

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 26, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, at the Franklin Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Patrick Casey, Robert Dellorco, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegrini. Councilors absent: Eamon McCarthy Earls. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Chrissy Whelton, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** ► Chairman 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:** ► Ms. Kathleen Mehler, 4 Glenn Drive, stated she was representing 90 of 100 subdivision owners who are requesting to keep the integrity of the subdivision intact and to not remove the sidewalks and narrow the streets. She noted she has addressed the Town Council a few times previously. She said she recently spoke with the Mass. Office on Disability and she is working with the Disability Law Center. She stated she is presenting an opportunity for the Town to consider following the bylaws and subdivision control law and not remove the sidewalks from Franklin Estates.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** ► *May 22, 2019 and May 23, 2019.* ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the May 22, 2019 meeting minutes by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the May 23, 2019 meeting minutes by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:** ► *Kevin Petriello – Finance Intern.* ► Mr. Christopher Sandini, Finance Director, recognized Mr. Petriello, an intern who worked for Mr. Sandini as part of his Franklin High School senior project. He reviewed the work Mr. Petriello did and stated he was a big help to the Town assisting with various projects. Mr. Sandini read the proclamation honoring Mr. Petriello and congratulating him on the completion of his high school project.

► *Swearing in of Police Officer, Police Sergeant, and New Firefighter.* ► Acting Fire Chief James Klich introduced new firefighter Jarrod Pinette and reviewed his background and experience. ► Town Clerk Teresa Burr performed the swearing in. ► Police Chief Thomas Lynch introduced new police department officer Panagiotis Hontzeas and reviewed his background and experience. ► Town Clerk Teresa Burr performed the swearing in. ► Police Chief Thomas Lynch introduced new police department sergeant Eric Copeland and reviewed his background and experience. ► Town Clerk Teresa Burr performed the swearing in.

*Chairman Mercer declared a two-minute recess.*

**APPOINTMENTS:** ► *Annual Board/Committee Appointments.* ► Mr. Jones read the Appointed Committee Members June 2019 list. ► **MOTION** to **Ratify** the Annual Appointments to the boards and commissions as presented by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen thanked everyone for their time and volunteer hours. He stated there were two corrections. The Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee and the Norfolk County Advisory Board are one-year terms; therefore, the expiration dates should be June 30, 2020, not June 30, 2022. ► **MOTION** to **Amend the Motion** for the Annual Appointments to the boards and commissions as presented to change the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee and the Norfolk County Advisory Board to reflect one-year terms expiring on June 30, 2020 by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

► **Reappointment of Election Workers.** ► Mr. Jones read the Appointments for Election Year 2019 list.  
 ► **MOTION to Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of the attached Election Workers as requested by the Town Clerk by **Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**HEARINGS: None.**

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:** ► **Franklin July 4<sup>th</sup> Coalition.** ► Mr. Paul Kortick, co-chair, and Mr. Joseph Carmignani, co-chair, addressed the Town Council. Mr. Kortick provided an update of the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities that begin next week. ► Mr. Carmignani stated a letter to residents with the schedule of events should be in mailboxes tomorrow. He noted they are a non-profit organization and people can donate to the coalition; they appreciate all donations. He discussed the schedule of events on the Town Common. He noted the fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 6, at 10:00 PM, at the Franklin High School. He thanked all the Franklin departments who cooperated for the fireworks to be possible. Information can also be found on the website. ► Mr. Kortick noted they are also looking for volunteers, particularly for the day after the fireworks. Teenagers who need community service hours could volunteer and come with rakes to clean up the field. ► Mr. Jones congratulated them for all the hard work they put into the celebration. ► Mr. Dellorco reminded everyone they can still donate to the Franklin July 4<sup>th</sup> Coalition. He thanked them for doing a great job. ► Chairman Mercer thanked them for keeping this going. ► Ms. Pellegrini thanked them and noted this is their third year. She asked them to review their list of sponsors. ► Mr. Carmignani reviewed the organizations supporting the Franklin July 4th Coalition. ► Mr. Kortick noted Saturday is the children's day for events.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. **Capital Budget.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated they had a meeting tonight. He stated there was \$692,000 left over from the snow fund; this will be coming in front of the Town Council later tonight. They are going to put \$448,000 to new roads, \$24,000 to the new Old South Church, \$100,000 for public safety, \$100,000 for wage settlements, and \$20,000 for Beaver Street Recycling Center.
- b. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula stated they met last week on June 19, 2019. The meeting included Town Council, Finance Committee, and School Committee. This year was a difficult year to make the budget come together. As a result of the meeting, they are focusing on 2021 and 2022. They are working to educate the public on where they are financially. He stated he thinks there may be confusion out there on how they got to where they are now. Because of the sense of urgency, he has suggested they have another meeting soon; another meeting was scheduled for July 24, 2019. At that meeting, they will probably have more public sessions so people will be informed about what is going on.
- c. **Economic Development.** ► Mr. Kelly stated they met last Wednesday. They reviewed the potential of a plastic bag ban, but he really does not want to call it a ban as that is not how they are approaching it. He stated the youth of the schools are sponsoring the bill so they have asked to come back in the fall. He will provide an update when he has a date for the next meeting.

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

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

- a. **Resolution 19-41: Acceptance of Gift-Police Department (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-41 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 19-41: Acceptance of Gift-Police Department by Kelly. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is not an additional \$7,000. This donation was taken by the Town Council a few weeks ago. However, the gentleman who wrote and sent the check was from the Franklin Blue Coat Club; the check was not from the individual himself who wrote the check. Mr. Hellen said he told the gentleman he would honor that and make sure it was accurately documented that the donation was from the Franklin Blue Coat Club. ► Ms. Pellegrini asked who they were. ► Police Chief Lynch stated this club was set up a

very long time ago, in the 1970s by business people from the Town of Franklin. It was put together to help out officers. After this donation, it will be ending. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

- b. Resolution 19-42: Appropriation Transfers FY19 (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-42 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-42: Appropriation Transfers FY19 by **Padula. SECOND** by **Kelly. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is just \$53,000 out of a \$130 million budget. He commended the department heads for managing their budgets throughout the year so that we do not have to make transfers at the end of the year. He said they were able to save \$70,000 this year from the liability accounts due to the hard work of the departments. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- c. Resolution 19-43: Appropriation FY19 Capital Plan Round 2 (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-43 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-43: Appropriation FY19 Capital Plan Round 2 by **Padula. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated the next four resolutions deal with the appropriation of the remaining money from the snow and ice account due to this year's weather. The total requested for this resolution from Free Cash is \$492,000 of which \$448,000 is for roads and infrastructure, \$24,000 is for the Old South Church study, and \$20,000 is for Beaver Street recycling center. He then discussed the public safety communications infrastructure appropriation of \$287,000. He stated \$100,000 is from Free Cash from the excess of the snow and ice account, \$100,000 is from the rebate from the MECC Dispatch account from opening late, and there was some remaining money from Free Cash from previous accounts from when Chief McCarraher was here. This enables the Town to look at the long view to have all equipment on Town property. He discussed the \$100,00 for the wage settlement account. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- d. Resolution 19-44: Appropriation Public Safety Communications Infrastructure (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-44 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-44: Appropriation Public Safety Communications Infrastructure by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Padula. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- e. Resolution 19-45: Appropriation Wage Settlement Account (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-45 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-45: Appropriation Wage Settlement Account by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- f. Resolution 19-46: Appropriation Historical Museum Artifacts Preservation (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-46 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-46: Appropriation Historical Museum Artifacts Preservation by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is a new appropriation being requested. He stated the Town archivist asked for a nominal amount of money for some preservation boxes and materials. He is proposing to transfer \$16,495 from an older account from the library project. He stated former Town Council member Judy Pfeffer was leading the digitization project to scan some historical newspapers and other periodicals. The original quote was around \$30,000. The project was transferred from the library to the Town's technology director who had the project done for far less money. Now that the library digitization project is complete, he is proposing to take those excess funds and put them to the direction of the new Town archivist to be able to do her work. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated she thought it would be a good idea for the archivist to come before the Town Council to explain what she is doing. ► Mr. Hellen stated that would be a good idea and suggested he would have her come in to do a presentation. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- g. Resolution 19-47: Authority for Town Administrator to Negotiate and Execute Tax Agreement with Owner of Ground-Mounted Solar Facility Located off Spring Street (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-47 - Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-47: Authority for Town Administrator to Negotiate and Execute Tax Agreement with Owner of Ground-

Mounted Solar Facility Located off Spring Street by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is pretty straight forward. According to the Town Attorney, the Town Council must authorize and sign those deals. ► Mr. Kelly explained how this deal came together and noted that often Town Council members in the business lives are doing things that ultimately benefit the Town and provide more money for the best interest of the community. The Town Council members should be appreciated for that. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

- h. Resolution 19-48: Dissolution of the Franklin Community Garden Committee (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-48 - Majority Vote (5)).* ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve Resolution 19-48: Dissolution of the Franklin Community Garden Committee by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is pretty straight forward. ► Chairman Mercer thanked everyone who served on this committee over the years for all the time and effort they put in. ► Mr. Jones said it was great to see the results from their great work and he thanked the committee. ► Ms. Hamblen thanked the committee and thanked Mr. Jette and the DPW for all their work. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
- i. Bylaw Amendment 19-843: Chapter 25 Human Resource Management – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (Motion to Adopt Bylaw Amendment 19-843 - Majority Vote (5)).* ► **MOTION to Waive the reading by Padula. SECOND by Kelly. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.** ► Mr. Hellen stated this is the second reading. It was voted unanimously at the last meeting. He stated they were trying to modernize and update the Human Resources bylaw to have the employee manual and benefits manual posted online with the new Google system. He stated they also looked at some of the bylaw that had not been updated in 15 or 20 years; we are basically updating all the anti-discrimination laws that have not been updated in two decades. He assured everyone they have not been discriminating; it is just the right thing to update the bylaw. He noted there is a copy in the Town Clerk's office of all these documents. ► **MOTION to Adopt Bylaw Amendment 19-843: Chapter 25 Human Resource Management by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Ms. Pellegrini confirmed only the amendment parts would be advertised. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** ► Mr. Hellen congratulated Ms. Anne Covell on her retirement this Friday after just under 40 years with the Assessor's Office. He wished her all the best in her retirement. He noted Ms. Covell started in Franklin in 1980 when the Town's budget was approximately \$14 million; as she is retiring, the budget is now at \$116 million.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** *None.*

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** ► Ms. Hamblen gave her condolences to the Weidman family for the passing of Ms. Mary Ellen Weidman. She thanked the DPW for the signs and the space for the pollinator pastures on Lincoln Street. She thanked the DPW for the Glyphosate Opt Out Form on the Agricultural Commission's website page. She stated the DPW sprays weed killer on some streets. If residents are concerned, they can opt out and the DPW will not spray for weeds in front of their house. She asked residents that if they do opt out, to make sure the weeds do not grow so big they are unsafe. The resident would have to take care of that spot if the DPW does not. ► Mr. Dellorco encouraged everyone to have a safe and happy Fourth of July. He wished all the best to local resident Craig Anderson who is graduating from the Massachusetts State Police Academy tomorrow; he ranked 12 of 171 in the graduating class. ► Ms. Pellegrini wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. She stated the Museum gift store is now selling the wooden plaques for the new library, the Brick School, and the Train Station. Christmas ornaments are also available. ► Mr. Padula wished everyone a safe Fourth of July and hoped they enjoy the festivities at the Town Common. ► Mr. Jones wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He stated he will be doing some volunteer work and will not be back until July 6. He said there is a big fiber optic cable lying in the street and sidewalk across from the library; it is a tripping hazard. He noted there are other cables around town that from his perspective are dangerous. He would like the Town to address such cables with the cable companies and get them back up where they

belong. ► Mr. Kelly wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. ► Chairman Mercer stated he spoke with Mr. Hellen a few weeks ago about the wire across from the library and asked him to start the process of calling someone about it. ► Mr. Hellen noted there are other wires throughout Town they are looking at. ► Mr. Timothy Rapoza, Director of Technology Services for the Town and Schools, stated he did some research on the fiber optic cable lying on the ground at 117/119 School Street. He contacted Crown Castle. They said a subcontractor was supposed to clean it up and they will contact the subcontractor again.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.***

**ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Judith Lizardi  
Recording Secretary