewed. He said if you are one of the people online and saying that you just want to stick it to the town, I want you to go to the police chief and look him in the eye and say I am not going to vote for this so go ahead and let five guys go, and go to the fire chief and say I am not going to vote for this so go let five of your paramedics go, and go to the superintendent of schools and say go ahead and cut \$2 million more, I don't care, I want to stick it to you guys because you are not listening. He said that is who you are sticking it to. He said if you are voting no to stick it to us, then your priorities are misaligned. ► Councilor Chandler said that Ms. Callaway-Tripp would be a good addition if/when they do a Parmenter Committee. He said welcome to the new police officer. He said about the override, at this point it will be tough to change anyone's mind. He said everyone keep giving the correct information. He wished Mr. Hellen good luck at the ZBA. ► Councilor Pellegri thanked Mr. Hellen for letting people know the ZBA decision may take months. She asked about the Best Western Hotel and what happens to the people. ► Mr. Hellen said he does not know. He said he has had almost no communication from the state in a year. He said he does not work the state. He explained that he just does not know. ► Chair Mercer said he thinks there have already been some transitions, and it is not full at this time. ► Councilor Pellegri said she wants to know what the state is doing. She asked what they are naming. ► Mr. Hellen said Peter Brunelli. He said he thinks the facility is the meeting room in the main central area where the kitchen is. ► Councilor Pellegri said she thought the memorializing for names and that came through the Town Council. ► Mr. Hellen said the state owns that; it is the housing authority. So, it is not a town-owned facility so it is not subject to that. ► Councilor Pellegri said she did not think it was right that it did not go before the Town Council for a recommendation. ► Mr. Hellen said he has not been involved, and it is state land, so they would never come to the Town Council for this. ► Chair Mercer said the answer we need is to get it from Representative Jeff Roy. ► Councilor Sheridan said congratulations to the police. ► Councilor Frongillo said he finds direct conversation more fruitful than online conversation. ► Councilor Hamblen said she agrees with Councilor Cormier-Leger's statements tonight. She talked about when wanting to stick someone and it may hurt themselves. She said the second night of the budget meeting would be good to talk about new growth and development. She talked about revenue and where it comes from. She told people to vote. She congratulated the staff we have and said great audit and the AAA bond rating. ► Councilor Jones said the bond rating and audit were good; it was a good meeting. He said the comments made by the resident coming to Franklin for the cricket business were great. He said he walked around the Sculpture Park. He said he would like signage there talking about what the sculptures are. ► Mr. Hellen said the signs were in process. ► Councilor Jones said Chair Mercer should add the S&P comments that Mr. Hellen talked about earlier into talking points as we move to hopefully get a yes vote on the override. He said Councilor Cormier-Leger nailed it to a t. He said everyone will

have their reasons, and he gets it. He explained his financial situation. He said it is difficult to keep a household budget balanced. He said he looks at the override as this is the foundation to his house. He said he needs to keep the foundation secure and strong. He said this is the big picture, this is our community, and we want to maintain those levels. He said anything we enjoy could be affected if we do not vote yes.

► Councilor Dellorco said he received a call about putting in a field in back of the Kennedy School.

► Mr. Hellen said it has been used as a cricket field for a bunch of years, and the DPW is doing some widening to it. They have been doing minor improvements to the field. He noted the parcel is being repurposed. He talked about a small piece of land that a neighbor used to mow and now the DPW is doing it. It is town-owned land. ► Chair Mercer said he echoes what his fellow Town Council members have said. He said he is so excited about the audit report they were given and the AAA bond rating. He thanked the administration and fellow Town Council members for keeping the eye on the ball and keeping the bond rating where it belongs. He thanked Mr. McIntire for the report. He thanked all for the work they do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ► None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 21, 2025**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 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; Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

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 FROM THE CHAIR: ► Chair Mercer reviewed the following as posted on the agenda. A Note to Residents: All citizens are welcome to attend public meetings in person. To view the live meeting remotely, citizens are encouraged to watch the live stream on the Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel or the live broadcast on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 29. Meetings are also archived by Franklin TV on the Franklin Town Hall TV YouTube channel and shown on repeat on Comcast channel 9 and Verizon channel 29 for those who miss the live meeting. To listen to the meeting remotely, citizens may call-in using the provided number. This will not permit participation in the meeting. To participate in the meeting remotely, citizens are able to join a Zoom webinar using the information provided on the agenda. Any participants who wish to speak during the webinar must enter their full name and email address when joining the webinar. All participants will be automatically muted upon joining the webinar. In order to speak, participants who have entered full name and email address will need to select the “raise hand” function to request to be unmuted. All speakers will be required to state their full name and street address before commenting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Town Clerk Nancy Danello provided an update regarding the special election. She reviewed the number of in-person early voting, absentee, and vote-by-mail ballots received; a total of 1,098 ballots have been received to date. She said in-person early voting will continue at her office until May 30 during regular business hours, and they are open on May 24 for early voting. She said May 24 is also the last day to register to vote. She reviewed the process to have a ballot mailed to you. She reviewed that she is confident the citizens of Franklin are well aware of the upcoming special election. She said to contact her if anyone has any questions about voting. She said for any questions about the question on the special election, please call the town administrator’s office.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - 7:00 PM: ► *FY26 Town Council Annual Operating Budget Hearing.* ► Chair Mercer declared the budget hearing open. ► Chair Mercer explained that the FY26 budget has been discussed extensively throughout the community. If there are any final comments, thoughts, or questions, they should be provided now. He thanked the Joint Budget Subcommittee for their incredible work. He reviewed the expectations for this week. He said tonight and tomorrow night to Town Council will hold legally required public hearings per the Town Charter on the budget. He said he will allow all the public input that is desired, and they will answer any remaining budget questions that anyone may have. He said he is aware there has been a great deal of misinformation. Tonight, they can answer those points with the town departments in attendance. He said he expects all FY26 budget related legislation for action will be held on June 4 at the Town Council meeting. No budget will be voted until after the override. If the override passes, the current budget model will be adopted by the Town Council. If the override does not pass, the school superintendent and town administrator will provide a detailed list of proposed cuts throughout the town and school budgets at the June 4 meeting. He said he anticipates a vote on the final budget on June 4. He said as discussed at all budget forums, a menu of likely cuts has been produced and is on the town website. ► Mr. Hellen gave a shout-out to the Joint Budget Subcommittee for their work, time, and effort. He thanked all town staff, elected officials, departments, volunteer board and committee members, and schools for their

work on the budget. He said all department heads are here tonight to answer any questions. He announced the municipal aggregation current rate is 15.1 cents per kilowatt. He said that deal is ending this November. They just went out to bid and the new rate will be $\frac{1}{4}$ cent lower than what people are paying now which will be a few cents lower than what the National Grid rate will be. He said the average household should save about \$84 a year for electricity cost. He discussed the savings from municipal aggregation. He thanked all staff who were working on this. He said as part of the Master Plan process, they had prioritized a green option, a renewable energy option, and they prioritized only renewable energy credits from Massachusetts essentially supporting this state. He said they got an incredible opt-in rate which is only 1.25 cents above what residents are paying now; this is good news. He said it is one goal checked off on the Master Plan.

► Superintendent of Schools Lucas Giguere gave opening remarks. He said he wanted to hit on the big ideas. He reviewed there is plenty of detail on the town website and the school website. He said the information he is providing is on the website. The budget request that was approved by the School Committee and moved through FinCom that is before you tonight is for the \$80,395,000 for the school budget. That represents a 2.9 percent increase. He said this budget represents preserving our class sizes, restoring critical staffing positions, reducing cost to families related to some of the fees, and maintains the student support services we have across the district. He said they looked at a budget that is sustainable and considers the long-term challenges ahead of us. It is built upon the reorganization regarding consolidating three middle schools into one and five elementary schools into four and the expansion of ECDC. He reviewed previous cuts. He said in January leading into this budget they reduced 29 FTEs which left a \$3.1 million savings. He said this budget is tied to the reorganization. He said if they are not able to solve their structural deficit, it would result in reduction in our staffing as we would have to make reductions to the budget and making larger class sizes, and co-curricular offerings would be lessened, and we would be looking at keeping some of the significantly increased fees. He said the budget they put forth is built around re-stabilizing ourselves as Franklin Public Schools. He said he is excited about the budget that was built to move us forward. He said if they are able to work together to solve the structural deficit, it is going to set us up moving forward as a district, community, and town. ► Chair Mercer reviewed the protocols for the budget meeting. He said Councilor Jones will read through the voting document department by department and Town Council members can put a hold on departments that they wish to ask questions or make comments about. Once the Town Council is done with each department, he will ask citizens if they would like to ask questions or make comments. He said the Town Council has a difficult and crucial role in approving an annual budget on behalf of the entire community. He said they represent every constituency and demographic. He said they are oftentimes in a difficult position to be the checks and balances of our town government. He said the five budgets that are automatically held are 192-Facilities, 210-Police, 220-Fire, 300-Franklin Public Schools, and 422-DPW. He confirmed for Councilor Chandler that unemployment is under department 910.

► Councilor Jones read each *Town of Franklin Operating Budget FY 2026* line item.

► Hold on Line Item 123: Town Administrator (salaries). ■ Councilor Frongillo asked about staffing levels to support the town administrator. He asked do we have any dedicated communications staff right now, equity officer, economic development director, sustainability director, IT director, housing coordinator, board secretary or recording clerk. ■ Mr. Hellen said no to all except for IT and he noted they have Mr. Tim Rapoza for schools and town and a little money for AI to do some board work. ■ Councilor Frongillo said he was going through comparable communities and seeing what they have for staff that we do not have. He said when talking about a lean operation, this is where his mind goes to. ■ Mr. Hellen said there are only four people in his office: himself, deputy town administrator, operations assistant, and administrative assistant. He noted some of the functions they have triaged because of the reductions. He noted they used to have a full-time communications person. He said some of the duties mentioned are baked into other positions. If you look at comparable communities, Councilor Frongillo is right that all of those communities would have some of those dedicated positions mentioned. ■ Councilor Frongillo asked how the town administrator's and assistant town administrator's salaries are calculated. ■ Mr. Hellen explained they do a market analysis for comparable communities. He explained they have a compensation and classification plan that was done a few years ago. He said they look at communities that are synonymous. Ever since they did the baseline study

about two years ago, each fiscal year, whatever the COLA is that is decided across the municipality, we increase that compensation and classification plan chart, the salary schedule, by the COLA. ■ Director of Human Resources Karen Bratt said there have been questions about Ms. Frigulietti's salary. She said Ms. Frigulietti started in July 2023 which was FY24. She explained when the budget documents were prepared. She said the position was posted in February 2023 before the budget was finalized with a range of \$140,000 to \$190,000. She said Ms. Frigulietti came here with 20 years of experience; she reviewed the experience. She said this is huge for this position. She said when you have a good candidate, you have to offer them a good salary. It is how things work around here in general. She said salaries are getting more competitive. She said Ms. Frigulietti came in as our top candidate and asked for the \$190,000 which is pretty fair. She said they brought her in at \$180,000 in July 2023 which is a little bit above the posted range. In her offer letter it said if you are meeting expectations at your six-month mark in January 2024, we will increase it to \$190,000. After that point, she got the 2.5 percent COLA like everyone else. She said Ms. Frigulietti is well worth that money. ■ Mr. Hellen discussed the misinformation that was out there. He said this was over three fiscal years including the fiscal year that has not been approved yet that is coming up. He said the increases are commensurate with other employees. He said it is not uncommon that you want to give the person the extra bump after the six-month probationary period especially on higher level candidates. He said for our comparable communities, the towns of Natick, Needham, and Norwood all have two assistant town managers, and they are all paid near that rate. He said we are behind on some issues due to budget cuts. He noted the towns of Millis, Medway, and Norfolk have assistant town administrators, and these communities are very small. He said to suggest that the Town of Franklin does not need an assistant town manager is not close to reality. He said with the body of work that we have, this town really needs an assistant town manager. He said that former Town Administrator Jeff Nutting would say that one of his biggest mistakes in his 15 years here was not hiring an assistant town manager. ■ Ms. Bratt reviewed Mr. Hellen's salary and said it is very comparable to what other town managers in the area are getting. She said she was looking at a survey of towns in our area and she was surprised that there is a lot of extra money built into people's contracts. She said Mr. Nutting and Mr. Hellen just get it all into base and just have one number. She was shocked to see that managers paid less are getting 5 and 10 percent and up to 25 percent of their salary being put into deferred comp plans. She said one town had an extra five percent for a master's degrees, vehicle allowances, town cars, and other benefits. She said when looking at total salaries it is important to know about the extras even if the bases are lower. ■ Chair Mercer discussed that the assistant town manager in Plainville, a town of 10,000, makes \$175,000. ■ Ms. Bratt said she sees a lot of misinformation including that Mr. Hellen only works 35 hours per week. The money that he is making is for a 24/7 job. ■ Mr. Hellen explained if you were to go out to search today for his position, you would pay more than you are paying him. She said the classification plan that was done is about the positions and ensuring that we have market comparables. ■ Councilor Frongillo said he encourages anyone to help us find bloat in our budget. He said the number of fingers that point at the town administration as the source, he is looking on paper at comparable communities, and he is seeing comparable salaries and not nearly comparable support staff. ■ Councilor Hamblen said she too looked up Natick and Needham and their salaries in their administration offices and noted their budget and said it is so high because they have a lot more people as Councilor Frongillo said. She noted Holliston has an assistant town manager. She said when people talk about the staff working 35 hours, she cannot believe it. She explained they get a lot more done with fewer people because we have really good people. ■ Councilor Dellorco said there is no doubt they do a lot more for a lot less. He explained how difficult it is to get good people. He said things are going to have to change and we are going to have to start paying people or we are not going to be able to get anybody. He said the staff does a great job. ■ Councilor Jones said the salaries are what you get paid, so when there is any emergency in Franklin, you are on the spot. He explained they are 24/7. He said he is never going to say their salary is too much for the amount of work they do. He said he does not think people really understand the depth of the work that you and your administration do on behalf of the citizens of Franklin. ■ Councilor Cormier-Leger said he echoed everyone's comments on the exemplary performance of the town administration. He said part of the issues they are hearing is that there is a lack of understanding to what goes into the jobs. He said there is a lack of understanding about what it means to be a Mr. Hellen and everything on his plate and how much he is working. He said there is some merit about informing the community about what Ms. Frigulietti does and

showing the public what we rely on her for. He said for the folks out there that are just walking their kids or walking the dog or going online for 10 minutes, they do not know. He said they see big numbers and they compare you guys to the governor and they do not understand why Maura Healey gets paid so little and then they yell at us; he explained Maura Healey's salary. He said we are also seeing incredible skepticism of government from nationwide down, and he thinks the people online that are saying Franklin needs a DOGE, come on. He said federal government does not need to pass a balanced budget. The Constitution says that they do not have to; they can just spend. He explained that he does not think the universal cuts to departments made sense, and he would not want to see that here. He said he thinks that mentality is pervasive among people who are looking at their checkbooks and pocketbooks and saying wait a minute these numbers do not make sense, and they immediately think there is waste instead of looking at the workload and the benefits we get for having two of the highest sought-after town administrators in the state. He said you have to be willing to pay people. You have to look at their experience levels and what we ask of them. He said going forward we need to do a better job of explaining a little more about what you two do and help the public understand where their money is going. ■Chief of Police Thomas Lynch, 9 Wampanog Drive, said they are talking about the budget and finances of the town. He said they just got a AAA bond rating. He said the groups out there that review our finances concluded that we are doing a good job to get that AAA bond rating. He explained not all communities have a AAA bond rating. He said the people in the town administrator's office and the finance office are the ones working on that. He said we are getting a great bang for your buck in the Town of Franklin. He said he thinks Franklin does a great job. He said we need to put out how good everyone has it in the Town of Franklin. He said the AAA bond rating is good for us. ■Ms. Jane Callaway-Tripp, 607 Maple Street, addressed a statement made by Councilor Frongillo during the May 1, 2024, meeting that a few large raises would not make a difference. She said let's look at some numbers. She said she took 62 positions. Had they received a 3 percent raise instead of the actual raises given in FY24 and FY25, Franklin would have saved \$1,209,720.59 reducing the current deficit to \$2,652,951.41. She said if this had applied to all 970 town employees, excluding school staff as she has not looked at that, the deficit could have been eliminated entirely. Imagine if everyone even at schools were put at 3 percent what that would have looked like. She said examining the salary increase across the departments, FY23 to FY24, we would have saved \$3,247,938. For FY24 to FY25, we would have saved \$2,336,842. FY25 to FY26 is projected because the budget is not finalized, but right now the department increases all add up to \$596,032. She said had Franklin taken a more responsible approach, and she is all for giving everybody a comparable salary, a living wage, but the way it was done was wrong. It was done in lump sums over three years. She said with a more responsible approach, we could have saved \$4,392,716 over the last three years. She noted if a raise freeze was implemented in FY26, the total savings would have been \$4,988,748 turning our current deficit into a surplus. She said to say salary increases do not contribute to the deficit is misinformation. These increases did play a significant role over a short period of time. She discussed an email from Mr. Hellen that the schools used code fund relief funds to hire a DEI instructor with no plan for maintaining the role once those funds expired. Similarly, Mr. Hellen and the Town Council approved substantial raises in FY24 and FY25 including your own without a clear plan for sustaining them. She said these decisions lacked foresight and now residents are asked to compensate for poor planning through an override. Residents deserve transparency and not last-minute tax hikes to fix leadership mistakes and reactionary measures putting undue burdens on taxpayers. She said she gives the administration props for the hours they put in. She said the people who work here do a good job and should get paid a comparable wage, but what she is seeing in the budget is raises that are far above a COLA rate. She said she is asking them to dig deeper. She discussed the residents' budgets. She said she does not mind digging deep and passing an override, but she cannot justify passing an override when she is seeing such increases like this that do not really do anything but hurt the deficit. ■Chair Mercer asked Mr. Hellen to explain the compensation and classification that a consultant was hired to do. ■Mr. Hellen explained that you have to pay people. He noted they are losing a mechanic. He said he has not seen Ms. Callaway-Tripp's numbers or data. He said he has seen her data other times, and it has been incorrect. He will take a look at that data and validate it and highlight gaps. He said she is looking at the numbers in kind of a box. He said he has explained this before regarding the compensation and classification plan. He discussed the talent you need to retain at the department head level. The most important thing is that the math being projected out is not right in terms of equating what she just said to the deficit. The number

one reason why is that local receipts and revenues have gone way up. So, if you look at the Recreation Department and then look at it five years ago, Mr. Jette is bringing in more money than he has ever brought in. Mr. Hellen talked about the liquor licenses in his office. He talked about the \$.5 million in cannabis excise tax. He said he feels like he has said this over and over and some people do not want to listen to the other side which is this fiscal year 2025 we have projected record-breaking hotel, meals, and cannabis excise taxes. He explained that the Finance Department made a good decision on investment incomes. He said our staff is saying we are paying people really low and they may leave to go to another community, and there is a huge cost to revolving door hires for almost any job including department heads. He said what gets lost in the analyses that people do is that they are not looking at the other revenue streams that come in. He said they have done many reforms and explained the reforms in the Police Department and they saved \$600,000 in structural overtime. He said what is frustrating, and he hopes people who are watching, maybe some of this information can reverberate back to people, because what was just presented is completely untrue. He said he will be happy to look at the numbers from Ms. Callaway-Tripp to see what the logic was of what she was doing, but you have to look at local receipts and revenue coming in. He explained how he works with departments over the years, and the revenues that are coming in, and they have to compensate the staff for producing that revenue. He said the raises that were given out to equal out on the compensation and classification plan, the staff is doing the work past 35 or 40 hours to generate that revenue to into our offices. He said the departments should have competitive salaries so they do not have to go to another town. ■Chair Mercer added that he can tell you that sitting in this seat, he talks to Mr. Hellen every morning and night five days a week and on the weekends, and even when on vacation.

► Hold on Line Item 141: Assessors (salaries). ■Councilor Frongillo said this is the only real budget change/largest budget change. He requested that the staffing at the assessors be shared. ■Director of Assessing Kevin Doyle said he has been in town for 26 years. They have worked hard to develop a AAA team in the office. He reviewed changes made six years ago in the office with the retirement of a clerical staff person. He said they were building efficiencies and retooling administrative type work. He said it resulted in a significant amount of time that the professional appraisers are in the office doing administrative work and not on the road gathering appraisal related data. He said what resulted with the growth of the town is the need for a full-time administrator person. He noted there are many phone calls as well. ■Councilor Frongillo reviewed what Mr. Doyle said. ■Mr. Doyle said this will be a factor in new growth and they want to serve the residents with the right staffing. ■Councilor Hamblen commented that she likes to think of assessors as the engine that drives the revenue for the town.

► Hold on Line Item 155: Information Technology. ■Councilor Dellorco said he was curious on the salaries. ■Mr. Hellen explained the salaries are within the School Department budget. The only expense in here related to town licensing, infrastructure, whatever is in there for Viewpoint and Munis. He explained within the School Department budget line item is where the tech staff is located. ■Director of Technology for Town and Schools Tim Rapoza noted the salaries come out of the School Department budget. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he thinks it was at a capital meeting, you had mentioned there was some security software that was needed, but we did not have the budget, and is that in the FY26 budget. ■Mr. Rapoza discussed upgrading all of the computers and were not capable of certain upgrades and said we were able to towards the end of this fiscal year. He said the shortage was mostly on the school side that we could not replace all laptops, but on the town side we had enough money in capital to do the town computers, and the school was able to get that money to bring those computers up as well. He discussed Windows 10 to 11 and said it is no longer a security issue. He noted they recently lost their junior and senior network admins within one week of each other; they are hiring. ■Councilor Jones noted the software licensing costs. ■Mr. Rapoza noted infrastructure improvements are typically capital. He said there will be a big capital request this year. He noted that he will be making a presentation soon to the FinCom and would be happy to make the same presentation to Town Council.

► Hold on Line Item 192: Public Property & Buildings. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said often they hear about lack given to infrastructure and at one point the number was \$150 million in projects that were needed

but we did not have the money. He said within this budget, are there some projects that chip away at some of those concerns on the list. ■Mr. Hellen said no because the reason is that most of those backlog projects are major capital stuff. He said what is in Director of Franklin Public Facilities Michael D'Angelo's budget is purely operating costs which he gave examples of day-to-day, week-to-week operations. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger discussed what this money is for and gave an analogy to a household budget. ■Mr. Hellen reviewed air conditioning, boilers, mechanical work, electrical work, and things people do not see. He explained that torn carpets can contribute to injury claims. He said so, you try to keep things upkept. It also helps insurance premiums. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger asked how much the improvements to the clerk's office meant to Ms. Danello and her employees, and said from a morale point of view if you are able to come into a clean, freshly painted modern office with some nice carpets and some plants it makes a big difference in how people feel about coming to work. ■Town Clerk Nancy Danello said it was huge; literally our desks were falling apart. She said not just the staff, but people would come in and say oh my gosh it looks so nice in here, and it is so cheery. She said this is nice and people are happy. She said people come into work and they are happy now. They have new furniture. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he goes into the town clerk's office a lot to say hi and everyone in the office is noticeably happier. He said he thinks we as a group owe that to our employees that they have a nice place where they are going to sit and put their workday in. ■Ms. Danello said residents walk in and everyone in our office is happy and we joke with you. She said they walk out happy and that is what we want, happy residents. ■Chair Mercer asked how many work orders does this department get in the course of a week. ■Director of Franklin Public Facilities Michael D'Angelo said 50 and confirmed they are handling the major with their three people. He said Deputy Director of Facilities-Engineering Kevin Harn who works mostly with him has been with them a couple of years, and Deputy Director of Facilities – Maintenance Stephen O'Neill works mostly on work orders. He said three tradesmen, plumber, electrical, carpentry, do whatever they can do and a huge amount of the day-to-day work. He explained they outsource certain things. He reviewed sprinkler systems and elevators are expensive to maintain but you have to keep them safe. He reviewed the backlog of work orders. He said a few years ago they were backlogged 700 or 800 hundred. He said right now, we are backlogged about 200. He said Mr. O'Neill runs the workorders; he was in the building department for 10 years. He explained the three tradesmen can only do so much and they do use outsourcing. He said they contract what they need to contract and the guys do what they can to fix it themselves. ■Chair Mercer said knowing where we were and where we are now, we are in better shape. ■Mr. Hellen said huge kudos to Mr. Harn as he has done a fantastic job. He gave a shout-out to Mr. O'Neill. He explained they use internal staff and bring in contractors if they have to. He said his budget has still not gotten back to the pre-pandemic point to be able to keep up with the day-to-day maintenance. He said they manage 1.3 million sq. ft. of building space. He said almost all of Mr. D'Angelo's budget is for the school facilities and custodians that are in the schools. ■Councilor Jones asked about when there is damage and the culprit is found, are we getting compensation for that. ■Mr. D'Angelo said if kids jump around and break the elevator, they get a bill. ■Superintendent of Schools Lucas Giguere said if they identify who did it, we bill them, and they report any kind of vandalism or illegal crime that has taken place, and they try to go after that also. He said when a student graduates, they have to square up on any debt or bills they have. ■Mr. D'Angelo said they have cameras everywhere; about 340 at the high school. ■Councilor Sheridan noted the morale of the people in the town hall and those are the people who deal with the public every day and having good morale is important for them. ■Mr. Hellen said he knows the staff here are appreciative. He said the paint is cheap to do and it just is a game changer for the entire team. ■Ms. Danello said the walls are very plain and we need some pictures. She said Peter Willis generously donated eight photos that he had framed. ■Mr. Hellen explained they have identified cherished places in Franklin and are putting those photos on the wall for community pride on the second floor. ■Ms. Jane Callaway-Tripp, 607 Maple Street, asked about the renovations. She said back in 2021, it was approved for \$1.4 million for the renovations on the town hall that included windows, boiler, and general renovations. She said the windows cost \$500,000 and we paid \$250,000 for the boiler which is written in the capital budget as completed. She said for the town hall renovations she did a public records request and she went through it, but the town hall actual renovations cost \$685,210.82. At the time that she did the public records request, it was stated that it is not complete as there were still some minor things that needed to be taken care of in house, but when you add back in all the costs, we spent \$1,435,210.82. She said so, we were \$35,210.82

over budget, and she would like to know why. ■Mr. Hellen said again Ms. Callaway-Tripp's numbers are not correct. He said he sat down with Kevin today and there is a punch list of odds and ends that still have to get done. He said they are \$47,000 and some change under budget from that appropriation. He said people come in and bring in the math that they have done. The Finance Office gives him a line-item budget of exactly where that is and they get a report. He said there is an issue where there is misinformation on numbers that are being put out there that are not right and not accurate and they are incorrect. He said he is going with the Finance Department's numbers. He said he knows they cannot do everything they wanted to because of the great increase in costs. He said they were creative when putting things out to bid. He explained the painters were an example of a price that came in that was lower than anticipated in 2020. He does not know where the problem is that his finance team says they are \$47,000 under budget and Ms. Callaway-Tripp says they are \$35,000 over budget. He said he is going with the finance teams numbers as they have tracked this. He said they are not over budget. He said they are under budget on the project, and they will spend all the money. ■Ms. Callaway-Tripp said everything that she says is always misinformation. However, the information she got was sent to her from Mr. Hellen and she took all the numbers from the emails and from the capital budget online. So, if she is full of misinformation, maybe it is because the information Mr. Hellen puts out there is also incorrect. ■Chief Financial Officer Kerri Bertone said Ms. Callaway-Tripp can send that to her and she will look at it. She said they are showing a balance of \$47,415. ■Mr. Hellen explained where Ms. Callaway-Tripp's math is going incorrect. ■Chair Mercer said he feels comfortable with Ms. Bertone's number as the auditors were just in here auditing the books.

► Hold on Line Item 210: Police. ■Chair Mercer stated this was a general hold. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said chief can you remind everyone where we are with full-time staff compared to 20 years ago and also compare us to similar sized towns in the area. He said he does not think people understand the gap they just see a really big number. He said the bottom line is they do an exceptional job with a smaller number of full-time people by like 20 or more of towns similar in size nearby. ■Chief of Police Thomas Lynch stated they are right now at 58 sworn officers and 5 civilian staff. He said they are currently down two officers as one just became a chief of police in Upton and one transferred to Bellingham. He said they have hired four officers in the last few months, and they were all replacements. He said in 2000 the police department was budgeted for 54 sworn employees. He said they only got to 50, and they decided not to hire the remaining 4 due to projected budgets. He said they went from 50 to 38. In 2016 when he became the chief, they were at 46. He said it was not until FY24 that we got to 54. He said the population has increased dramatically. He said if you compare to any comparable town size, every department has less size. He explained we do more with less. He said Braintree has 88 sworn offices and Natick is in the high 60s. He said Norwood has less population and square miles and they have 65 officers. He explained we need the four officers. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he asked the question knowing the answer, but thought it was important that the public understand it a little bit more. He said he thinks being present and showing support for what you guys do is important and said you have my support and believe in what you do and the value you bring to our community. He explained police items such as tasers that are in the capital budget and not in this budget. He said he does not think people fully grasp the high accreditation level which is very high. ■Chief Lynch explained that three years ago they obtained accreditation through the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission so they have to meet 375-plus standards. It is a very difficult process and only 112 communities have this. They are currently getting prepared for their reaccreditation. He said they had a great pre-assessment. He said he expects to sail through and be reaccredited. He said it is a lot of work to meet all the standards but it makes us a better police department. ■Councilor Jones said Watertown has 4 sq. mi. and the same population as Franklin, and they have 71 sworn police officers and they employ 9 dispatchers and 5 civilians. He said the chief and staff do a great job and he will be pushing the yes vote to get the additional funding necessary to maintain the staff as it is. He said we really have to think about future staffing. ■Councilor Dellorco said they do a great job. He asked about the pay rate compared to other towns. ■Chief Lynch explained that he was told by the officer leaving he was being offered a detective position and a \$15,000 raise. Chief Lynch discussed the compensation and classification study and said his patrolmen are three from the bottom and his sergeants are last in base compensation. ■Councilor Dellorco said Attleboro

pays more. He said he wanted to point out the pay scale. ■Chief Lynch said they try to do other things in addition to compensation.

► Hold on Line Item 220: Fire. ■Chair Mercer said this was an automatic hold. ■Councilor Sheridan said that he wanted to ask the same question as for Chief Lynch and the number of calls you get. ■Fire Chief James McLaughlin said they have 61 sworn firefighters and 1 administrative assistant. He said they have one vacancy right now. He said in 2019 they had 52 firefighters and with the Town Council's support, they are up to the 61 number. Regarding comparable minimum manning on each shift right now is 14 personnel on each of the four shifts. He said Needham has 17 per shift, Randolph has 16, Natick has 21, Norwood has 16, and Stoughton has 15 per shift. He said they are in good shape with the support here. He discussed the part-time ambulance and said they are at 160 calls; it is doing the job we wanted it to do. He said ideally for two stations in Franklin, 65 is our number. He said that would give us the ladder and that third ambulance 24/7 coverage, but we have made great strides along the way. He said he anticipates within the next two years that 65 number is going to have to be there. He said they received 5,500 calls last year. He said they go up about 250 to 300 calls a year. He said of the calls about 67 percent to 70 percent are EMS calls and about 72 percent of the EMS calls are transports to the hospital. ■Councilor Dellorco said he knows the call volume is up. He said in Quincy they were talking about how they could not get any vehicles for about four years. He asked if it is anticipated that we will have to replace any vehicles. ■Chief McLaughlin said in 2023 that the time and cost would probably go up to get a truck. He said if we ordered the truck today, it would be between \$2.4 million and \$2.5 million and 56 months. He said for our fire apparatus they have an ambulance coming in the end of the summer. He said we try to replace them every 2.5 to 3 years because of how much work they do. He said the oldest engine is 2013. He said we do not anticipate a fire engineer or ladder until 2029, 2030, 2031. He said they are in good shape for the apparatus. ■Chair Mercer asked for a timeframe for turnaround for an ambulance in 2025 versus 2020 for leaving the station to a resident's house to getting back to the station. ■Chief McLaughlin said a lot of it goes to the hospitals. He said there is a lot of turnaround time at the hospitals. He said there are staffing issues at the hospitals. ■Chair Mercer said the third ambulance is very important because of the calls and turnaround time getting the ambulances back in town. We need it 24/7. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he knows they have built up their accreditation. ■Chief McLaughlin reviewed the ISO designation in 2022. He said there are nine departments in Massachusetts that have that. They are proud of that. They reassess that every five years. He said their equipment is in great shape. They do a lot of training and keep good records of the training. He gives credit to the rank and file as training is the name of the game. He said salaries are not at the top. He said they are two from the bottom of 14 departments in Norfolk County. He said you have to stay with salaries to be competitive, but at the same time we have great working conditions, great equipment, and a community that supports you. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he knows that there is safety equipment that they rely on in the capital budget. He said people say make cuts and there is waste, but hopefully everyone is listening tonight and realizing that we have departments that are literally working with less staff and for the same population doing incredibly high call volumes and then taking it a step further and getting highly accredited and highly trained. He said all in the benefit of Franklin. He said he encouraged the other firemen and folks on your board to join the teachers out there and advocate for the override in some way other just putting some posts on Facebook. He said the community would be more reassured to hear from some of those guys that this means a lot to them, too. ■Councilor Pellegrini said with the third ambulance are we using other communities less. ■Chief McLaughlin reviewed that last year they still had 295 mutual aid calls that came in. He said so, for FY25, the third ambulance has done 135 calls, transported 87 times, and we have had 222 mutual aid calls. He said we anticipate that at the end of the fiscal year we will be probably close to the 290-300 number. He discussed the peak time and explained the calls are coming in on the weekends and after 5 PM as well. He said for the total increase in call volume it is about 70 percent is for EMS.

► Hold on Line Item 225: Regional Dispatch. ■Chair Mercer asked where are we and what does the near future look like. ■Mr. Hellen explained it has been hard work. He said he appreciates them coming over to the regional dispatch center today. He said they formally signed an agreement today for Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communications Center (SEMRECC) in Foxboro. He said Foxboro is

with Easton, Norton, and Mansfield. He said we have a six-town regional dispatch center. There are a few other communities such as Medfield that are looking to get in. He said dispatcher is a hard job to recruit. He said SEMRECC is a state-of-the-art facility led by a great team in Foxboro. He said they formally signed an agreement to merge with them. He said you will see some economies of scale. They will be eligible for additional grant rounds from the state. He explained this is also a career ladder. He said the entire state of California with 48 million people has five regional dispatch centers; Massachusetts has a couple of hundred such centers. He said this project in two years will be the largest center in all of New England. He said this is a big deal from regionalization, savings, and career ladder perspectives. He said dispatching is a hard job. He said it is hard to find people. He said he has worked on SEMRECC for three years. He said in two to three years there will probably be an expanded district. He explained how essential dispatchers are. He said we continue to innovate; it is non stop. He said this is some of the additional work that he does. He said they are continuing to find ways to do business better and save money. ■Chair Mercer explained that regionalization is one way to save money. He explained how the regionalization has been an incredible thing to do.

► Hold on Line Item 300: Franklin Public Schools. ■Councilor Dellorco said he sometimes gets calls about the Norfolk Aggie and asked that it be explained. ■Superintendent of Schools Lucas Giguere stated that he does not oversee that budget, but it is a school line. ■Chair Mercer said when they get to those, they will answer that question. ■Councilor Hamblen said she wanted to mention and thank the school district to change their budget schedule to coincide with the town schedule so we could do what we did and bring the information to the people as a unit. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he echoed what Councilor Hamblen said. He said we are one town and one Franklin and one budget. He asked them to talk through the one-pager assuming the budget will stay as is which requires the override, such as smaller class sizes and sports fees. ■Superintendent Giguere stated that for the reorganization, they lifted everyone out of their chairs and said we need to look at where the schools are going to be and what schools will we utilize. Then we placed our students in the schools in a different way and then we built our budget on the class sizes that put us in the range. He said we put our best foot forward and looked at the budget. He said he is also a taxpayer. He said they said if we want to have classes sizes in the range that other school districts that have the appropriate budget, we should be looking at our first and second grades having between 18 and 22. Our third through twelfth grades somewhere between 20-24/25. He said when we built the budget, we built the classes around those numbers. He said this is in the budget book that breaks that down in an effort to try to preserve the class sizes that we believe are appropriate for us to do the work that people expect in this town; the high quality of education. He said there are three phases to this. He said we have talked about cuts. He said when we went through the reorganization they looked at the ratios and were able to find reductions that made sense so that when we came here in front of you we were able to look at the budget that we put forward and be able to optimize our resources, put our middle school students under one roof, consolidate our schools, and still have the ability; it was like a reset for us. He said they had declining enrollments and were across multiple schools, and we needed to take a fresh look. He said we did that work. It was challenging. Doing it while trying to land the budget was also quite challenging, but it was worth doing to get us on a cycle where we could all land and deliver at that time. He said the fees and co-curricular activities are baked into this budget. It is restoring some of the extracurricular activities that have been cut over time. He said they talked about a commitment with the override passing and us having solved this to reduce some of the significantly increased fees back into what is more market value for what someone would pay for fees in programs similar to our town or what we offer. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he thinks the number kicked around with high school football went from \$300 to \$1,000, but there has been some discussion if the override passes bringing that back down to around \$600. ■Superintendent Giguere said that is correct. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said that is a pretty significant number. ■Superintendent Giguere said it also preserves what we have built up over time for our counseling support and our academic support for kids to try to preserve what we have. That is what investing in our town and consequently our school is and what this budget represents. He said he is excited about the future if we can get through a time without needing to make more cuts and having to go through that. He said that is the goal here. To a lot of points made earlier about retention and recruitment, they apply across the board. He said we try to keep the best people we have. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger asked him to speak to salary and competition and where we fall as a community. He said he hears that we are

low. ■ Superintendent Giguere said he would have to look at the data. From a teacher perspective they were lower, but he thinks they have made gains with local unions, but he does not have the data in front of him. He said they try to retain and keep good people. He said they want to be in positions for people to get fair and competitive salaries in any position in town. He said the reorganization is a way to show the community that we are all trying to come up with ways to provide an optimized system, but it ultimately comes down to when you look under the hood on any of these, we have really done the work to put forth this is what we need to be successful as we move forward. ■ Councilor Cormier-Leger said they should be applauded for thinking creatively about repurposing Kennedy and more ECDC which is a pay service which is revenue. ■ Superintendent Giguere said they want to optimize every space. He reviewed the importance of the childcare for the teachers for recruitment and retention. ■ Councilor Cormier-Leger said this budget issue goes back 15 years of people raising the red flag of there is not enough money coming in. He said to the school department's credit, they have still been able to hang on and the community still looks at it as an exceptional school department. He said he hears people want to come to Franklin for the schools. He said even with the cuts and loss of staff, you guys have been able to maintain a balance and should be commended. ■ Chair Mercer said he would like to piggyback on what Councilor Hamblen referred to and thanking you and the School Committee for your leadership and moving your budget process up 1.5 months to match with ours, and it gave the Joint Budget Subcommittee nine months to work on this budget from start to finish, and you are dealing with redistricting and restructuring of all of your schools. He said we applaud the efforts of the School Committee and administration for accomplishing all that. ■ Mr. Steve Sherlock, 13 Magnolia Drive, and Franklin Matters, said he recalls the title of your budget is the foundation for the future specifically in regard to the demographics in the way you have restructured, which he gave an example, and he said they could add two students to each of the classrooms, so additional students could walk in and they could now handle it. He said the demographics are not going to change beyond the capacity you have built into the restricting. ■ Superintendent Giguere said they optimized and put forth the work they did, the numbers, the ratios. He said if this budget passes, this is what we can offer. If it does not, we are like every other department. He said we are set up for success if we can see this budget through. ■ Mr. Hellen said this is a major turning point for this town. He explained that this is a 30 to 40 year problem that can finally turn the corner. The school district can finally turn the corner and begin to look forward. We have always been looking backward. This is a huge moment. This redistricting pivots the schools into the future. ■ Mr. Sherlock said he started doing this in 2005/2006 because his kids were coming home from school with a \$25 fee for track. He said we are here today because last year the \$6.8 million did not pass and the Town Council used \$3 million of one-time funds as a patch. He said so, \$3 million of this year's \$3.8 million we knew last year. ■ Ms. Ruthann O'Sullivan, 175 Oak Street, said it has been a concern in the community about not passing the override because we are building too much. She said the community needs to understand you cannot have it both ways. She asked is it a correct assumption to assume that if we cannot fix the structural deficit, we will be more desperate to build because we will need the money. ■ Mr. Hellen said he does not know if he would use the word desperate. He said she is on the right track. He said he wants to make it clear that the override has nothing to do with development and development has nothing to do with the override; he provided an example. He said they have heard loud and clear from residents that the development is very concerning. He said we will have legislation for action on the July meeting to try to get a few things through the Town Council to take away the apartment issue and friendly 40B issue. He said we hear you and have not ignored anybody, and we are going to do things for the Town Council and Planning Board to consider. He said if people in the community are concerned about school children because of development and police and fire, then how can we do any of this if we lose more teachers and more police officers and more fire. That hurts the situation. He said this is not just about apartments, it is about single-family homes which there are some being built. He said there is a lot of misinformation about the apartment complexes. He said in excess of 70 percent of these are one bedroom. They are not going to produce the number of children in the district, and what has been said in the community is not accurate. He said when planning these things you can do an estimate. But even a two bedroom, those are not also going to produce children that go to the schools. He said what the redistricting has done, there is capacity to deal with the issue going forward. He said they set the school district up for success. He said this is a good moment for Franklin. ■ Ms. O'Sullivan said when we

get children, we get state aid for those kids. So, having a declining enrollment has hurt our budget. She said as a community, we cannot have it both ways.

► Hold on Line Item 390: Tri-County Regional School and Hold on Line Item 395: Norfolk Aggie. ■Chair Mercer said he and Councilor Dellorco held these. He asked Mr. Hellen to explain this. ■Mr. Hellen said accounts 390 and 395 are numbers we get through the state local aid sheets. Basically, it is per pupil costs that go to those schools. We pay for the tuition portion for the Aggie and the tuition portion for Tri-County. He said the Tri-County School building project that has started is not in this line item. That is under debt exclusions on the control sheet on the top. He said we increased the tax levy to pay for that and when the bond is paid off, that tax will sunset. He said they are working closely with Tri-County School Superintendent Karen Maguire on the issues seen in the news this week. He said the legislature and the governor are looking at a line item in the budget to help school building projects that have started and to deal with potential anticipated tariff cost overruns. He said they do not want to go back to the taxpayers for any possible cost overruns.

► Hold on Line Item 422: DPW-Highway Department. ■Chair Mercer said this was an automatic hold. ■Councilor Frongillo asked if he could remind us about how your budget has transitioned as our budgets have shrunk over the past few years and some of the impacts of last year's failed override. ■DPW Director Brutus Cantoreggi said the public works budget is unusual. If you go back to FY24, it was basically at \$6 million. He said my budget this year has gone up \$1,000 in two years. He said he took a substantial budget cut to the department last year. He noted inflation. He said 65 percent of his budget is expenses. For most other budgets it is about 10 percent. He said there is volatility of the things they buy. He said his budget has basically stayed the same. ■Councilor Frongillo said that stays the same scares him. He said material costs have gone up dramatically. He said he was helping with the beautification of downtown and interacting with some of the DPW workers who are cautioning the Garden Club members that they just do not have the personnel that they used to have to support some of the landscaping efforts. ■Mr. Cantoreggi said yes, they have had to reduce some landscaping personnel. ■Councilor Frongillo said Mr. Cantoreggi said an external party comes in and scores the quality of the roads and for our score over the past 10 years the road quality has dropped roughly 6.5 percent, and we are currently on pace for a further 4 percent drop in the next four years. ■Mr. Cantoreggi said that is very accurate. He explained the road evaluations. He discussed the amount of money they would need and said it was going to get worse. ■Councilor Frongillo said it is easy to see erosion in other departments and in terms of DPW but is equally impactful to the town. He said so typically, it is among the first things cut because you do not immediately see the impact. He said this is going to come back to bite us. He said we have numbers telling us we are falling behind and are not making up that ground and that is terrifying to him. He noted the depreciation of our infrastructure assets which terrifies him. ■Mr. Cantoreggi explained if we do not do the preventative maintenance that we have been doing, costs to improvements are exponential. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said he understands the money is not there, but for the taxpayer, looking at sidewalks in front of their home, there is still an expectation that the town will maintain those sidewalks. He said we do not have the money if the override does not pass, but he hopes going forward we can start a process at chipping away at some of these things. He said he hopes that we can put a process together to identify a couple of things and show the taxpayer a couple of things that get done and the same will be said about sidewalks. He said maybe it is a five-year dream. He said whatever you can do to help chip away at that. ■Mr. Cantoreggi said they do sidewalks and high traffic areas. He said they are dealing with the regulations the state put out. He said they go into neighborhoods and do what they can. He said they do try.

► Hold on Line Item 541: Council on Aging. ■Chair Mercer said Councilor Chandler held this item, but was not feeling well and had to go home.

► Hold on Line Item 543: Veterans Services. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger said this was to talk to the point that salaries and expenses make sense as they are not very high, but the \$165,000 placeholder for veterans' assistance he asked it to be talked about and what it is. ■Director of Veterans' Services Shannon Nisbett said that budget is for Chapter 115 benefits for veterans or spouses of veterans. It is basically a state safety net

program, and we get reimbursed from the state for 75 percent of the money spent. She said so, even though we have \$165,000 in the budget, we get reimbursed 75 percent of that. She said she works with Linda Darling to make sure they get those reimbursements. She said in this fiscal year they have spent \$118,422 from that budget. ■ Councilor Cormier-Leger asked about significant strides in passing abatement programs and other programs for veterans. ■ Ms. Nisbett said the Hero Act was passed last summer and one of the provisions involved veteran property tax exemption. She said Franklin had already doubled the veteran property tax exemption under a different provision in October 2021. She said what the Town Council did approve was a cost-of-living increase allowed by the Hero Act. She said it was several months ago that Town Council adopted that. She said in Franklin if they have a 10 percent disability rating or higher, they get a \$400 property tax increase and it is matched by the town to make it \$800 and now they get the cost-of-living increase in addition to that. A veteran who is rated at 100 percent gets \$1,000 exemption, doubled matched by the town to \$2,000, plus a certain percentage for the cost of living. ■ Councilor Cormier-Leger said this is important for the community to understand. ■ Ms. Nisbett explained the town has supported veterans since she started in fall 2021.

► Hold on Line Item 610: Library. ■ Councilor Jones asked how many people are on the staff. ■ Library Director Felicia Oti said 12 staff. ■ Councilor Jones asked if the override were not to pass, how many people would she have to reduce that staff by. ■ Ms. Oti said let's just say it would be devastating. ■ Councilor Jones asked how much at risk would we be with losing our certification with the State of Massachusetts. ■ Ms. Oti said we have worked very hard to bring the library back to where we are. It is the same story that you hear from other departments. She said she thinks the library does not get enough credit for their restructuring. She said it was very hard work in 2014. It has put the library on a very strong place. She said she does not even want to think about losing one person and said we would be at risk of losing certification. ■ Councilor Jones talked about everyone taking an opportunity to visit the library and the library's website with how much the library has to offer which he reviewed. He said we are the first free public lending library in Massachusetts and we have Ben Franklin's book. He said this is a cherished institution in Franklin.

► Hold on Line Item 693: Arts, Culture Creative Economy. ■ Councilor Pellegrini said she is all set.

► Hold on Line Item 910: Benefits. ■ Chair Mercer said Councilor Chandler held this. ■ Mr. Hellen said Councilor Chandler asked about unemployment. ■ Chair Mercer said they would leave the two that Councilor Chandler held until tomorrow night.

► Hold on Line Item 440: Sewer Budget-Charles River Assessment. ■ Chair Mercer said his question was more of a statement and explanation for the audience to understand what the Charles River Assessment is. ■ Water and Sewer Superintendent Doug Martin said the assessment we pay to the Charles River Pollution Control District is our percentage ownership of the treatment that is done at that facility. He said we own just under 70 percent of that facility. So, if you look at their budget, the total cost is split up to the member towns. ■ Chair Mercer asked how much room for additional sewer capacity is there. ■ Mr. Martin said the town has excess capacity that they are not utilizing for water and sewer. He does not have the number left under the permits, but will provide it. He said for water, we are permitted for 3.44 million gallons per day on an average day. Last year, an average day was 2.5 million; so that difference is about 1 million gallons a day which is what we have left. ■ Mr. Hellen said this is what he said at the ZBA. He said when people say we do not have water as a reason to oppose development, it is not going to be a reason to oppose development. He said the citizens of this community have won awards on water conservation. We have one of the lowest GDP per household amounts on water. ■ Mr. Martin said the state's guidelines are 65 gallons of water per person per day. The Town of Franklin does 45. ■ Chair Mercer said he would like to know the sewer piece as well.

► Hold on Line Item 460: Stormwater Budget. ■ Councilor Dellorco asked about the \$724,000 for expenses. ■ Stormwater and Environmental Affairs Superintendent Derek Adams said he gets a lot of support from the other folks at the DPW. A slice comes to him and then goes to engineering support, DPW director, the front office staff and admin. Then the actual work we do, we sweep every road twice, we clean every catch basin

every year. He discussed that they outsource street sweeping. He discussed the catch basin trucks and said they are cleaning all the catch basins which creates a lot of material that they have to get rid of. So, they store it in the yard and then have to load the trucks that will bring it to a landfill. He reviewed that there are pieces of infrastructure that they need to do. He said they did a rebuild at 33 Daniels Street because we had a sink hole next to it. He said there was a structure fail at a leaching basin near the library. He explained it depends on what the job is if they do it inhouse or outsource. He reviewed examples such as the Oxford Drive neighborhood and what needs to be done with the swale there. He noted a puddle at Elm Street that can reduce the road to one lane of travel when it rains, and they are going to put a basin in there. He said stormwater is basically the drainage system. He explained they work closely with the Conservation Department regarding beaver deceivers. He said the work is coming in faster than they can keep up with. He said there are 152 detention basins out there and each one needs to be inspected annually. ■ Councilor Jones asked about the MS4 permit and said it is an EPA federal unfunded mandate and we have sued them unsuccessfully. ■ Mr. Hellen said yes. ■ Councilor Jones said the stormwater fund is basically our funding mechanism to meet the requirements of the MS4 permit. ■ Mr. Hellen said it is money out of people's pockets and no one likes it. He said it is still about infrastructure and drainage. He said the work Mr. Adams and his crews are doing is trying to keep the drainage systems upgraded just like our roads. He said this is just the begin of a 20 to 30 years long process. He said we will then look to see if the EPA even exists. He said we are progressively ahead of other communities on a stormwater. He said this money goes into our community.

► Chair Mercer stated that one question they get from the community is if the override does not pass, what will get cut and how and why is the number on the town website higher than what we are asking for in the override. He said although it is explained in the top paragraph, people do not read. ► Mr. Hellen reviewed the top paragraph that explains the reason. He said that he and the superintendent have discussed the challenge with putting a list of positions to cut and when people see their name on a list the community can be a little divided, and we were not ready to put out a specific list as things change. He provided an example of how the fire truck borrowing came in lower, so in the budget model we will lower the debt and interest line item by a little bit to reflect actual benefits. He said he was asked to give an idea of the cuts. The list is higher than the deficit because we wanted to illustrate the most likely cuts and changes that would occur. He reviewed the Model B – Menu of Potential FY26 Budget Reductions document. He said they are down now to the bone and the schools cannot unilaterally take those cuts. He said it may not be everything on the list. He said the vast majority of what is on the list will be the list of cuts. He said he hopes this guides the community a little. He said everything on the list is things we need. ► Chair Mercer said he asked the question so the audience could hear the answer. He said this list has been on the website from the beginning and the top paragraph explains it. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger asked about the potential cuts. He said there is a great deal of conversation online that says we would never do this. This is all scare tactic nonsense. He said his reply is that they do not want any of that to happen; however, if our hand is forced and we have to spread this \$3.8 million problem over all departments, we are not going to have a choice. He said as difficult as that is going to be to tell department heads that they have to let people go or change hours or loose accreditation, they need to believe that. ► Mr. Hellen said when you talk about the comparable towns, they have more dollars to move things around as their levy is 20 to 25 percent higher than Franklin. He said this community has just simply not turned that corner. He said the community commentary is that they will find the money. He said the folks behind him and the superintendent found a creative way through immense work to triage it. For instance, those cuts from the schools have been happening for years. He said this is not a bluff. It is incumbent upon you to correct that information. He said they cut \$1.3 million out of the municipal budget last year and people forget that and it went to the schools. He said this narrative in Franklin has been around for a long time and he gets emails from people about this. He discussed engagement and communication to people who call. He said there will be hard decisions to make if the override does not pass. He said what the chiefs and superintendent have said, losing an ambulance can mean life or death. For people to say you are going to figure it out is not right. He said they will have to have hard discussions on June 4. He said everyone is going to sleep a lot less when the ambulance is four minutes later. He said and think about the reaction from people when they say you cut the ambulance. People have got to think through not just the moment but the next year as it is going to be very hard. He said he can assure them that the items on the list will be

reality. He said ambulances and public safety, school teachers, and children are a whole different ball of wax. He said we have to think of the senior center. He said 150 people eat there every day and for some people it is the only meal they get. He said these are the choices that will come before you on June 4. ► Chair Mercer declared the first public hearing on the FY 26 budget closed.

ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. (Councilor Chandler had left the meeting).

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN

MEMORANDUM

May 30, 2025

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolution 25-20: Adoption of FY26 Budget

As previously mentioned, we anticipate a final resolution on the FY26 budget this evening.

If the override is approved by voters, the voting document that has been publicly published through the Joint Budget Subcommittee process will be considered for approval.

If the override is NOT approved by voters, additional budget models will be posted on the Town website no later than 11:00 AM, Wednesday June 4, 2025. We will also revise the Council agenda and packet to reflect the budget models with the proposed reductions. As has been previously discussed and published for months, the [town has published a likely menu of potential](#) department reductions.



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN

MEMORANDUM

May 30, 2025

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolution 25-21: Salary Schedule: Full-Time Elected Official (Town Clerk)

We are asking the Town Council to consider the Town Clerk's FY26 proposed Salary. As an elected official, the Town Clerk's salary must be approved by the Town Council by statute.

We are requesting an increase in the Town Clerk's Salary from \$111,366 in FY25 to \$114,150 in FY26.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to ask.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
RESOLUTION 25-21**

SALARY SCHEDULE: FULL-TIME ELECTED OFFICIAL

A Resolution Amending Appendix A, Chapter 4 of the Code of the Town of Franklin, entitled "Salary Schedule - Full-Time Elected Official".

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL THAT: Appendix A Salary Schedule - Full-Time Elected Official, Chapter 4 of the Code of the Town of Franklin is amended as follows:

APPENDIX A

SALARY SCHEDULE - FULL-TIME ELECTED OFFICIAL

OFFICE	INCUMBENT SALARY	FY26 SALARY
Town Clerk	\$111,366	\$114,150

FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION:

Meeting Date: 5/1/2025

Vote: Passed 7-0

This resolution is effective for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

May 30, 2025

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Bylaw Amendment 25-936 & 25-937: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

We are asking the Town Council to move Bylaw Amendments 25-936 & 25-937 to a second reading. Both bylaw amendments relate to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations as described below:

Bylaw Amendment 25-936: Proposes to add a new subsection G. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Revolving Fund as a new Authorized Revolving Fund under Chapter 73, Section 73-5 of Franklin Town Code.

Bylaw Amendment 25-937: Proposes to amend Franklin Town Code at Chapter 82, Section 82-6, Schedule of Service, Subsection A. Administration by adding a fee of 35 cents per kWh for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
BY LAW AMENDMENT 25-936**

AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUND

**A BYLAW TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN AT CHAPTER 73,
DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS, BY ADDING A NEW AUTHORIZED REVOLVING FUND:
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION REVOLVING FUND**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL the Chapter that Chapter 73 of the Code of the Town of Franklin is amended at Section 73-5 Authorized Revolving Funds, to add a new Subsection G, Electric Vehicle Charging Station Revolving Fund, by adding the following language as set out below:

G. Charging Station Revolving Fund.

- (1) Fund name.** There shall be a separate revolving fund called the "Electric Vehicle Charging Station Revolving Fund" for the use of the Public Facilities Department.
- (2) Revenues.** The Comptroller shall establish the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Revolving Fund as a separate account and credit to the fund all revenues generated from the imposition of fees for the use of Town and School charging stations to defray the costs of utilities, maintenance and other associated expenses of said charging stations.
- (3) Purposes and expenditures.** During each fiscal year the Public Facilities Director may incur liabilities against and spend monies from the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Revolving Fund for costs related to the charging stations.
- (4) Fiscal years.** The Electric Vehicle Charging Station Revolving Fund shall operate for fiscal years that begin on or after July 1, 2025.

This bylaw amendment shall become effective on and after July 1, 2025.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ NO: _____

ABSTAIN: _____ ABSENT: _____

RECUSED: _____

Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk

Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
BY LAW AMENDMENT 25-937**

**AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL SERVICE FEES
VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS**

**A BYLAW TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN AT CHAPTER 82, FEES,
MUNICIPAL SERVICE, BY ADDING A NEW SERVICE FEE: ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING
STATIONS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL that Chapter 82 of the Code of the Town of Franklin is amended at Section 82-6 Schedule of Service Fees, Subsection A. Administration, by adding to the existing language a new fee, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, as set out below:

§ 82-6. Schedule of service fees.

A: Administration

Service Fee	Rate
<u>Electric Vehicle Charging Stations</u>	<u>\$.35 per kwh</u>

This bylaw amendment shall become effective on and after July 1, 2025.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ NO: _____

ABSTAIN: _____ ABSENT: _____

Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk

RECUSED: _____

Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2025
To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolution 25-23: Snow and Ice Transfer of Funds

We are asking for the Town Council to approve Resolution 25-23. If approved, this resolution will authorize the transfer of \$200,000 to the Snow and Ice Stabilization Fund from the FY25 General Fund Snow and Ice Budget. These are leftover funds from snow and ice removal that were not spent. Town policy is to save any residual funds toward a stabilization fund in the event of a costly winter.

At their May 1st meeting, the Finance Committee voted unanimously (7-0) to recommend that the Town Council approve this resolution.

The current Snow and Ice Stabilization Fund balance is \$554,496. With the appropriation of \$200,000 the balance will be \$754,496. This account does accumulate interest. The Town goal is to have \$1 million in snow and ice stabilization money in the event the allocated amount in the budget goes over, which is likely at some point due to escalating costs of labor and expenses for snow and ice removal.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



TOWN OF FRANKLIN RESOLUTION 25-23

SNOW AND ICE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

PURPOSE: To transfer Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) to the Snow and Ice Stabilization Fund created by Resolution 24-32 pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5B, as follows:

TRANSFER TO:	SOURCE	AMOUNT
Snow and Ice Stabilization Account R 24-32	Snow and Ice FY25 Budget	\$ 200,000

FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION:

Meeting Date: 5/1/2025

Vote: Passed 7-0

MOTION

Be It Moved and Voted by the Town Council that the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) be transferred from General Fund Snow and Ice Budget FY25 to the Snow and Ice Stabilization Account R24-32.

This Resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

RECUSED: _____

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2025
To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolution 25-35:Appropriation of Funds from Receipts Reserved to Road Repairs

We are asking for the Town Council to approve Resolution 25-35. If approved, this resolution will appropriate funds from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation to the TNC Ride Assessment Fund for the purpose of road repairs.

In Massachusetts there is a fee to utilize ride share services such as Uber and Lyft, which goes to the State. A portion of these fees is paid to municipalities annually through a formula in state law. Best practice for municipalities is to put these payments toward road repairs. It is, of course, not much money, but we have used it toward road repairs for the past few years since the state law was approved.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
RESOLUTION 25-35**

**APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED
TO ROAD REPAIRS**

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$7,928.70

PURPOSE: To appropriate \$7,928.70 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation to the TNC Ride Assessment Fund for the purpose of road repairs.

MOTION: Be It Moved and Voted by the Town Council that the sum of Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Eight Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$7,928.70) be appropriated for the purposes indicated above from the Receipts Reserved to the TNC Ride Assessment Fund.

This Resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

UNANIMOUS: _____

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2025

To: Town Council

From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolutions 25-25 & 25-26: Community Preservation Act FY26 Budget

We are asking for the Town Council to approve Resolutions 25-25 & 25-26 which both relate to the FY26 CPA budget.

If approved, Resolution 25-25 will appropriate a total of \$1,910,412 from the Community Preservation Fund FY26 Estimated Reserves for required reserve accounts and administrative expenses and other expenses in fiscal year 2026. This is the expected CPA revenue for FY26 and complies with state legal requirements.

If approved, Resolution 25-26 will appropriate a total of \$912,790.50 from Community Preservation Reserves available funds for community preservation projects in FY 2026.

The Community Preservation Committee approved both resolutions unanimously at their May 5, 2025 meeting. Please note the CPC also approved a project regarding the Methodist Church, which will be held at a later meeting due to the in-depth legal details that will be required to educate the Town Council.

For additional information please see the May 1, 2025 memo from Jamie Hellen and the full text of both proposed resolutions which have been included in the agenda packet for the June 4, 2025 Town Council meeting.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 1, 2025

To: Community Preservation Committee
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Legal posted hearing and FY26 Budget

2025 (FY26) Public Hearing

The required annual public hearing for the Community Preservation program is taking place on May 5, 2025 at 7:00PM. The legal ad for the hearing is included in the agenda packet for this meeting.

CPA Budget Update

Some basic updates:

- As of July 1, 2025, and assuming passage of the FY26 project slate, the unencumbered balance of the Budgeted Reserve Fund is \$2,606,836 of discretionary revenue (not including the 10% required for each of the three legally required categories (Open Space, Historic Preservation Affordable Housing). All surplus or unspent administrative funds are legally turned back to unreserved fund balance where they can be reserved or appropriated in future years.
- 10% Requirement Update. The Town is required to spend 10% of all money on the three main categories. FY22, FY23, FY24, FY25 and FY26 = five fiscal years worth of required dedicated spending. Including the FY26 budget proposal below:
 - Open Space requirements are fully fulfilled for all five fiscal years.
 - Affordable Housing requirements are fully fulfilled for four years with the exception of FY26.
 - Historic Preservation requirements are funded for all four years by reserving the 10%; however, \$247,584.50 remains to be appropriated toward actual projects. The Town can propose additional projects or leave that “in the bank” toward something more substantial down the road.
- Latest CPA updates can be found on the Coalition’s website where there are free seminars, email

updates, project databank and more. The Town is a member of the Coalition.

<https://www.communitypreservation.org/>

Project Report

The following is a brief summary of the CPA funded projects:

- Schmidt Farm and Maple Hill parcels are concluding the master plan process. The projects have had several public meetings in front of different committees. Final approval will be later this summer or fall. The town will look for financing in the Fall of 2025 for the calendar year 2026 with costs to conduct basic infrastructure and access.
- Historical Museum Cupola (\$70,000) has been put out to bid and will be rebid this month. Through the procurement process, prospective bidders had feedback on how the renovation of the couple should take place. Final decisions have been made and will be rebid again this month. We would hope for a late summer
- The Franklin Ridge (\$320,000) project is about to begin construction of the roadway, drainage and sewer infrastructure and lay the groundwork to then finance the actual building construction. CPA funds will be used to support the overall construction and serve as gap funding while federal and state funding sources overlap. The consultant is piecing together the federal and state funding sources now. The Town should be receiving its \$850,000 HUD grant, which was approved by Congress and sponsored by Congressman Jake Achincloss, this Summer. Those funds are being applied directly to the proposed construction of the Veterans Memorial Drive Extension, which will extend an existing public right-of-way through an undeveloped tract of land to support the future construction of the Franklin Ridge Senior Affordable Housing Project.
- The Old South Church (\$100,000) project will begin in the Summer of 2025! A ribbon cutting is being coordinated for June 18, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the Church, which Old Colony Habitat for Humanity will send out in the next few weeks.
- King Street Phase 1 Recreation Field Lighting project (\$500,000) will go out to bid this month with an expected set of work to start this summer to assist in the night time lighting come Fall 2025. CPA money will be proposed next year for the next Phase.
- Pleasant St Affordable Housing project (\$360,990) has yet to commence.

FY26 Budget Proposal

The following is our proposed FY26 Budget amounts, based on the projected revenues.

The Town projects \$1,648,328 in CPA surcharge revenue for FY26 and \$262,084 from the 15.9% state match for a total amount of \$1,910,412.

We have attached the FY26 Budget appropriation and reserve budget as follows:

- 10% dedicated to open space is \$191,042
- 10% dedicated to affordable housing is \$191,042
- 10% dedicated to historical preservation is \$191,042
- 5% administration is \$95,521
 - \$10,000 of these revenues offset the town operating budget now to offset the cost to Deputy CFO/Budget Director Evan LaCasse's salary to conduct all state required accounting and reporting.
- 65% is budgeted reserve for discretionary funding.
 - \$1,241,768 is remaining in the FY26 budgeted reserve balance of just the FY26 budget.
 - \$621,748 is the amount for the proposed project slate.
 - If the project slate was approved, the remaining amount of discretionary funds in the budget reserved is \$2,606,836 by the conclusion of FY26.

FY26 Budget Project Slate

We have attached the FY26 project slate resolution. The following is a list of projects and expenditures:

- \$323,750 for the annual Debt/Interest for the Schmidt Farm parcel.
- \$252,818 for the annual Debt/Interest for the Maple Hill parcel.
- \$14,600 to fund a consultant to finish a portion of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was requested by the commonwealth as part of their new regulations on open space plans relative to ADA Access. This work will be required in order to finalize the town's open space plan and have the state approve it.
- \$181,623 to fund the required adjustments to the school playgrounds at town schools as part of the redistricting. We have attached quotes from the schools. These capital improvements will consist of ADA-compliant poured-in-place rubber at the Lincoln Street complex and to expand the current playground areas at both elementary complexes to accommodate the increased number of elementary students at each school.
- \$40,000 to replace the sports fields wall padding, which are being worn apart. We have attached the quote, which is \$36,000 plus an additional \$4,000 to address any unforeseen rotten wood attached to the concrete that will need replacing.
- \$20,000 to repair the 1949 Antique Ladder Fire Truck. The Town recently acquired its first engine from 1949 a few years ago. We want to maintain the historic treasure for future generations of enjoyment. We use it frequently at downtown events and open houses and establish a culture of learning your department history.

- \$80,000 to repair the historic main hall in the Library. The damages in the picture were from a faulty gutter leak that has been fixed. The Town should now use funds to repair the interior design. Please note the estimate attached is not a final quote. The Town is exploring procurement options for this unique work. We do not expect this project to start until the fall due to other priorities. If the project bids come in less than the amount authorized by the CPC, then any remaining balance goes into the Budgeted Reserve.
- A separate consideration will possibly move forward for \$105,245 to assist in historical preservation of the Franklin United Methodist Church in Downtown Franklin. The Church has provided a detailed plan for the funds. See attached resolution and supporting request. This request is tentative due to a legal Supreme Judicial Court decision from 2018 relative to Community Preservation Act funds on places of worship. The staff, Town Attorney and representatives from the Methodist Church will have a pre-meeting to discuss this proposal prior to the CPA meeting on Monday and hope to have further clarity on this issue to guide the Committee then. However, representatives from the Church have attended previous CPC meetings to request funding and this is an excellent opportunity for the Committee to build knowledge on some of the more nuanced issues that relate to Community Preservation funds.

Next Meeting

- The Committee should book a date for October at the May 5th meeting.
- Staff anticipate a fall CPC meeting to review cost proposals for the Master Plan of Schmidt Farm and Maple Hill, plus any other projects that come forward.
- The Fall meeting will also serve as the five year anniversary of the voter approved Community Preservation Act and the committee should discuss long term strategies.



TOWN OF FRANKLIN RESOLUTION 25-25

Community Preservation Fund: FY26 Annual Appropriations and Reservations

PURPOSE: To appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Fund Fiscal Year 2026 Estimated Revenues in the following amounts, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for required reserve accounts and administrative expenses and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, in the total amount of One Million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$1,910,412):

Source	Amount
FY26 Estimated Revenues for Historic Preservation Reserve	\$ 191,041
FY26 Estimated Revenues for Community Housing Reserve	\$ 191,041
FY26 Estimated Revenues for Open Space & Recreation Reserve	\$ 191,041
FY26 Estimated Revenues for Budgeted Reserve	\$ 1,241,768
FY26 Estimated Revenues for Administrative Expenses	\$ 95,521
Total	\$ 1,910,412

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ACTION: Meeting Date: 5/5/2025 Vote: Passed 9-0

MOTION

Be It Moved and Voted by the Town Council that the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Ten Thousand Four Hundred Twelve Dollars (\$1,910,412) be appropriated or reserved as indicated above in Fiscal Year 2026 from the Community Preservation Fiscal Year 2026 Estimated Revenues in the amounts recommended by the Franklin Community Preservation Committee, with each to be considered a separate appropriation.

This Resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.



DATED: _____, 2025

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

YES: _____ NO: _____

ABSTAIN: _____ ABSENT: _____

RECUSED: _____

Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council



TOWN OF FRANKLIN RESOLUTION 25-26

FY26 Community Preservation Appropriation of Funds – Capital

PURPOSE: To appropriate from Community Preservation Reserves available funds in the following amounts, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for community preservation projects in fiscal year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, in the total amount of Nine Hundred Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$912,790.50):

Source	Purpose	Amount
Historic Preservation Reserve	Repair 1949 Antique Truck	\$ 20,000
Historic Preservation Reserve	Repair Main Hall at the Library	\$ 80,000
Open Space & Recreation Reserve	Consultant to update Open Space plan to meet new ADA Access Requirements – Portion	\$9,419.15
Open Space & Recreation Reserve	Phase 1 Elementary Complexes Playground Expansion	\$ 181,623
Budget Reserve	Soccer Field Wall Padding Replacement	\$ 40,000
Budgeted Reserve	Consultant to update Open Space plan to meet new ADA Access Requirements – Remainder	\$ 5,180.85
Budgeted Reserve	Maple Hill Debt Service	\$ 252,818
Budgeted Reserve	Schmidt Farm Debt Service	\$ 323,750
Total		\$912,790.50

Community Preservation Committee ACTION: Meeting Date: 5/5/2025

Vote: Passed 9-0

MOTION

Be It Moved and Voted by the Town Council that the sum of Nine Hundred Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$912,790.50) be appropriated from the Community Preservation Reserves in the amounts and for the projects indicated above in Fiscal Year 2026, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation.

This Resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.



DATED: _____, 2025

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

YES: _____ NO: _____

ABSTAIN: _____ ABSENT: _____

RECUSED: _____

Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2025
To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: **Resolution 25-24:** Transfer of Funds from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to Water Line Project

We are asking for the Town Council to approve Resolution 25-24. If approved, this resolution will authorize the transfer of \$1,252,231.87 to the Water Line Capital Project from the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings. This payment will close out the most recent five-year water main replacement program (2020 - 2025) that was authorized prior to the pandemic with additional work being done through state and federal grant programs sprouting from the pandemic.

The current Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings balance is \$2,230,605. With the transfer to the Water Line Capital Project in the amount of (\$1,252,231.87) the balance will be \$978,373.13. This decision also allows the town to not have to borrow any funds to pay for this and pay interest.

At this point, until there is greater clarity and consensus on the overall approach to infrastructure, I do not anticipate any further authorizations for this work. We propose to pause in order to ensure water rates do not need to be raised any further. We have had many public conversations about infrastructure and will be seeking further guidance from the Council about future investments.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
RESOLUTION 25-24**

**APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM WATER
ENTERPRISE FUND RETAINED EARNINGS TO WATER LINE PROJECT**

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$1,252,231.87

PURPOSE: To appropriate and transfer One Million Two Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty-one Dollars and Eighty Seven cents (\$1,252,231.87) from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Water Line Capital Project authorized under Resolution 19-05 dated January 30, 2019.

MOTION: Be It Moved and Voted by the Town Council that the sum of One Million Two Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred Thirty-one Dollars and Eighty Seven cents (\$1,252,231.87) be appropriated and transferred from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Water Line Capital Project authorized under Resolution 19-05 dated January 30, 2019.

This Resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2025
To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: **Resolution 25-34:** Appropriation of Funds from Receipts Reserved for PFAS
Remediation

We are asking for the Town Council to approve Resolution 25-34. If approved, this resolution will authorize the appropriation of \$293,426.32 from the Receipts Reserved to the PFAS Mitigation Settlement Fund to mitigate the impacts of PFAS contamination in town.

As you are aware, the federal and state governments have instituted unfunded mandates to eliminate ePFAS from all water systems. While the federal government recently delayed implementation for two additional years, requirements are still in effect at the federal and state levels. Furthermore, there are many class action lawsuits on the matter that have been both settled cases, but also some suits are still active. The money in this resolution is from those lawsuits. The state Department of Revenues (DOR) just promulgated a regulatory bulletin and we are acting to comply with that bulletin.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
RESOLUTION 25-34**

**APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM RECEIPTS RESERVED
FOR PFAS REMEDIATION**

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$293,426.32

PURPOSE: To appropriate Two Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Thirty-Two Cents (\$293,426.32) from the Receipts Reserved For Appropriation to the PFAS Mitigation Settlement Fund to mitigate the impacts of PFAS contamination in the Town, including PFAS contamination in drinking water, groundwater, soil, sediment, surface water, wastewater, sludge or sludge products, landfills, and other media as appropriate. Such mitigation may include, but is not limited to projects the public water system with the costs of PFAS treatment and remediation, including but not limited to remediation projects, treatment, and mitigation.

MOTION: Be It Moved and Voted by the Town Council that the sum of Two Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Thirty-Two Cents (\$293,426.32) be appropriated for the purposes indicated above from the Receipts Reserved to the PFAS Mitigation Settlement Fund.

This Resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2025
To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: **Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-935:** A Zoning Bylaw Amendment to the Code of the Town of Franklin at Chapter 185, Section 24, Floodplain District

We are asking for the Town Council to approve Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-935. If approved, this bylaw amendment will authorize the updating of Franklin Town Code at Chapter 185, Section 24, Floodplain District to comply with FEMA's requirement of an updated floodplain district every five years in order to qualify for federal aid in the event of a natural disaster.

At their April 28, 2025 meeting the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend this bylaw amendment, as presented, to the Town Council; and at their May 5th meeting, the Town Council voted unanimously to move this bylaw amendment to a second reading.

For additional information please see the 4/28/25 dated letter from the Planning Board, the 4/2/25 dated memo from the Building and Planning Departments, the 3/31/25 dated memo from FEMA and the full text of the proposed zoning bylaw amendment, which are all included in the agenda packet for the June 4, 2025 Town Council meeting.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Planning Board

Gregory Rondeau, *Chair*
Beth A. Wierling, *Vice Chair*
Jennifer Williams, *Clerk*

**TOWN of
FRANKLIN**
MASSACHUSETTS

355 E. Central St.
Franklin, MA 02038
P. 508.520.4907
www.franklinma.gov

**FRANKLIN PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM and the Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street (also available to be attended remotely) to consider amending Chapter 185, Section 24 of the Code of the Town of Franklin.

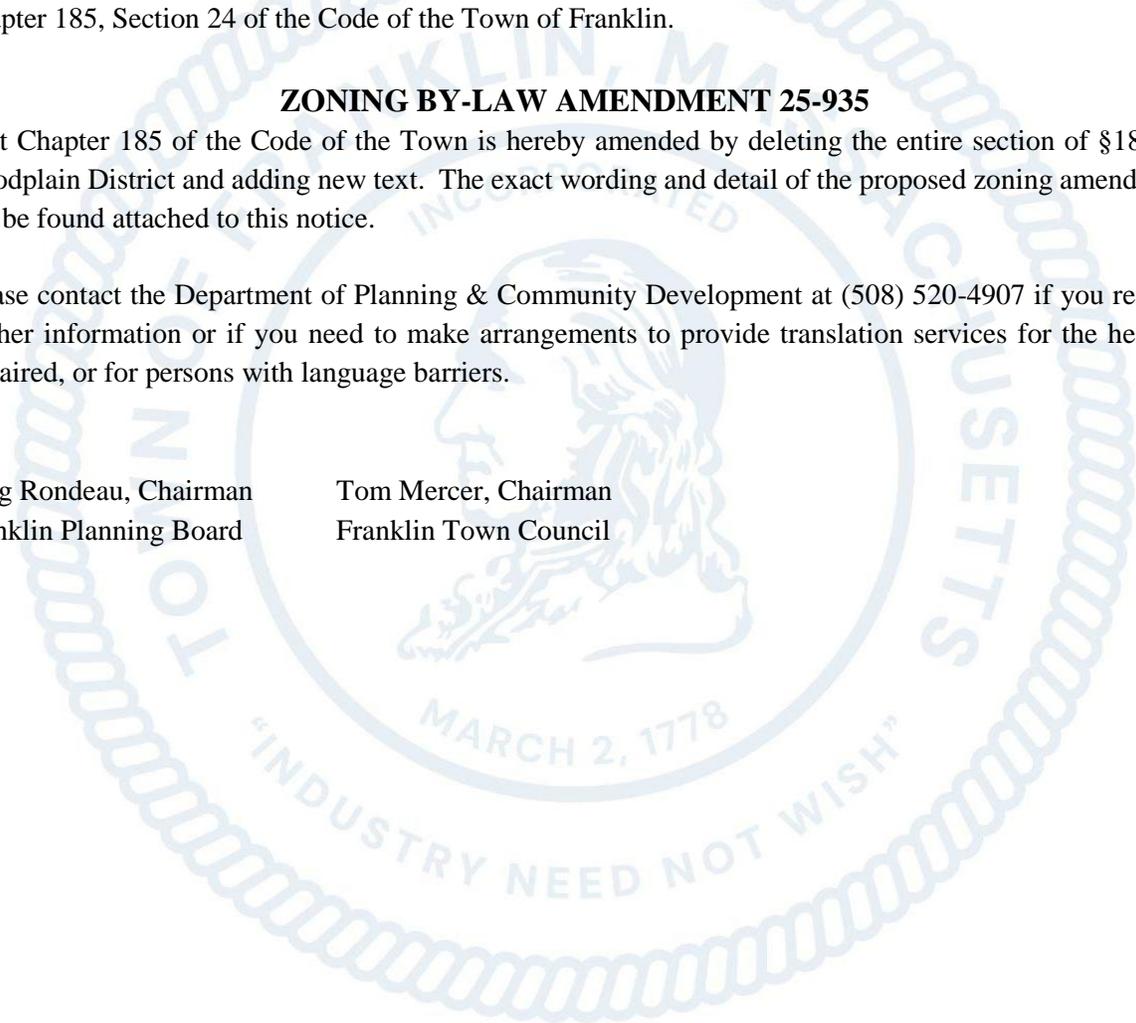
ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT 25-935

That Chapter 185 of the Code of the Town is hereby amended by deleting the entire section of §185-24 Floodplain District and adding new text. The exact wording and detail of the proposed zoning amendment can be found attached to this notice.

Please contact the Department of Planning & Community Development at (508) 520-4907 if you require further information or if you need to make arrangements to provide translation services for the hearing impaired, or for persons with language barriers.

Greg Rondeau, Chairman
Franklin Planning Board

Tom Mercer, Chairman
Franklin Town Council



§ 185-24 Floodplain Overlay District.

- A. Purpose. The purpose of the Floodplain Overlay District is to:
- (1) Ensure public safety through reducing threats to life and personal injury.
 - (2) Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials.
 - (3) Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding.
 - (4) Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding.
 - (5) Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions.
 - (6) Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters.
- B. Use of FEMA Maps and Supporting Studies. The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within Franklin designated as Zone A, AE, on the Norfolk County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated July 8, 2025 issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The exact boundaries of the District shall be defined by the 1%-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Norfolk County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July 8, 2025. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Building Commissioner, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission.
- C. Designation of Community Floodplain Administrator. The Town of Franklin hereby designates the position of Building Commissioner to be the official floodplain administrator for the Town.
- D. Permits Required for Proposed Development in the Floodplain Overlay District. The Town of Franklin requires a permit for all proposed construction or other development in the floodplain overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings, placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties.
- E. Assure All Necessary Permits are Obtained. The Town of Franklin's permit review process includes the requirement that the proponent obtain all local, state and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the floodplain overlay district. The proponent must acquire all necessary permits, and must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired.
- F. Floodway Encroachment.
- (1) In Zones A, and AE, along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
 - (2) In Zone AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the

FIRM, encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

- G. Unnumbered A Zones. In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building department will obtain, review and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for requiring new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in Zone A and as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for flood proofing or elevating nonresidential structures to or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways.
- H. Subdivision and Development Proposals. All subdivision proposals and development proposals in the floodplain overlay district shall be reviewed to assure that:
- (1) Such proposals minimize flood damage.
 - (2) Public utilities and facilities are located and constructed so as to minimize flood damage.
 - (3) Adequate drainage is provided.
- I. Base Flood Elevation Data for Subdivision Proposals. When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is less, the proponent must provide technical data to determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans.
- J. Recreational Vehicles. In A and AE Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready.
- K. Watercourse Alterations or Relocations in Riverine Areas. In a riverine situation, the Floodplain Administrator shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:
- (1) Adjacent Communities.
 - (2) Bordering States, if affected.
 - (3) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation NFIP Program Specialist.
 - (4) Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I.
- L. Requirement to Submit New Technical Data. If the Town acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s.) Notification shall be submitted to:
- (1) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

NFIP Program Specialist.

(2) Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I.

M. Variances to Building Code Floodplain Standards.

- (1) The Town will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance, and will maintain this record in the community's files.
- (2) Town shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property.
- (3) Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

N. Variances to local Zoning Bylaws related to Community Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if:

- (1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist.
- (2) The variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public.
- (3) The variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief.

O. Abrogation and Greater Restriction. The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances or codes.

P. Disclaimer of Liability. The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.

Q. Severability. If any section, provision or portion of this bylaw [ordinance] is deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court, the remainder of the ordinance shall be effective.

R. Definitions. The following terms as used in this 185-24, unless a contrary meaning is required by content, shall have the following meanings:

DEVELOPMENT - Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

FLOODWAY(or Regulatory Floodway) - The channel of the river, creek or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE - A use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE - The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

HISTORIC STRUCTURE - Any structure that is:

- (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
 - (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

NEW CONSTRUCTION - Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. *New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement.* [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE - A vehicle which is:

- (a) Built on a single chassis.
- (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection.
- (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck.
- (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA - The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A, AE, AI-30, A99, AR, AO, AH, V, VO, VE or VI-30. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

START OF CONSTRUCTION - The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of

columns.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

STRUCTURE - For floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION - When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]

VARIANCE - A grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

VIOLATION - The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN

1

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 2, 2025
To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator
RE: Zoning Bylaw Amendment 25-935: A Zoning Bylaw to Amend Chapter
185, Section 24, Floodplain District

This is a public hearing and first reading of Bylaw Amendment 25-935. We are asking the Town Council to move Bylaw Amendments 25-935 to a second reading.

Every five years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires an updated flood plain in order to qualify to be reimbursed for federal aid in the event of a natural disaster.

At their April 28, 2025 meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend this bylaw amendment, as presented, to the Town Council.

For more information please see the 4/28/2025 dated letter from the Planning Board, the 4/2/2025 dated memo from the Building and Planning Departments and the 3/31/2025 dated memo from FEMA which are all included in the agenda packet for the May 7, 2025 Town Council Meeting. The legal ad and proposed bylaw amendment are also included in the packet.

If you have any questions, please let us know.



BUILDING AND INSPECTIONS

TOWN *of* FRANKLIN

MEMORANDUM

Date 04/02/2025

To: Franklin Town Council

From: Building and Planning Departments

RE: Flood Hazard By-Law

Although we already have a Floodplain District in the Town of Franklin's Zoning Code Chapter 185-24 with development and use restrictions, FEMA has mandated that all municipalities adopt their template, as a condition for maintaining eligibility to participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program.

This must be accomplished by the effective date of the new Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) which is **July 8, 2025**.

We respectfully ask that this Bylaw be referred to the Franklin Planning Board by the Franklin Town Council.



FEMA

March 31, 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Tom Mercer
Chair, Town Council
Town of Franklin
355 East Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038

Dear Chair Mercer:

I commend you for the efforts that have been put forth in implementing the floodplain management measures for the Town of Franklin, Massachusetts, to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As you implement these measures, I want to emphasize the following:

- a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) have been completed for your community;
- the FIS and FIRM will become effective on July 8, 2025; and
- by the FIS and FIRM effective date, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Office is required to approve the legally enforceable floodplain management measures your community adopts in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 60.3(d).

As noted in FEMA's letter dated January 8, 2025, no significant changes have been made to the flood hazard data on the Preliminary and/or revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM for Norfolk County. Therefore, the Town of Franklin should use the Preliminary and/or revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM as the basis for adopting the required floodplain management measures. Final printed copies of the FIRM for the Town of Franklin will be sent to you within the next few months.

If you encounter difficulties in enacting the measures, I recommend you contact the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. You may contact Joy Duperault, CFM, the NFIP State Coordinator, by telephone at (857) 286-0326, in writing at 180 West Beaman Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583, or by electronic mail at joy.duperault@mass.gov.

The FEMA Regional staff in Boston, Massachusetts, is also available to provide technical assistance and guidance in the development of floodplain management measures. The adoption of compliant

The Honorable Tom Mercer
March 31, 2025
Page 2

floodplain management measures will provide protection for the Town of Franklin and will ensure its participation in the NFIP. The Regional Office may be contacted by telephone at (617) 956-7506 or in writing. Please send your written inquiries to the Director, Mitigation Division, FEMA Region 1, at 99 High Street, Sixth Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

You may have already contacted the NFIP State Coordinator and/or the FEMA Regional Office, and may be in the final adoption process or recently adopted the appropriate measures. However, in the event your community has not adopted the appropriate measures, this letter is FEMA's official notification that you only have until July 8, 2025, to adopt and/or submit a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum NFIP requirements, and request approval from the FEMA Regional Office by the effective date. Your community's adopted measures will be reviewed upon receipt and the FEMA Regional Office will notify you when the measures are approved.

I appreciate your cooperation to ensure that your community's floodplain management measures are approved by the FEMA Regional Office by July 8, 2025. Your compliance with these mandatory program requirements will enable your community to avoid suspension from the NFIP.

Additional information on community suspensions as proposed, other notices of current NFIP community status information, and details regarding updated publication requirements of community eligibility status information under the NFIP can be found on the Community Status Book section of our website at www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/work-with-nfip/community-status-book. Notices for scheduled suspension will be available on the National Flood Insurance Community Status and Public Notification section of our website at www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/work-with-nfip/community-status-book/public-notification. Individuals without internet access will be able to contact their local floodplain management official and/or NFIP State Coordinating Office directly for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Sears", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Sears, Director
Floodplain Management Division
Mitigation Directorate | FEMA

cc: Fred Doucette, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region 1
Joy Duperault, CFM, NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Lloyd Brown, Building Commissioner, Town of Franklin

Planning Board

Gregory Rondeau, *Chair*
Beth A. Wierling, *Vice Chair*
Jennifer Williams, *Clerk*

**TOWN of
FRANKLIN**
MASSACHUSETTS

355 E. Central St.
Franklin, MA 02038
P. 508.520.4907
www.franklinma.gov

April 30, 2025

Nancy Danello, Town Clerk
Town of Franklin
355 East Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

RECEIVED
2025 APR 30 P 4:47
TOWN OF FRANKLIN
TOWN CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF VOTE

Zoning By-law Amendment 25-935
Floodplain Overlay District

Dear Mrs. Danello:

Please be advised that at its meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025 the Planning Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted (5-0) to *RECOMMEND, as presented*, to the Town Council for the Zoning By-law Amendment 25-935, for the revised Floodplain Overlay District.

If you have any questions concerning this decision, please contact the planning staff or me.

Sincerely,



Gregory Rondeau
Chairman

cc: Town Council
Town Administrator



TOWN OF FRANKLIN ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT 25-935

A ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FRANKLIN AT CHAPTER 185, SECTION 24, FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

Chapter 185 of the Code of the Town of Franklin is hereby amended by deleting the entire section of §185-24 Floodplain District and adding the following text:

§ 185-24 Floodplain Overlay District.

- A. Purpose. The purpose of the Floodplain Overlay District is to:
- (1) Ensure public safety through reducing threats to life and personal injury.
 - (2) Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials.
 - (3) Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding.
 - (4) Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding.
 - (5) Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions.
 - (6) Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters.
- B. Use of FEMA Maps and Supporting Studies. The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within Franklin designated as Zone A, AE, on the Norfolk County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated July 8, 2025 issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The exact boundaries of the District shall be defined by the 1%-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Norfolk County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July 8, 2025. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Building Commissioner, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission.
- C. Designation of Community Floodplain Administrator. The Town of Franklin hereby designates the position of Building Commissioner to be the official floodplain administrator for the Town.
- D. Permits Required for Proposed Development in the Floodplain Overlay District. The Town of Franklin requires a permit for all proposed construction or other development in the floodplain overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings,

placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties.

- E. Assure All Necessary Permits are Obtained. The Town of Franklin's permit review process includes the requirement that the proponent obtain all local, state and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the floodplain overlay district. The proponent must acquire all necessary permits, and must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired.
- F. Floodway Encroachment.
 - (1) In Zones A, and AE, along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
 - (2) In Zone AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the FIRM, encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
- G. Unnumbered A Zones. In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building department will obtain, review and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for requiring new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in Zone A and as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for flood proofing or elevating nonresidential structures to or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways.
- H. Subdivision and Development Proposals. All subdivision proposals and development proposals in the floodplain overlay district shall be reviewed to assure that:
 - (1) Such proposals minimize flood damage.
 - (2) Public utilities and facilities are located and constructed so as to minimize flood damage.
 - (3) Adequate drainage is provided.
- I. Base Flood Elevation Data for Subdivision Proposals. When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is less, the proponent must provide technical data to determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans.
- J. Recreational Vehicles. In A and AE Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site

must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready.

- K. Watercourse Alterations or Relocations in Riverine Areas. In a riverine situation, the Floodplain Administrator shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:
 - (1) Adjacent Communities.
 - (2) Bordering States, if affected.
 - (3) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation NFIP Program Specialist.
 - (4) Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I.

- L. Requirement to Submit New Technical Data. If the Town acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s.) Notification shall be submitted to:
 - (1) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation NFIP Program Specialist.
 - (2) Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I.

- M. Variances to Building Code Floodplain Standards.
 - (1) The Town will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance, and will maintain this record in the community's files.
 - (2) Town shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property.
 - (3) Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

- N. Variances to local Zoning Bylaws related to Community Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if:
 - (1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist.
 - (2) The variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public.
 - (3) The variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief.

- O. Abrogation and Greater Restriction. The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive

conflicting local laws, ordinances or codes.

- P. Disclaimer of Liability. The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.
- Q. Severability. If any section, provision or portion of this bylaw [ordinance] is deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court, the remainder of the ordinance shall be effective.
- R. Definitions. The following terms as used in this 185-24, unless a contrary meaning is required by content, shall have the following meanings:

DEVELOPMENT - Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

FLOODWAY(or Regulatory Floodway) - The channel of the river, creek or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE - A use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE - The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

HISTORIC STRUCTURE - Any structure that is:

- (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
 - (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

NEW CONSTRUCTION – Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. *New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement.* [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE – A vehicle which is:

- (a) Built on a single chassis.
- (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection.
- (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck.
- (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA – The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A, AE, AI-30, A99, AR, AO, AH, V, VO, VE or VI-30. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

START OF CONSTRUCTION – The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

STRUCTURE – For floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION – When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]

VARIANCE - A grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

VIOLATION - The failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

The foregoing Zoning By-law Amendment shall take effect in accordance with the Franklin Home Rule Charter and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 5.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN

MEMORANDUM

May 30, 2025

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolution 25-32: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue requires the Town Council to vote to appropriate PEG funds received from Comcast and Verizon to an established revolving account.

Please find the attached resolution to appropriate PEG funds received for the first quarter of 2025 from Comcast and Verizon to Franklin Community Cable Access, Inc. as follows:

- Comcast: \$ 80,790.88
 - Verizon: \$ 68,776.68
- Total: \$149,567.56

Please let us know if you have any questions.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
RESOLUTION 25-32**

APPROPRIATION: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per
MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4

TOTAL REQUESTED: \$149,567.56

PURPOSE: To appropriate \$149,567.56 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund created under MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4, representing the amount received in the previous quarter from Comcast and Verizon, to be paid to Franklin Community Cable Access, Inc. to operate the cable access studio and otherwise fund its operations.

MOTION: Be it Moved and Voted by the Town Council that the sum of \$149,567.56 be appropriated from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund created under MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4, to be paid to Franklin Community Cable Access, Inc. to operate the cable access studio and otherwise fund its operations.

This resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: ____ **NO:** ____

ABSTAIN: ____ **ABSENT:** ____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN

MEMORANDUM

May 30, 2025

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolution 25-33: Gift Acceptance - Senior Center

The Senior Center has received generous donations in the total amount of \$1,510.

The donations to the Senior Center totaling \$1,510 will be used at the discretion of the Senior Center to provide services and programs to senior citizens in the Franklin community.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who donated. Thank you for your continued and generous support.

Donation Summary:

- **Senior Center - \$1,510**
 - Trust the Light Foundation Inc. \$1,500
 - Tilly Kaufman \$ 10
 - \$1,510

DONATION TOTAL: \$1,510



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
RESOLUTION 25-33**

Acceptance of Gifts – Senior Center

WHEREAS, The Franklin Senior Center has received generous donations in the total amount of \$1,510 to be used at the discretion of the Department as follows:

SENIOR CENTER – \$1,510

Donations to be applied at the discretion of the Senior Center, through the Council on Aging Gift Fund, to provide services and programs to senior citizens in the Franklin community.

Donor information is included in the June 4, 2025 Town Council meeting agenda packet.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town Council of the Town of Franklin on behalf of the Senior Center gratefully accepts these generous donations to be used at the discretion of the Department for the purpose noted above.

This resolution shall become effective according to the provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**



**TOWN
ADMINISTRATOR**
TOWN *of* FRANKLIN
MEMORANDUM

May 30, 2025

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Amy Frigulietti, Deputy Town Administrator

RE: Resolution 25-22: Expenditure Limits For FY2026 on Departmental Revolving Funds Established by Franklin Town Code Chapter 73, as Provided in MGL Chapter 44, §53E½, as Amended

We are asking the Town Council to approve Resolution 25-22 which, if approved, will set the expenditure limit for each revolving fund established under Franklin Town Code, Chapter 73 for FY26. This action is required annually per MGL Chapter 44 §53E½.

For FY26, expenditure limits are as follows and are the same as previous years:

- Section 5B.** Senior Center Activities Program: \$125,000
- Section 5C.** Senior Center Supportive Day Program: \$100,000
- Section 5D.** Use of Facilities Account: \$100,000
- Section 5E.** Fire Department Rescue Training Program: \$10,000
- Section 5F.** Community Policing Programs: \$25,000

If you have any additional questions please feel free to ask.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
RESOLUTION 25-22**

**EXPENDITURE LIMITS FOR FY2026 ON DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS
ESTABLISHED BY FRANKLIN TOWN CODE CHAPTER 73,
AS PROVIDED IN MGL CHAPTER 44, §53E½, AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, the Franklin Town Council has adopted a bylaw establishing a chapter of the Franklin Town Code: Chapter 73 Departmental Revolving Funds, as provided in MGL Chapter 44, §53E½, as amended by Chapter 218 of the Legislative Acts of 2016, and

WHEREAS, MGL Chapter 44, §53E½, as amended, further provides that the municipality’s legislative body shall annually set the expenditure limit for each revolving fund established under the local bylaw,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED AND VOTED THAT The Franklin Town Council hereby sets the expenditure limit for each revolving fund established under Franklin Town Code: Chapter 73 Departmental Revolving Funds for Fiscal Year 2026, as follows:

- Section 5B.** Senior Center Activities Program: One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000)
- Section 5C.** Senior Center Supportive Day Program: One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)
- Section 5D.** Use of Facilities Account: One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000)
- Section 5E.** Fire Department Rescue Training Program: Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)
- Section 5F.** Community Policing Programs: Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000)

FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION: **Meeting Date: 5/1/2025** **Vote: Passed 7-0**

This Resolution shall become effective according to provisions of the Town of Franklin Home Rule Charter.

DATED: _____, 2025

VOTED: _____

UNANIMOUS: _____

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

YES: _____ **NO:** _____

ABSTAIN: _____ **ABSENT:** _____

RECUSED: _____

**Nancy Danello, CMC
Town Clerk**

**Glenn Jones, Clerk
Franklin Town Council**