

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 12, 2020**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at the Franklin Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Brian Chandler, Robert Dellorco, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegrini. Councilors absent: Melanie Hamblen. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Chrissy Whelton, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Mr. Francis Weber, 20 Anthony Road, stated he was representing St. Vincent de Paul Society on the homelessness issue in Franklin. ► Chair Mercer stated this item is on tonight's agenda, and Mr. Weber may speak at that time. ► Mr. Dale Kurtz, Veterans' Services Officer, reminded veterans that the Town census is available, and veterans as well as surviving spouses of veterans should identify themselves on the census. He noted the national census will occur later this year and requested veterans self-identify on that census as well. These efforts are important in order for the Veterans' Services Department to continue to receive support for the VA and other veterans' benefits. He stated that there will be jobs available for the national census; if anyone is interested, please contact Mr. Kurtz at his office. ► Ms. Teresa Burr, Town Clerk, reminded everyone that today is the last day to register to vote or change party affiliation. The Town Clerk's office is open until 8 PM and registering online is available until midnight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► *Firefighter/Paramedic: Michael McConaghy.* ► Fire Chief James McLaughlin introduced the Town's newest firefighter/paramedic Michael McConaghy. He reviewed Mr. McConaghy's background and experience. ► Ms. Teresa Burr, Town Clerk, performed the swearing in.

► Chief McLaughlin announced that in 2020, the Franklin Fire Department increased its ISO fire insurance rating. Effective March 1, the Fire Department will move from a score of 3 to a score of 2. The highest rating that can be earned is 1; the lowest rating that can be earned is 10. He explained the significance of the 2 rating and stated they are going to work hard to become a Class 1 rated department. ► Town Council members congratulated the Fire Department for this achievement.

Chair Mercer called a two-minute recess.

APPOINTMENTS: None.

HEARINGS: 7:10 PM – Zoning Changes

- i. 20-849: Changes to Ground-Mounted Solar Energy System Use Regulations and Use Regulations Schedule Updates.

- ii. 20-850: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Highland, Maple and Lincoln Streets
- iii. 20-851: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Oak Street and Dailey Drive.

Chair Mercer opened the three hearings. He stated discussions on these three hearing will be held later in the meeting, prior to Legislation for Action.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *Housing Authority - Lisa Audette, Executive Director, Franklin Housing Authority.* ► Ms. Lisa Audette introduced Chair George Danello and Board Member Peter Brunelli. She provided an overview of the Housing Authority including what they do and how they try to help local residents. She explained that local Housing Authorities own and operate public housing properties in their communities. They are regulated and partially funded by the State. The local Housing Authority boards are responsible for ensuring that the executive directors and their staff are following all of the laws, regulations, and rules set forth by the Commonwealth. She stated the Housing Authority follows 760 CMR which are the DHCD regulations. The types of housing the Franklin Housing Authority has include 161 one-bedroom units which house seniors and people under the age of 60 who have disabilities, 4 units of congregate housing which are four-bedroom, two bathroom units that residents share kitchen and living room spaces, 33 family units, and 16 units of housing for adults with developmental disabilities. As well, they have obtained three other properties adding four units of low-income housing. She stated that to get an apartment at the Franklin Housing Authority, an application must be filled out. The State has taken over the application list; therefore, Franklin Housing Authority has no control over who is on the top or bottom of the list. She explained the applications are time-stamped when received. Applications can be picked up at the Housing Authority or completed online. She explained that there are 240 Housing Authorities in the Commonwealth. When filling out an application, a person can check off any Housing Authority in which they would like to live. She discussed eligibility requirements including income requirements for housing. She explained that preferences are given to local people, veterans, and minorities if the minority quota is not reached. She discussed the various types of situations that are considered emergency categories for placement on the waiting list. She stated that as of yesterday, there are over 3,500 people on the waiting list. She stated that there are 1,075 people on the one-bedroom waiting list; 121 have emergency status. She stated there were 2,530 applicants on the list for family housing; 468 are emergencies, and 11 are local emergencies. There is not enough housing in the State of Massachusetts, the Town of Franklin, and the country for people who need it. ► Town Council members asked questions. ► Ms. Audette, in response, discussed financing from the State and locally. She stated there are two types of housing agencies: subsidized or surplus. The Franklin Housing Authority is a surplus agency; their operating budget is covered by the rents they take in. The assistance they get is from modernization. The State provides formula funding for modernization of the properties that the Franklin Housing Authority currently has. She stated that they receive approximately \$400,000 per year from modernization. Beyond that, they look at other funding/grants, and the Affordable Housing Trust also provides support in this effort. They are always looking for opportunities to build additional housing; however, the funding is not going to come from the State. It is encouraging to hear the governor say that housing is one of his priorities. The Housing Authority cannot afford to build a complex of affordable housing by themselves. She discussed that the way the placement list works is determined by the code of regulations. She reviewed the locations in Franklin for the senior housing units, family units, and the units for those with development disabilities. She stated that the Franklin Housing Authority is not associated with Eaton Place. She discussed the approximate turnover is about 20 units per year. ► Mr. Hellen reviewed that they would need to lobby community-wide with the legislators to advocate to change the CMR regarding the current State regulations. ► Town Council members thanked the presenters for their hard work and gave their support to the Franklin Housing Authority. ► Ms. Susan Borchard, 4 McKinley Road, stated she is thankful there are

group homes in Franklin for people turning 21 and going into the care of the Department of Developmental Services. She asked what type of services are available in Franklin for people on the housing lists to help them hold it together while they are on the brink of homelessness. ► Chair Mercer stated some of those issues will be answered in the next presentation. ► Ms. Audette said there is a service coordinator for the senior disabled residents who is available one-day per week and helps residents get food stamps, healthcare, and social security. She discussed the State law that was passed 30 years ago that required 13.5 percent of those in senior housing are disabled and under the age of 60. She stated that the average rent for the senior developments is about \$425 with heat, hot water, and electricity included; the average rent for the family developments is approximately \$700. ► Rev. Kathy McAdams, St. John's Episcopal Church, asked if they administer Section 8 voucher-based housing. ► Ms. Audette stated the Franklin Housing Authority does not have a Section 8 program. ► Mr. Hellen stated they are not going to solve this problem with one program or one solution. He reviewed that they would be bringing the conversation about funding back for discussion. He noted that at the March 4th Economic Development subcommittee meeting, Chair Melanie Hamblen is going to start a discussion to make some bylaw amendment proposals for Inclusionary Zoning and get more deed restricted affordable units.

► ***Transitional Assistance Discussion - Franklin Senior Center.*** ► Ms. Karen Alves, Senior Center Director, and Ms. Erin Rogers, Social Services Coordinator, discussed the social services programs, specifically with regard to housing issues and homelessness. ► Ms. Rogers stated in the role of social services coordinator, they see seniors and those under 60. They assist with a variety of needs including housing, employment, home care services, tax abatements, transportation, food insecurity, fuel assistance, MassHealth, SSI, MA RMV, senior scams, adaptive assistance, hearing loss support, elder abuse, and more. They do both intakes and referrals. She discussed that they have assisted 14 homeless households in the past year; 11 were adults with no children, and 3 were families with children. She discussed some of the causes of homelessness including mental health issues, medical issues/disability, domestic violence, fire, and landlord selling/renovating. She stated that they help with emergency shelter; for families with children, they suggest going to the local Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) office. The closest one is in Framingham. For adults without children, they help call shelters directly. She stated those in domestic violence situations should call the Safelink Hotline. She stated there is a shelter system in Milford that opens if there are very cold temperatures or snow. She stated that the majority of people who come to them do not want to go to a shelter. She stated that for the longer term, they help with housing applications including Section 8 and Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program. She stated that Massachusetts Housing Consumer Education Centers are great resources for people who are homeless and explained some of the programs. She stated that according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, only 60 percent of people with mental illness get mental health care; this is an issue related to homelessness. She reviewed some mental health resources. She stated that when someone is homeless, the social services coordinator can help them with other referrals including legal assistance, protective services/elder at-risk referral, community organizations, charities, and St. Vincent de Paul. ► Town Council members asked questions and discussed the homeless issue. ► In response, Ms. Alves agreed it would be a good idea to educate the landlords in Town about vouchers; she said she would work on that possibility. She stated that people should go to the Senior Center for help with things like fuel assistance. She suggested people call to make an appointment to meet at the Senior Center for help with the applications for programs and services. ► Mr. Francis Weber, St. Vincent de Paul Society representative, provided the Town Council with some literature about the organization and discussed what the organization does. They are an all-volunteer group and do home visits with people not able to afford items such as fuel. The organization has helped Franklin people for the past 30 years. He discussed the homeless issue and how they help the homeless or soon-to-be homeless with food, clothing, and other resources and programs. He noted many homeless have addiction or mental health issues. ► Ms. Lynn Calling, Executive Director of Franklin Food Pantry; Ms. Amy Cataldo, Assistant Director of Franklin Food Pantry; and Ms. Sue Kilcoyne, Operations Director of Franklin Food Pantry,

addressed the Town Council. Ms. Calling provided an overview of the Food Pantry. They are open to all residents and provide service three weeks per month. She suggested all shoppers register and make an appointment by calling the Food Pantry. She provided statistics on the quantity of food distributed and the number of individuals visiting the pantry. She stated there was a 13 percent increase in the number of seniors they served last year. She stated they are a private non-profit organization and receive donations. She noted all this information is available on their website. ► Ms. Kimberly Mu-Chow, 4 Briarwood Road, stated she is a member of New England Chapel and Pathway to a Better Life. She discussed the Milford area temporary emergency shelters which include three churches that open on a rotating basis. She stated that the Town of Milford's staff and departments helped out in many ways. She stated that emergency shelters could be started in Franklin. ► Rev. Jacob Juncker, Pastor of Franklin United Methodist Church, stated that it seems most of the services mentioned are outside of Franklin. He asked if there could be a stakeholders meeting of all the potential social services agencies and entities so they could gather to know what each other is doing and work together to provide resources for the community. ► Ms. Alves stated they had such a meeting about 18 months ago. Another comprehensive meeting would be useful; the Senior Center could spearhead that effort. ► Chair Mercer stated that the Town could assist in the effort. ► Resident, who is a homeless and housing advocate, agreed with the importance of having meetings with all agencies so the needed services can be provided in a uniform fashion. ► Ms. Kathy Nozick, member of St. Vincent de Paul Society, stated that in 2018 they had a meeting and invited many community and Town members. They were going to put together a list of resources, but the person leading the effort was unable to complete the project. Creating a list of resources is something that is going to be done. ► Ms. Alves stated the Real Life Aid – Local Services document on the Town website has a lot of information; however, it does need to be updated. ► Chair Mercer thanked everyone who came tonight to hear and participate in this discussion.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Capital Budget Subcommittee.** ► Nothing to report.
- b. **Budget Subcommittee.** ► Nothing to report.
- c. **Economic Development Subcommittee.** ► Mr. Hellen stated the next meeting will be on March 4, 2020, at 5:30 PM, and they expect to talk about some of the Inclusionary Zoning bylaw changes.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

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

- a. ***Bylaw 20-847 As Amended: New Chapter 130, Plastic Checkout Bag Prohibition - Second Reading (Motion to Adopt Bylaw Amendment 20-847 As Amended: Chapter 130, Plastic Checkout Bag Prohibition - Majority Roll Call Vote).*** ► **Motion to Waive the Reading by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** ► **MOTION to Adopt Bylaw 20-847 As Amended: New Chapter 130, Plastic Checkout Bag Prohibition by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is the second reading; the issue has been discussed for more than three years. ► Chair Mercer thanked the students for their hard work on this bylaw amendment. On his request, the high school students introduced themselves. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-NO; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegrini-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-7, No-1, Absent-1.** ► Chair Mercer read aloud a Proclamation honoring Franklin High School students for successfully passing the Plastic Checkout Bag Prohibition in Franklin. ► Mr. Hellen, on behalf of Town Council member Ms. Hamblen who could not attend tonight's meeting, congratulated the students.

Chair Mercer called a two-minute recess.

- b. ***Bylaw Amendment 20-852: Chapter 82, Municipal Service Fees - Second Reading (Motion to Adopt Bylaw Amendment 20-852: Chapter 82, Municipal Service Fees - Majority Roll Call Vote).*** ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Adopt** Bylaw Amendment 20-852: Chapter 82, Municipal Service Fees by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Kelly. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is the second reading of this bylaw amendment for the passage of a revised fee schedule for ALS/BLS rates in the Town’s fees bylaw. This final ratification is part of the collective bargaining negotiations with the fire department and will assist in being able to hire new paramedics to accommodate the steep increase in call volume in the community. ► Ms. Pellegri confirmed amended language. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Chandler-YES; Dellorco-YES; Earls-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- c. ***Resolution 20-12: Gift Acceptance Franklin Police Department - \$10,000 (Motion to Approve Resolution 20-12 - Majority Vote).*** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 20-12: Gift Acceptance Franklin Police Department - \$10,000 by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Kelly. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen thanked Middlesex Bank Charitable Foundation for their generous donation. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- d. ***Resolution 20-13: Gift Acceptance Franklin Fire Department - \$10,000 (Motion to Approve Resolution 20-13 - Majority Vote).*** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 20-13: Gift Acceptance Franklin Fire Department - \$10,000 by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Kelly. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen and Chair Mercer thanked Middlesex Bank Charitable Foundation for their generous donation. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

HEARINGS - Continued – Zoning Changes

- i. 20-849: Changes to Ground-Mounted Solar Energy System Use Regulations and Use Regulations Schedule Updates.

► Mr. Hellen stated this solar issue was referred already to the Planning Board. The Planning Board’s recommendations from their public hearings on all three items were unanimous. The associated bylaws will remove large-scale ground-mounted solar facilities from the zoning districts in the residential areas. He mentioned the current solar farm on Upper Union Street was a unique project at the time and it has been a great asset for the community regarding the revenue generated and that more than 90 percent of the electricity used for the Town and schools is from that solar farm. However, over the last few years, based on working on other solar projects in Town, these projects do not provide a very positive return on investment for the Town. There have been numerous complaints from residents about forests being cut down, the projects have not brought in the proposed revenue, and removal of large-scale solar farms in communities in the area is a trend. He stated that there are a few projects still in the pipeline that will be grandfathered. However, going forward, it is believed the large-scale solar farms should be removed from the current bylaw. He noted that this proposed bylaw change does not affect the solar that citizens put on their houses, garages, and backyards. ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing closed.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (continued):

- e. ***Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-849: Changes to Ground-Mounted Solar Energy System Use Regulations, And Use Regulations Schedule Updates - First Reading (Motion to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-849 to a Second Reading - Majority Vote).*** ► **Motion to Waive** the Reading by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Dellorco.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** ► **MOTION to Move** Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-849: Changes to Ground-Mounted Solar Energy System Use Regulations, And Use

Regulations Schedule Updates to a Second Reading by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Jones**. **No discussion**.
► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.

HEARINGS - *Continued* – Zoning Changes

ii. 20-850: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Highland, Maple and Lincoln Streets

► Mr. Hellen stated this continues the lot line clean-up project. There are many parcels in Town that have multiple zoning districts within one lot. ► Mr. Bryan Taberner, Director of Planning and Community Development, reviewed Zoning Amendment 20-850. He explained this project is being done Town-wide. There are two such amendments at tonight's meeting and seven more coming at a future meeting. He discussed the current and proposed Zoning Map Changes as shown on the provided map. ► Mr. Richard Lefebvre, 154 Lincoln Street, requested definitions for Rural Residential II and Single-Family Residential III, which is what his property is being switched to. ► Mr. Taberner stated both are residential zones; the difference is the required lot square footage and frontage. He noted there is no difference on the use regulations. ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing closed.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (*continued*):

f. *Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-850: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Highland, Maple and Lincoln Streets - First Reading (Motion to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-850 to a Second Reading - Majority Vote).* ► **Motion to Waive** the Reading by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** ► **MOTION to Move** Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-850: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Highland, Maple and Lincoln Streets to a Second Reading by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

HEARINGS - *Continued* – Zoning Changes

iii. 20-851: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Oak Street and Dailey Drive

► Mr. Bryan Taberner, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated this is a similar zoning map amendment as the last one discussed. It deals with 20 parcels mostly along Oak Street and near Dailey Drive. They are taking parcels that are in two zones and making them in one zone. ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing closed.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (*continued*):

g. *Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-851: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Oak Street and Dailey Drive - First Reading (Motion to Move Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-851 to a Second Reading - Majority Vote).* ► **Motion to Waive** the Reading by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** ► **MOTION to Move** Zoning Bylaw Amendment 20-851: Zoning Map Changes on Or Near Oak Street and Dailey Drive to a Second Reading by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

h. *Resolution 20-14: The Town of Franklin Civil Discourse Pledge (Motion to Approve Resolution 20-14 - Majority Vote).* ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 20-14: The Town of Franklin Civil Discourse Pledge by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen referenced his memo to the Town Council dated February 7, 2020. He stated that based on concerns he has heard regarding harassment, including online and in social media, he drafted the Town of Franklin Civil Discourse Pledge to encourage civility and respect of all citizens, employees, and businesses in the day-to-day work as stewards of the public trust. He stated that what other Towns have

done regarding this issue was reviewed as this pledge was prepared. He noted the support and leadership of Ms. Karen Bratt, Human Resources Director, and all the department heads in this effort. He discussed that in 2018 the Town Administration and the Human Resources Director sponsored employee harassment training for all municipal employees. As well, on March 10, 2020, the Town Administration and the Human Resources Director are requiring all Town department heads do an in-depth harassment prevention training focused on how to identify harassment in the workplace, how to prevent it, and how to educate staff to be better at what they do. Later this year, the Town will do another round of harassment training for all municipal employees. He noted that the Town updated the Harassment and Sexual Harassment Policy in the employee manual last year. ► Town Council members asked questions. ► Mr. Cerel stated this resolution is aspirational; it is a goal to be aspired to. He confirmed it is a policy; it is not a law. ► Mr. Chandler asked how this affects Town Council members' First Amendment rights as they are not employees. ► Mr. Cerel stated that any liability is not going to arise from this resolution, it would arise from separate statutes or case law that exists about what is said at a public meeting, be it by people in the audience or Town Council members. ► Mr. Kelly stated he support this 100 percent. He noted that this is already in the Town Council members' handbook when a new Town Council is elected. He stated that he is concerned that as Town Council members, they have already pledged that they are going to do this when they get elected; this is just another thing to put on us. ► Mr. Bissanti stated he endorses a zero-tolerance to bullying policy. However, he is not aware of any councilor going outside the realm of procedure. He likes the fact that people can come to the Town Council members. He is not aware of anything unethical if members of the public come to the Town Council members to talk. He stated that he is not clear about what this resolution is trying to say about their conduct as Town Council members unless they breach some kind of ethical standard and try to take matters into their own hands on a disciplinary action on a Town employee. He does not know where this is going. He stated that we should have some rights to act as Town Council members so that people can come to us as that is what they got elected for. He stated that some of the Town employees who have come to him have then gone up the chain of command. He has never gone over anyone's head. He has consulted with the Chair. Is this a threat to us as councilors? ► Chair Mercer stated he does not think the intent of this was a threat. ► Mr. Hellen stated this is something Ms. Hamblen brought up in the goals discussion. He stated it is not just about the Town Council or the employees; there is a sentiment out there, and this is an aspirational goal. He does not think anyone here is wrong, and Mr. Chandler brings up a great point about First Amendment free speech rights. He thinks there is nothing in the resolution that alleges any wrongdoing by anyone. He thinks the Town Attorney described it perfectly as an aspirational initiative. This is something we try to strive for as a community; we are trying to make sure there is some level of civil discourse. ► Mr. Earls asked how it shifts from the current policies in place. ► Mr. Hellen discussed the current rules of procedure regarding how the Town Council governs and noted that this is more about behavior than governance. He stated that with the advent of social media, there are many things that people get worked up about. He discussed the misinformation culture and stated that he spends a great amount of his day talking to citizens to provide facts about what we do and do not do. He noted there have been many concerns from Town Council members that when they chimed in on Facebook, there was a lot of hate received back. A lot of this comes from the discourse on social media. He stated that this is an issue that Ms. Hamblen recognized, and this resolution is just one idea as a way to regulate it. ► Mr. Dellorco stated he is going to speak to whomever he wants to whether it is an employee or a citizen. ► Mr. Kelly noted that Ms. Hamblen has been mentioned often in this discussion; unfortunately, she is not in attendance at this meeting. He would like to table this resolution until the March 4th meeting so Ms. Hamblen can be present to talk about this item. ► Mr. Chandler asked that additional material on this item be provided for the next meeting. ► **MOTION to Table Resolution 20-14: The Town of Franklin Civil Discourse Pledge to the March 4, 2020, meeting by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Hellen stated that at the March 4th meeting there will be a budget update. ► He stated that after four years of working on it, he has signed a Municipal Aggregation Agreement that will begin on November 1, 2020, at a rate of \$0.105 per kilowatt. He noted the current rate is \$0.1397 per kilowatt. He noted it will be a 100 percent renewable energy product. He stated the average homeowner will see an approximate savings of \$13.00 per month. The consultant will provide an overview at the March 4th meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Ms. Bissanti confirmed that the Town Council cannot meet with the Animal Control officer until March. ► Mr. Hellen stated he thinks the Animal Control officer will be at an April meeting and will discuss Mr. Bissanti's issue regarding loose dogs, as well as provide an overview of the department. ► Mr. Dellorco asked when the SAFE Coalition will be giving a presentation. ► Mr. Hellen stated he will get in touch with them to determine a meeting date.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Bissanti, Mr. Earls, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Pellegri, Mr. Jones, Mr. Dellorco, and Chair Mercer gave condolences to the Hamblen family for the passing of Ms. Hamblen's mother. ► Mr. Kelly stated the ISO rating for the fire department is great, and he is very happy with the hiring of the new fire chief. He thanked Mr. Hellen for the Municipal Aggregation Agreement. He stated Franklin is a fantastic community compared to other towns. ► Mr. Chandler noted the possible volunteer opportunities that were learned about in tonight's presentations. ► Ms. Pellegri thanked Ms. Audette for the Housing Authority presentation. ► Mr. Jones thanked the high school students for their hard work on the plastic bag legislation. ► Mr. Dellorco reminded everyone that the SAFE Coalition offices at 206 Dedham Street, Norfolk, MA, will be open tomorrow night; anyone can attend. ► Chair Mercer thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and caring about the Town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Kelly. SECOND by Jones. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary