

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 8, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 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; Chrissy Whelton, Administrative Assistant.

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, asked about the ongoing plan to change the subdivision without contacting the owners. She stated that this plan has been in force for one year and the owners were just notified two weeks ago that the sidewalks were being removed from the inner streets, the streets were being narrowed, and some constructing for the sewerage area for the Charles River Basin would occur. She has been a resident of Franklin for 45 years. Her concern is that people coming from Medway on Lincoln Street will turn into Skyline quickly and it will be very dangerous on a narrower road. She does not know how the narrowing of the street is going to work out; it does not slow anyone down. She is concerned because it is a family neighborhood with sidewalks on both sides and wide streets. It has been that way since it has been developed. To narrow the streets and take out the sidewalks without any thoughts about the residents is not correct. The sidewalks are needed for safety of children, pedestrians, and handicap residents. She stated that school buses and delivery trucks are very wide. She wants the Town to seriously consider this. ► Ms. Netto, 7 Grissom Circle, stated that they have been told there is going to be a new drainage system put in to help remediate the water problems at Skyline Estates. Currently, there are four new storm drains at the mouth of the circle. She discussed where the water is coming from. She stated that people have questioned what the Town is going to do about the illegal French drains. She stated that the DPW told her that they are going to try to work with the people. She stated that is not an answer. The people in Grissom Circle would like clarity about what is going to happen with the illegal storm drains and the runoff. ► Ms. Kathryn Carloni, 2 Carpenter Drive, stated that the neighborhood looks very nice with sidewalks on each side and it will not look nice if they are taken out. People without children pay taxes toward the schools as well. So, it is nice to have an aesthetically pleasing neighborhood. Also, if the roads are narrowed and there are cars parked on both sides, she does not know how a truck will get up the street past the cars; this is a safety issue. ► Ms. Erin Menard, 20 Skyline Drive, stated she moved in last year. The sidewalks were just what she was looking for. To hear that they are going to be taken out is upsetting. She uses them all the time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: ► *April 24, 2019*. ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the April 24, 2019 meeting minutes by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No Discussion**. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0**.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: *None*.

APPOINTMENTS: ► *Franklin Cultural District, Roberta DeBaggis Trahan*. ► **MOTION** to **Ratify** the appointment by the Town Administrator of Roberta DeBaggis Trahan to serve as a member of the Franklin Cultural District by **Jones**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **Discussion:** ► Ms. Trahan stated that she accepted the appointment with honor. She is looking forward to working with the Cultural District Committee members and the partners. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0**.

HEARINGS: *None.*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: ► *La Cantina Winery Company, Farmer Winery, Farmers' Market.*
 ► **MOTION to Approve** the issuance of a Farmer Winery, Farmers' Market License to Robert Vozzella, La Cantina Winery Company by **Jones. SECOND** by **Padula. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

Note: Items taken out of order from the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: ► *Franklin Ridge Senior Housing Proposal.* ► Mr. Nutting stated that many years ago the Town Council assigned the land behind the high school to the Affordable Housing Trust which is now in the process of developing 60 units of senior housing behind the existing facility off of Veterans Way. We have chosen JNJULE and Associates to do the project. Members of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust are here to ask the Town Council's support as we move forward to get this much needed elderly housing built. ► Mr. John Jule, President of JNJULE and Associates and the developer proposed for this project, and Mr. Lucio Trabucco, architect of Nunes Trabucco Architects, provided an overview of the project. Mr. Jule stated that it will be a three-story building at 100 percent affordable for seniors. Forty-five of the units will be one bedroom and 15 units will be two bedrooms. The income limits will be at 60 percent of the Boston median for all the residents. It will be a long-term investment in Franklin. ► Mr. Trabucco stated that it will be a development of 60 units on 6.5 acres of town-owned land. He reviewed the location providing a satellite view. He reviewed the ground-floor, second-floor, and third-floor plans. He stated that the one-bedroom units are about 700 sq. ft. with an open plan. The two-bedroom units are about 900 sq. ft. He showed the exterior front, side, and back renditions. He noted that they are similar to those used at Eaton Place. He reviewed the proposed landscaping. ► Mr. Jule stated that they anticipate it will take up to three years to get the financing. They will be working closely with the state and others. They will probably start construction in 2021-2022 with completion expected in 2024. They requested a letter of support from the Town Council for their applications. They are going before the Zoning Board next month. He stated that they hope to make Franklin Ridge Senior Housing a reality. ► Town Council members confirmed the need for senior housing in Franklin. ► Mr. Jones suggested the architects speak to residents of Eaton Place about ideas for improvements and he suggested they do something about the freeing water pipes in the existing building. ► Mr. Jule stated that they have a meeting set for next week, he thinks on the 17th at 10:00 AM, with Eaton Place residents to get their comments, as well as with abutters and neighbors. He will confirm the date. ► Mr. Nutting discussed how the funding will work including loans and grants. ► Mr. Jule said they work with state housing tax credits in combination with other state funds and with the Affordable Housing Trust to secure funding. He envisions this will be an approximately \$21 million project. ► Ms. Hamblen asked if there would be open space left around the 18 acres. ► Mr. Jule stated this project will only take up about 6.5 acres. ► Mr. Kelly asked if their will be a HUD component. ► Mr. Jule stated that most of the funding since the early 2000s has switched from HUD to the state level, but HUD will have a limited role. ► Chairman Mercer thanked them for their presentation.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

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

- a. Resolution 19-31: Franklin Ridge Senior Housing Development (Motion to Approve Resolution 19-31-Majority Vote (5)).* ► Mr. Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 19-31: Franklin Ridge Senior Housing Development by **Padula. SECOND** by **Kelly. No Discussion.**
 ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS (continued): ► *Senate President Karen Spilka, Senator Rebecca Rausch, State Representative Jeffrey Roy.* ► Senate President Karen Spilka thanked Mr. Nutting for all that he has done for Franklin and the entire Commonwealth; it has been a pleasure. She reviewed some of the work the Senate has been doing. They have been busy. The Senate has gone through growth and change.

They work well together in the State House. She stated that they came out with the Senate version of the budget yesterday; the House did their version last month. They have been working on policy, education reform, transportation issues, health care reform, housing, opioid addiction, and mental illness. With Chapter 70, she is proud to say the Senate has made it its top priority. She discussed the amounts that Franklin would receive. The Charter reimbursement was done a little differently than the House; the Senate actually has less money than the House. But it is calculated differently which would help Franklin. Franklin would end up getting an increase over the House of almost \$800,000. They also fully funded the Special Education Circuit Breaker which helps all communities. There would be an increase of about \$200,000 with that, as well. She discussed substance abuse and mental health awareness programs. ► Senator Rebecca Rausch stated that they are all working on their various amendments as the budget was released yesterday. She reviewed the other roles she has in the Senate, as well. She reviewed her background and past achievements. She noted that she has seen an increase in political engagement in the population. Right now, she is focused on the budget. ► State Representative Jeffrey Roy stated that it was great to be back. It has been great working with his colleagues. He noted that for Chapter 70, Franklin will be getting at least \$30 more per student. They continue to see incremental increases in Chapter 70 where enrollment is going down. Per pupil expenditure in 2008 was \$9,146. Because of the increase in Chapter 70 and decrease in enrollment, in 2017 it was \$13,026 per pupil. He expects it will continue to go up. He knows the schools are facing much greater burdens. He stated that he fights hard each and every day to make sure the money is getting there. The Charter School reimbursement piece is a moving target. The number of students is constantly changing. He is going to advocate for whatever puts more dollars in the pockets of Franklin. He knows Franklin is facing a budget deficit. He is happy to report that the House voted on the Chapter 90 money which is for road construction in Franklin. Franklin will see \$910,094 for roads. They have been successful in past years for getting earmarks for the community. He is working to make sure additional local items appear. When the budget is done in June, he will report back what extra pieces they were able to put in the budget. He reviewed the committees he has been appointed to in the House and the legislation he is looking to address. He stated it is an honor to work with the Town Council members. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to come to tonight's meeting. ► Chairman Mercer opened the meeting up to questions other than education questions. ► Town Council members thanked the presenters for all the work that they do. They asked questions, discussed, and requested funding about items including the interceptor, the Trunkline Trail bridge, opioid issues, and mental health issues. ► Mr. Hellen mentioned the progress in the Trunkline Trail and permitting process. ► Mr. Nutting stated that we are going to be the benefactor of a \$13 million state revolving fund grant for the water treatment plant which saves hundreds of thousands of dollars. He thanked them for their efforts on that behalf. Maybe they could in the future do the same kind of thing for the sewer. ► Chairman Mercer mentioned the local option taxes whether it be gas or meals. ► Mr. Hellen stated that the Town makes \$.5 million in meals tax. The Town will be facing an override in the future. If the meals tax were doubled, the Town could make another \$.5 million which would offset some of the needed funds. These little things could make a huge difference. He stated that it is $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 cent currently, not many people would notice if it were doubled. He talked about the hotel tax which goes to the roads. ► Chairman Mercer opened the meeting up to education questions. ► Ms. Anne Bergen, Chair of Franklin School Committee, thanked the legislators for coming. She discussed mental health issues and stated that what people need to realize is that the schools are on the forefront of all of that. They are the main social service agency for mental health issues in the community. She stated that we cannot fund counselors for that. We cannot get enough counselors to support emotional needs to do early intervention. She asked that given that so much of the needs are beginning in the schools, is there specific money targeted for the schools for this mental health crisis. Mental health issues are skyrocketing in the schools. She stated that they have been living with a level-service budget for several years. Special education tuition rates for out-of-district placement are rising; they are free to raise these tuitions 7 or 8 percent. Is there a way to control or put a limit on these skyrocketing tuition costs? ► Sen. Spilka stated that mental health issues in the schools are growing. They have tried to increase funding to address mental health issues. She noted that the schools do not raise their rates every year. But she will look into it. ► Ms. Denise Schultz, Vice Chair Franklin School Committee, asked about issues including addressing short, medium, and long-term out-of-district transportation reimbursement and when will the reimbursement be fully funded. There have been budget cuts to the school budget. She stated that she is frustrated that the Town is not looking at an override now. ► Sen. Spilka stated that she thinks there are bills

looking at that. Right now, the focus has been on the Chapter 70 funding formula. There are a lot of needs and demands and the money only goes so far. She stated that education drives the economy. ► Rep. Roy reviewed that the state is trying to get additional revenue. He believes in the importance of education and what it can do for the economy. ► Mr. Hellen stated that this Friday, Anita Walker will be out at the Historical Museum, as well as Sen. Spilka, Sen. Rausch, and Rep. Roy for a dedication ceremony for the Cultural District. The public is greatly welcomed. It is a huge achievement and a great event. ► Chairman Mercer thanked the legislators for coming tonight and stated that they all do great work for the Town.

Chairman Mercer call a five-minute recess.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. *Capital Budget.* ► Nothing to report.
- b. *Budget.* ► Nothing to report.
- c. *Economic Development.* ► Mr. Kelly stated that a meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2019 at 6:00 PM; Joint Budget Subcommittee is on June 19, 2019.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (continued):

- b. *Bylaw Amendment 19-838: Amendment to the Franklin Town Code at Ch. 153 Stormwater Management - 2nd Reading (Motion to Adopt Bylaw Amendment 19-838 - Majority Vote (5)).* ► **MOTION to Waive** the reading by **Padula. SECOND** by **Kelly. No Discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Adopt** Bylaw Amendment 19-838: Amendment to the Franklin Town Code at Ch. 153 Stormwater Management by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Padula. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that this will bring the Town in compliance with an NPDES Storm Water Discharge Permit regarding illicit discharges into the storm water system. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- c. *Bylaw Amendment 19-841: Municipal Service Fees - Ten Day Recycling Sticker - 2nd Reading (Motion to Adopt Bylaw Amendment 19-841-Majority Vote (5)).* ► Mr. Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Adopt** Bylaw Amendment 19-841: Municipal Service Fees - Ten Day Recycling Sticker by **Kelly. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated that this increases the fee. ► Ms. Pellegrini asked if this was for consecutive days. ► **MOTION to Amend** Bylaw Amendment 19-841: Municipal Service Fees - Ten Day Recycling Sticker to add that it is 10 consecutive days by **Pellegrini. SECOND** by **Kelly. No Discussion:** ► **VOTE (for the amendment): Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE (to adopt the bylaw amendment, as amended):** Casey-YES; Dellorco-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Earls-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated that he wanted to follow up with the Citizens Comments. He stated that he met with Ms. Kathy Mehler today. She expressed her concerns. He talked to the DPW Director. He stated that over the past 15 years, they have had a very successful water replacement program to fund the replacement of water lines and then the reconstruction of roadways, drainage, etc. within neighborhoods. This past year the DPW dug up and replaced the water lines on Skyline and other neighborhood roads. Now, they are about to work on the roads. The DPW had a meeting with the residents. The standard policy in subdivisions is that whenever possible they narrow the roads that were built in 1950s and 1960s. Subdivision roads are generally 26 ft. wide. Skyline is currently about 30 ft. wide. Narrowing the road is a cost savings, less expensive long-term maintenance, helps with water recharge, and slows people down. We have also been going from two sidewalks to one sidewalk, and in some cases on short dead-end streets, eliminating both sidewalks. He stated that when Ms. Mehler expressed her concerns, he told her he would review the entire project and get back to her by Friday. He does not think the roads will get changed. He will check into the drainage issues. The question is do we have to tweak the sidewalk plan. ► Chairman Mercer stated that his concern was that the residents were not notified. ► Ms. Pellegrini asked

what the subdivision rules and regulations regarding street width are. ► Mr. Nutting stated that narrower streets are in the subdivision bylaws. This is up to the Planning Board. ► Mr. Hellen stated that Franklin is being designated tomorrow as a Housing Choice Community. He will be at an awards ceremony with the governor tomorrow. This means for Franklin that we are much more competitive and get a bump up on capital state projects and state grants. He noted that last year the Town got to their 10 percent for affordable housing. He credited Laurie Ruzala, Water and Sewer Superintendent, in bringing the Housing Choice Community to his attention. One of the grants in this is that the Town gets .5 percent off on their SRS loans for the water treatment plant. This will save a great amount of money. There are a lot of state grants available under this, and hopefully, we will be able to apply for more in the future. He mentioned that sometime tonight the Regional Dispatch Center will be going live. The other towns went live this week. Later this week he will be sending everyone the official budget message and fiscal forecast. The budget hearings are on May 22 and May 23. If anyone wants to call to talk or set up a meeting, please do so.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Ms. Hamblen asked if the Cultural Council could come in and give an update on ArtWeek. ► Mr. Hellen stated the feedback that was received from the vendors was very positive. He would see if he could get the Cultural Council to come in.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Earls stated that he has heard concerns from residents about the mail drop-off line regarding a large boulder in the area. ► Mr. Nutting stated that the DPW moved it about three feet from the entrance last week. ► Ms. Pellegrini gave condolences for the passing of Joanne Yadisernia. She gave a birthday wish to Franklin's oldest citizen whose birthday is March 4; she was 109 years old. ► Mr. Padula thanked the legislators who came to tonight's meeting; they work hard for us and do a great job. ► Ms. Hamblen stated that on Saturday at 10:00 AM at the Jefferson Remington School there is a fun run/walk for the Franklin/Bellingham Rail Trail. This is a fundraiser; everyone should go. ► Mr. Casey thanked the legislators who came tonight. He thanked the School Committee members for their hard work. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked the legislators who came out tonight; they work very hard. He gave an update on King Street. He stated that he finally saw someone play pickle ball. Things are looking good up there. ► Mr. Jones thanked the legislators who came out tonight. Hopefully, we can do something about the deficits that we have pending. ► Mr. Kelly stated that the Veterans' Officer Dale Kurtz asked him to spread the word that the Memorial Day Breakfast is on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 9:00 AM at the Franklin Senior Center. The Town Council is expected to be there. The Memorial Day Parade is on Monday, May 27, 2019, at 10:30 AM for the typical route; there will be a 12:00 PM ceremony on the Town Common. This is the first year with the Veterans' walkway. ► Chairman Mercer reminded everyone of the dedication of the Cultural District on Friday at the Historical Museum at 3:30 PM followed by a reception at The Black Box at 4:30 PM. ► Mr. Nutting noted that most people received a yellow bag in their mail. It is a collection by the Food Pantry through the Post Office. Fill up the bag and put it out on Saturday for the collection. It will help our citizens here with the struggles that they face.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*

ADJOURN: ► **MOTION to Adjourn by Kelly. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary