

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 17, 2018**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 17, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marco Dewsnap from Boy Scout Troop 29.

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. ► 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 fofl02038@gmail.com. ► Bricks for the Memorial Walk are available; please contact Larry Bederian at the VFW at 508-533-2277.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *None.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS: *None.*

APPOINTMENTS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *None.*

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *None.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Capital.** ► Mr. Dellorco stated no updates at this time.
2. **Budget.** ► Mr. Padula explained the budget process and how the budget gets prepared. He said it is all posted and there is access to all the information; call the administration if you have any questions.
3. **Economic Development.** ► Mr. Mercer stated no updates at this time.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Hellen stated Franklin was chosen to have the Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources who approved the town's Green Community application do an event on June 7, 2018, at 11:00 AM, in this room, with all the other communities that were awarded Green Community status. Many of the details of the event are still being worked out. ► Mr. Nutting stated Channel 25 is going to be in Franklin on July 13, 2018, from 6:00 to 10:00 AM. They are coming out next week to check out the Town Common and some other places. When we have everything finalized, we will let everyone know. We want everyone to come out; it will highlight Franklin.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: *None.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Padula announced a fundraiser for PJ Maxfield, a child in the community with significant disabilities. On June 16, 2018, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM, there will be a fundraiser at the Wrentham Legion Hall for a dog for the child. The child has significant health issues and

this dog is supposed to give him some relief. The dogs are very expensive; generally, in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range; this dog will cost less. ► Mr. Dellorco sent out prayers to former Norfolk County Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Connolly, whose wife is in hospice care. ► Mr. Jones stated some staff and students at the Davis Thayer School put together a very good eight-minute news report about Franklin; it is on YouTube. ► Ms. Pellegrini asked if those students could be invited to a Town Council meeting.

HEARINGS: FY 2019 Budget Hearing. ► **MOTION to Open** the FY 2019 Budget Hearing by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No discussion. No vote taken.** ► Chairman Kelly noted that all department heads attended last night's budget hearing. He asked if there were any additional questions. ► Mr. Casey stated he was reviewing the numbers Fire Chief McCarragher provided regarding services calls as opposed to emergency response calls. He calculated about 200 service calls per month. He noted it costs about \$935 per service call to the big corporations for lift assistance. In rounded figures, this comes to about \$1 million per year for service calls. He suggested the fire chief go to these senior living private corporations; they have the money to address these needs for their residents. He stated this issue should be addressed. ► Mr. Mercer explained he brought this up about 1 ½ years ago. The fire chief started to go to these assisted living centers and tried to negotiate with them about these service calls to try to get them to privatize. He suggested maybe they could get together as a group and privatize the ambulance services that are required. The chief went to all of them but was not very successful. The chief said he continuously works on this. He stated if a 911 call comes in, they must answer it. ► Mr. Nutting stated the nursing homes' policy was to call the ambulance to help pick people up off the floor. The chief went to the locations and told them they were going to start charging \$900 for these service calls. Many of the corporations are now taking more responsibility for their patients. This does not affect 911 calls. He thinks the chief has made good progress within the law; he continues to work on this. ► Chairman Kelly noted they are working on this. ► Mr. Dellorco asked what happens if the assisted living does not pay the \$900. ► Mr. Nutting stated the town goes to court, but it is very difficult. We think long and hard before we take that step. ► Mr. Mercer stated he thinks they need to be proactive and continue to keep the pressure on. The fire chief is aware of how we view this issue. We also need to talk to the legislature to see what they can do to help as this is happening to other communities as well. ► Mr. Steve Sherlock, Franklin Matters, asked about the money to be taken from the Budget Stabilization Fund to balance the budget and stated the schools are also using one-time funds. The operating budget is short because it does not have recurring revenue. ► Mr. Nutting stated on July 1, 2018, they will use, in round numbers, \$1.5 million of non-recurring revenue in FY 19. He is looking at it as more than a one-year strategy. He believes in FY 20 they will still be using non-recurring money, but a smaller amount. Eventually, they may have to ask for an override.

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

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

1. **Resolution 18-24: Adoption of FY 2019 Budget (Motion to Move Resolution 18-24 – 2/3 Majority Vote (6)).** Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Move** Resolution 18-24: Adoption of FY 2019 Budget by **Mercer. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► Chairman Kelly requested a roll call vote. He thanked everyone for their hard work on this budget process. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Earls-NO; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-1, Absent-0.**

Mr. Jones recused himself.

► **MOTION** to **Appoint** Mr. Mercer as Clerk pro tem by **Padula. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Kelly-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

2. **Resolution 18-25: Amendment of FY 2019 Budget (Motion to Move Resolution 18-25 – Majority Vote (5)).** Mr. Mercer read the resolution. ► **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 18-25: Amendment of FY 2019 Budget by **Padula. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is just a separate vote because Mr. Jones had a conflict of interest. This would normally be in the regular budget, but we separated out the Tri-County Regional School budget piece so Mr. Jones could participate in the full budget debate. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Kelly-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

Mr. Jones re-entered the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by **Padula. SECOND** by **Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary