

FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 16, 2018

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Patrick Casey, Robert Dellorco, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Eamon McCarthy Earls, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegrini. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Jamie Hellen, Deputy Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *None.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ► Chairman Kelly announced the meeting is being recorded by *Franklin TV* and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may also be recorded by others. ► Agenda items will be taken out of order at tonight's meeting. ► Volunteers are wanted for the Downtown flower planting on May 19 at 9:00 AM; meet at the bridge. ► Memorial Day Breakfast is May 25 at 9:00 AM at the Senior Center. ► Strawberry Stroll is June 8 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. ► Bricks for the library are available from the Friends of the Franklin Library; to order a brick, email f0f102038@gmail.com. ► Bricks for the Memorial Walk are available; please contact Larry Bederian at the VFW at 508-533-2277.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► Chairman Kelly announced a proclamation for Mr. Brutus Cantoreggi, Director Public Works, and the Franklin Water Department was provided this past week. He stated the MassDEP Drinking Water Program is pleased to extend their congratulations to the Franklin Water Department for its outstanding performance in 2017. He congratulated Mr. Cantoreggi, the Franklin Water Department, and the entire DPW. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated all the crews and staff work together; everyone works on everything and they all take care of the system. He stated this recognizes the town's use of water; the town is lower than the state standards.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Mr. Gary McCarragher, Fire Chief, 7 Burning Tree Road, stated next week is Emergency Medical Services week. He wanted to recognize the town's emergency medical personnel for the great job they do; it is a talented and dedicated group of people. He asked that when people see them, thank them. ► Ms. Monique Doyle, 3 Greensfield Road, expressed thanks to both this and the past Town Council for its support of the Franklin Library renovation and addition, especially those on the Building Committee, Thomas Mercer and Matt Kelly.

APPOINTMENTS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *La Cantina Winery Company.* ► Mr. Jones read the license transaction request. ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the issuance of a Farmer-Winery, Farmer's Market License to Robert Vozzella, La Cantina Winery Company, effective June 1, 2018 to October 26, 2018 by **Jones. SECOND** by **Mercer. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated excellent enforcement and great wine; he would vote yes. This is a renewal of the license from last year. ► Ms. Pellegrini asked if a police officer would have to be there as liquor would be on the Common; she noted in the past at the Fourth of July event, a police officer was required as there was liquor. ► Mr. Nutting stated this is only a sample of an ounce; a person cannot drink a glass of wine there. ► Mr. Hellen noted they are limited under the law to how many samples they can give out per person. ► Mr. Cerel stated Mr. Vozzella is selling bottled wine. ► Mr. Vozzella extended his appreciation and gratitude to all the Town Council members. He stated it is his third year participating in the Farmer's Market; he is working to build a stronger community in Franklin. ► Mr. Jones gave

thanks and appreciation to Mr. Vozzella for being a big contributor to the community such as through non-profits and fundraisers. **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *Franklin Farmer's Market.* ► Ms. Cynthia Garboski, Farmer's Market Manager and farmer, has been running the Farmer's Market for three years. She stated the market begins June 1, 2018, through October 26, 2018, every Friday, 12:00 to 6:00 PM, on the Town Common. She stated she has expanded the market over the years. She reviewed some of the new activities and vendors for this season. She noted flyers regarding the Farmer's Market were available. The purpose of all the items available is to support the farms.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Capital.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated no updates at this time.
2. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula stated no updates at this time.
3. **Economic Development.** ► Mr. Mercer stated no updates at this time.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

1. **Resolution 18-21: Expenditure Limits for FY 2019 on Departmental Revolving Funds Established by Franklin Town Code Chapter 73, as Provided in G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E½, as Amended (Motion to Move Resolution 18-21 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move** Resolution 18-21: Expenditure Limits for FY 2019 on Departmental Revolving Funds Established by Franklin Town Code Chapter 73, as Provided in G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E½, as Amended by **Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is an annual requirement of state law that the Town Council needs to vote the ceilings on these revolving accounts. Each account is a self-supporting program; they collect fees and charges and that money is put back into the program. He reviewed each revolving fund. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
2. **Resolution 18-22: Salary Schedule, Full Time Elected Official (Motion to Move Resolution 18-22 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move** Resolution 18-22: Salary Schedule, Full Time Elected Official by **Mercer. SECOND by Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated as a requirement of law, elected official salaries need to be set every year by the Town Council. This salary was semi-agreed to when the new town clerk was elected; as long as she progressed in getting her certifications, she would get an appropriate pay raise. This is the last year of that original agreement. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
3. **Resolution 18-23 Compensation Plan, FY 2019 (Motion to Move Resolution 18-23 – Majority Vote (5)).** ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move** Resolution 18-23 Compensation Plan, FY 2019 by **Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is an annual resolution for the Town Council's adoption. The non-union pay plan for this year recommended increase is 3 percent which is consistent with all the collective bargaining agreements; it moves the ranges up 3 percent from the existing plan. This is separate and apart from any individual's raise that they may or may not receive. ► Ms. Pellegri asked if these changes have been included in this year's budget. ► Mr. Nutting stated the budget would reflect a 3 percent increase; he explained that an employee's yearly increase could be more than 3 percent. This is for non-union, non-school employees; it is about 60 full time people. He stated the department heads can make recommendations, but he goes through everyone's increases to make the final decision. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

HEARINGS: FY 2019 Budget Hearing. ► **MOTION to Open** the FY 2019 Budget Hearing by **Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. No discussion. No vote taken.** ► Mr. Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator,

thanked everyone and stated it was a group/team effort to put forth this budget for the Town Council's consideration. He reviewed the process and timeline for delivering this budget and provided a general overview and highlights. He stated this is about a \$125 million business. FY 2019 starts this July 1 and goes to June 30, 2019. He reviewed memos he had previously sent indicating FY 19 would be a difficult year to maintain services. The proposed budget requires the use of funds from the Budget Stabilization Fund. There is currently \$1.8 million in this account; this budget requests the use of \$1.5 million from this account. He stated he would be requesting the Town Council to replenish that account to about \$900,000 before the tax rate is set this fall. There is an additional stabilization fund account which should stay intact; it helps to maintain the bond rating. At some point down the road, an override will probably be needed. This is a growing community with an increased demand for services. He noted there are a few possible state-wide ballot questions this November; there will be no clear picture of revenue for FY 20 until after November. The overall FY 19 budget does not change much in staffing levels; there are some increases in funds such as for the library and ice and snow. He discussed health insurance increases. Citizens should be very proud of the town employees in terms of day-to-day services and willingness to help with challenging fiscal times. This budget maintains critical town and school services, avoids tax increases above the normal 2.5 percent, and allows community leaders about nine months to work together to plan for FY 20 once the ballot questions are known. ► Chairman Kelly noted all department heads were in attendance to answer any questions Town Council members may have. He noted this is not a voting night; it is just a discussion night. Tomorrow night is the vote.

► Mr. Jones read each *Operating Budget Town of Franklin FY 19 Voting Document* line item.

► Mr. Mercer requested a Hold on Line Item 147: Treasurer-Collector. ■ Mr. Mercer asked if the reduction in salary was due to retirement. ■ Mr. Nutting stated Mr. Dacey retired at a higher salary. The deputy is retiring, but they want to bring someone on early which is reflected in this budget.

► Mr. Mercer requested a Hold on Line Item 155: Information Technology. ■ Mr. Mercer said that often his questions are just informative for the viewing public. Last year the technology budget was increased by 25 percent; this year it is being increased by another 25 percent. Why the increase; what are we replacing or updating? ■ Mr. Timothy Rapoza, Director of Technology Services, stated last year the increase was when Google was implemented. This year we added several more Google licenses, converted the Police Department, and did online permitting which was a significant expense.

► Mr. Padula and Mr. Earls requested a Hold on Line Item 192: Public Property & Buildings. ■ Mr. Earls asked about leaks in the schools and other facilities this winter and asked if we are at risk of future leaks into 2019. ■ Mr. Michael D'Angelo, Director of Public Facilities, stated we do not have major leaks. We have a roofer on call. Roofs do leak. We spend about \$25,000 per year on roof repair bills. Our roofs in general are in pretty good shape. ■ Mr. Jones asked how Remington's roof is holding up. ■ Mr. D'Angelo said good. We do need to do more of the roof. Four or five years ago we replaced the most problematic section. On the longer term, we should really replace more sections of the roof. ■ Mr. Padula asked where the expenses estimate came from. ■ Mr. D'Angelo stated it is all electric. When we bid electricity, it went from \$0.08 to \$0.10 kWh. We are still in a power purchase agreement with the solar farm. He explained how about 90 percent of the power used by the schools and buildings is obtained through the power purchase agreement that is totally solar. ■ Mr. Dellorco asked if Mr. D'Angelo checked on the SchoolDude jobs being done. ■ Mr. D'Angelo stated that Marco does the majority of the work orders; he does more of the bigger capital projects. ■ Mr. Dellorco stated he went on a tour Friday and there are six or seven projects that say they are complete and they are not even complete. ■ Mr. D'Angelo stated he would look into that. ■ Mr. Mercer noted the Remington Jefferson roof is unique in its design; most of the other roofs are flat. He stated in the past they had talked about a preventative maintenance plan and Mr. D'Angelo was going to return to the Town Council with a roof life expectancy across all buildings

including schools. Where is he with that? ■Mr. D'Angelo stated he can provide this; he might have forgotten about it while doing some of the big projects. ■Mr. Hellen stated he had not forgotten. They just spoke to Marco about it. The preventative maintenance software is up and running. SchoolDude input the vast majority of the data. Sometime in the next few months we could have a summary of what you are looking for. ■Mr. Mercer said we use SchoolDude for pretty much everything. The reporting system can be adjusted for generalized summaries. The Town Council has asked to get a copy of maintenance repairs; what has been done over a period of time. He stated it has been awhile since we have received any updated SchoolDude summaries. It is important for Town Council members to have an opportunity to review some of the issues going on in our buildings. ■Mr. D'Angelo stated it can be talked about. ■Mr. Earls questioned the electricity and natural gas totals and increases. He asked where savings could be achieved. ■Mr. Nutting said there was a 20 percent increase in the electric costs; the increase from \$0.08 to \$0.10 kWh in electricity is reflected in the budget. ■Mr. D'Angelo reviewed the LED replacements to become more efficient in lighting loads. ■Mr. Hellen mentioned that all the mechanicals in all the buildings are very well done with energy efficiency. ■Mr. Jones noted the great amount of energy efficiency created in the past eight years. He asked about Station 2's roof. ■Mr. D'Angelo said it was replaced in the fall with a 50-year shingle.

► Town Council members requested a Hold on Line Item 210: Police. ■Mr. Nutting provided a general overview. He stated police and fire salaries were increased very little because the dispatchers in both police and fire will be eliminated in January and those funds will be transferred to the regional dispatch. Even though there is a normal 3 percent increase in each budget, you don't see it reflected here because the dispatchers are changing. There are more dispatchers in the police budget than the fire budget. Beyond that, it is staffing as usual in both departments. He stated we are trying to finalize the staffing of the police department once the dispatchers leave; that is a work in progress. ■Mr. Casey asked when does the regional dispatch go into full effect. ■Mr. Nutting stated approximately January 19, 2019, halfway through the fiscal year; it could be adjusted by a month or so. ■Police Chief Thomas Lynch stated this will be a big transition; they have had dispatchers at the police station forever. They do not want to go dark; they will have the station with personnel in it so when a person walks into the station, they are greeted. They are working with the union about what this will be. ■Mr. Dellorco asked who is in charge of the hiring for the regional dispatch. ■Mr. Nutting stated Mr. Gary Primo who worked for the Franklin Police Department for 20 years is the executive director and in charge of hiring. The people that currently work for one of the four towns will have an opportunity to apply. ■Chief Lynch reviewed statistics of personnel for a town of this size. ■Mr. Earls asked Chief Lynch to explain the annual ammunition expenses and safety expenses. ■Chief Lynch explained the ammunition budget which includes tasers and they have mandatory shooting training throughout the year. He also reviewed safety equipment. ■Mr. Jones asked about the evidence room. ■Chief Lynch stated they reviewed all the evidence pieces in the evidence room; they did a purge and kept only the evidence items they needed.

► Town Council members requested a Hold on Line Item 220: Fire. ■Chairman Kelly asked for the number of fire calls versus the number of ambulance calls done last year. ■Fire Chief Gary McCarraher stated about 72 percent ambulance versus fire. We have increased about 22 percent overall call volume in the last five years. The community is growing; more people come in. He discussed two assisted living facilities which were driving numbers up. He stated we would go there often for just a lift assist. Based on Medicare regulations, we can only bill a patient if there is a transport. He discussed options for how the assisted living facilities do not have to rely on the Fire Department for lift assistance. He said he is continuing to work with the assisted living communities over this. He mentioned Attorney Cerel has been helpful in chasing money for us. He discussed the need for another ambulance; we have needed the third ambulance for a few years now. He praised his people for their hard work. ■Mr. Earls requested more information on training coverage and vehicle maintenance. ■Chief McCarraher reviewed vehicle maintenance and said as equipment gets older it requires more maintenance. He stated they have asked for

a training officer. There are no reserves for some people to do inhouse training while others go out on calls. So, they must rely on overtime for training. ■Mr. Dellorco discussed vehicle maintenance and noted the number of calls on the opioid issue. He stated they do a great job.

► Mr. Mercer, Mr. Dellorco, and Mr. Padula requested a Hold on Line Item 225: Regional Dispatch. ■Mr. Padula asked Mr. Nutting about the costs. ■Mr. Nutting stated there are four communities involved. There is a formula for establishing how much each town pays. This budget represents six-months. Once it is up and running, they are eligible for a \$500,000 grant from the state; so, the budget will not double because of the grant funds.

► Chairman Kelly requested a Hold on Line Item 240: Inspection. ■Chairman Kelly stated he has heard that most of the surrounding towns have a mechanical inspector; why does he not see that on the town's roster. ■Mr. Gus Brown, Building Commissioner, stated he handles that. He noted that Health, Planning, and Building Departments are being consolidated under one umbrella. This has been Mr. Nutting's desire since he was hired as building commissioner in 2012. He thinks it will be better for both the folks at home and the contractors. ■Mr. Jones asked how the permits are looking for this year. ■Mr. Brown said the 280 apartment units near the Bellingham line increased the permits intake. Mr. Brown noted the departments closed at 4:30 PM tonight for this changeover. The staff will come in for training tomorrow on the online module. The office will be closed except for the renovations on Friday.

► Mr. Mercer, Mr. Dellorco, and Mr. Casey requested a Hold on Line Item 300: Town Schools. ■Mr. Mercer explained the Town Council does not have control of the schools' line items. The Town Council votes the bottom line and it is up to the schools and the school administration to work within the parameters of the budget set forth by the Town Council. He requested an overview of some of the major issues the schools are dealing with and will need to continue to deal with. He stated he knows they have been digging deep into the reserve funds for the last few years to help maintain some of the programs. The end of the funds must be nearing or is here. What type of impact will this have on next year's budget? ■Ms. Sara Ahern, Superintendent, provided an overview of the use of the revolving funds for the past year and where the money comes from for the revolving funds. Heading into FY 19, the budget is including \$4.5 million in revolving funds of which \$800,000 is non-recurring. She thinks they will find themselves in much of the same position next year in order to provide level services. ■Mr. Mercer said one of the biggest unknowns for the schools on an annual basis is special education. He asked Ms. Ahern to provide an overview of this unknown. ■Ms. Ahern stated it is a moving target. They try to forecast, manage, and communicate across the office about where different things stand with respect to students with special needs and the services we are obligated to provide for them. Special education is based on the premise that each child is entitled to a free and appropriate public education. For students with disabilities, they require specialized instruction and specialized services to receive this free and appropriate education. She noted there are circumstances where a student needs such specialized services that they go out of district to which we pay tuition. All those decisions are made collaboratively. There are changes that happen over the course of the year; there are unforeseen things that happen over the course of the year. She noted a new program to be housed at the Parmenter School included in FY 19 for students with significant autism. She noted the increase they are seeing in students that have significant mental health concerns. The statistic is 1 in 5 children have a mental health disorder, and many children are untreated. One of the things they are facing in the schools is how to respond to students with increased behavioral mental health needs which requires more support and more counseling services. She noted several programs across the district which help them to keep students in the district. ■Mr. Mercer asked about enrollment projections. ■Ms. Ahern stated the high school is servicing about 1,800 students with about 450 students in each grade and projected to remain the same for about the next three to four years. They have seen a decrease in the number of students in the elementary schools. Those grade levels are in the mid-300s. Incoming K and first grade is about 310. She stated they are also keeping in mind some

new building projects in town for the number of students that may bring. ■Mr. Mercer noted the high school was built for 1,650 students. ■Mr. Casey asked about the Charter School reimbursement and transportation expenses. ■Mr. Nutting said it is projected that the state will provide the town with \$450,000 for hosting the Charter School and they take out \$4.1 million for having the Charter School; so, it is about \$3.5 million net to us. ■Mr. Jones asked for current per pupil expenditure. ■Ms. Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator, stated for FY 17, which is the year data is available, it is \$14,011 per pupil; the state's annual average cost per pupil is \$15,956. ■Mr. Padula asked if there is additional money that goes to the schools besides the \$63 million in the budget. ■Mr. Nutting stated about another \$17 million. ■Ms. Goodman stated that with all money included and account for including grants, \$89,343,260 was spent of education last year. ■Mr. Nutting noted special education is for ages 3 to 22 years old. ■Ms. Ahern explained what instructional coaches do; they have 14.2 FTE for instructional coaches. ■Ms. Monique Doyle, 3 Greensfield Road, asked what the per pupil cost is for the Charter School. ■Chairman Kelly stated no one had the answer for that question.

► Mr. Dellorco and Chairman Kelly requested a Hold on Line Item 440: DPW-Highway Department. ■Mr. Casey disclosed his brother has a summer job at the DPW.

► Mr. Dellorco and Chairman Kelly requested a Hold on Line Item 424: Street Lighting. ■Chairman Kelly asked where they were on the LED conversion. ■Mr. Deacon Perrotta, Director of Operations, stated the pilot project on Pond and Peck Streets was just completed. The great thing is no one noticed; no phone calls were received. We will pick the light fixture and then put it out to bid. ■Mr. Hellen reviewed the process and stated they need to know the exact number of fixtures before going out to bid. This information is being put together. ■Mr. Perrotta stated the life expectancy of the new LEDs is about 10 to 15 years. ■Mr. Hellen noted as the lights get installed, the paperwork will be filed, and they will start to get the incentive money back from National Grid. ■Mr. Earls asked questions about grounds expenses. ■Mr. Cantoreggi reviewed maintaining the high school fields. He stated they are doing more work in house, so they buy the materials themselves.

► Mr. Mercer requested a Hold on Line Item 510: Health. ■Mr. Mercer asked about the reduction of salary, but the increase in expenses. ■Mr. David McKearney, Health Director, said they lost their part-time environmental health inspector in April. It is very difficult to find someone who is trained and can function independently. He and Mr. Nutting have had conversations about the extensive training. After Liz's departure, he and Mr. Nutting decided to use a consultant engineering firm to provide the septic inspection services for them. He did a cost/benefit for this and it seems like the town makes out a little better with a consultant. He noted he will be losing his administrative assistant at the end of this fiscal year. He stated the responsibility for administrative support for the Health Department will now be absorbed by the Building Department staff. So, there is a reduction in two salaries and the increase in expenses.

► Mr. Mercer requested a Hold on Line Item 610: Library – Expenses. ■Mr. Mercer stated with the new library that just opened there is a 10 percent increase in expenses. According to Mr. Nutting's summary, we are still about \$100,000 below. How do we make that up over the next few years? ■Mr. Nutting stated we met the minimum obligation in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006. We have not met it since then. We have climbed up to 90 percent with this budget. The only way to meet it will be to increase the library budget another \$50,000 for the next two years and a little more than that as the number goes up over the years. That would be in terms of expenses and a little more staff. ■Mr. Mercer asked how long the state will continue to give a waiver. ■Mr. Nutting stated he cannot speak for them, but the town has shown a good faith effort over the past years. They always say they do not guarantee any waivers. He stated that he and Ms. Oti write letters every year. ■Mr. Jones confirmed they have always received a waiver. Do the renovations to the library recalculate the amount that the state feels the town needs to meet? ■Mr. Nutting

reviewed the formula for the calculations for the minimum appropriation requirement. The improvements to the library had no effect. ■Ms. Felicia Oti, Library Director, reiterated that the waiver is not guaranteed. She noted they are not meeting the required monetary appropriation. ■Chairman Kelly reminded everyone that one year they almost did not get the waiver.

► Mr. Mercer and Mr. Dellorco requested a Hold on Line Item 630: Recreation – Expenses. ■Mr. Mercer noted a 10 percent increase in expenses and asked if most of the Recreation programs are self-funded through fees. ■Mr. Ryan Jette, Director, stated they are self-supporting. They bring in 100 percent of the salaries and expenses from what they charge for the more than 100 programs they offer. They have a lean staff. He mentioned they opened a gym about three months ago with new programs to offer. ■Mr. Mercer stated they do a great job for the community. ■Mr. Dellorco stated Mr. Jette does a great job; the gym came out awesome. ■Chairman Kelly stated it was great that it was self-funding.

► Mr. Padula requested a Hold on Line Item 695: Cultural Council. ■Mr. Padula asked what the money is going to cover. ■Mr. Nutting stated the Cultural Council put in a request for \$20,000 based on the amount they get asked for every year. They just went through a very successful ArtWeek. He stated the town cannot afford \$20,000, but we would like to give them more to attract people and bring people to Franklin; it is an economic development tool. So, we increased it by \$5,000 to continue to let them sponsor more events.

► Mr. Earls and Mr. Padula requested a Hold on Line Item 910: Benefits – Health/Life Insurance Benefits, OPEB, and Subtotal Benefits. ■Mr. Earls asked for an overview of the increases in these areas. ■Mr. Nutting provided a general overview of each Benefits sub line item.

► Chairman Kelly noted Tri-County Regional School will be voted on separately tomorrow night as Mr. Jones works there.

► Chairman Kelly asked if there was anything that was missed, if any Town Council member had additional questions, and if any citizens had comments. ■Mr. Sean McKeown, 11 Padden Road, asked for clarification on the Budget Stabilization account, and if there are there any plans to replace the approximately \$1.5 million needed to balance the budget. ■Mr. Nutting stated they have had several stabilization accounts over the years and he reviewed each. He stated the Debt Stabilization Fund was created to set money aside years ahead of schedule for when they projected it would be needed. The Budget Stabilization was that they knew they were going to hit tough times eventually; the concept is that instead of laying off people or cutting services, we could get through a year or two by using money that we have saved and then give everyone time to figure out going forward how they are going to fund the town and the schools. It is a way to buy time to plan. He explained the options for level funding which is to eliminate positions. ■Mr. Hellen noted all the town fees were recently reviewed and updated. ■Mr. Mercer noted the intent of the \$1.5 million Stabilization Fund is exactly what we are using it for. It was put in place for this reason. ■Mr. Nutting stated you cannot ask people to pay more taxes when you have a fund such as this. He noted Franklin has an extremely low tax base. ■Mr. Jones summarized how no one wants to see an override and how no one wants to see an additional tax bill. He thanked Mr. Nutting and everyone who has put a lot of time and effort into this budget. ■Mr. Dellorco thanked everyone who worked hard on this budget. ■Chairman Kelly confirmed that no Town Council member requested to have any department heads return for tomorrow night's meeting.

► **MOTION to Close the FY 2019 Budget Hearing by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. No discussion. VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: *None.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Ms. Hamblen thanked all the department heads for their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Mercer. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary