

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 6, 2016**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Glenn Jones, Matthew Kelly, Peter Padula, Deborah Pellegri, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee. Councilors absent: Thomas Mercer. 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:** *March 9, 2016, March 23, 2016.* ► **MOTION** to **Approve** the March 9, 2016 meeting minutes and the March 23, 2016 meeting minutes by **Jones**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No Discussion. VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** ► Chairman Kelly announced the meeting would be recorded by *Franklin TV* and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. This meeting may also be recorded by others.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: None.**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** ► James Hill, 5 Gloucester Drive, stated that about five weeks ago a group from Sharon sent a Pipeline Forum flyer to all members of the Franklin Town Council, Conservation Commission, Board of Health and other administrators. The forum's purpose is to provide an opportunity for town leaders to gain additional information as to how the 30 in. pipeline will impact Franklin and other towns. The presentation is on Thursday, April 7, from 7:00-9:00 PM at the Sharon High School auditorium and will include knowledgeable guest panelists and speakers. He encouraged the Town Council members to attend as the pipeline is going to happen in Franklin and therefore it is very important for town leaders to have knowledge and understanding. The citizens who organized this forum presentation have spent their own money in order to inform all area town officials.

**APPOINTMENTS: None.**

**HEARINGS: None.**

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:** *Michael G. Bellotti, Sheriff, Norfolk County.* ► Sheriff Bellotti provided an overview of how the sheriff's office operates and the role of the sheriff. There are 14 sheriffs in Massachusetts, all of which are elected. They are responsible for the care and custody of all offenders who are convicted of a crime in district court. The average sentence is about three to nine months. Mr. Bellotti's average budget is about \$33 million and staff has decreased 15-18% in the past several years to about 320 employees. Sheriffs enjoy the mutual aid agreements working with community police chiefs. Sheriff's office has learned that of offenders coming in about 90% have alcohol and/or drug issues as well as other issues such as lack of housing, lack of health care, lack of mental health, lack of high school degree, and lack of vocational skills. In sheriff's office try to assess within first 14 days the deficits of each incarcerated offender. The primary issue is substance abuse. They try to match the offenders with an internal program as well as match with outside stakeholders. Sheriff's office cannot force them to go to these programs to help themselves, but offenders do receive incentive to attend with possibility of greater freedoms. Sheriff's office also has a culture of encouraging them to attend. Based on Northeastern

University research study results, for those that are in the Dedham House of Corrections, one out of three will recidivate and will be re-incarcerated within three years. But, this is very good as the national average is about 65% recidivism. Massachusetts has a very good reentry model for offenders. Mr. Bellotti mentioned the opiate abuse problem and thanked Mr. Dellorco for all his help with substance abuse programs and resources recognizing the issue. It is something that happens everywhere. Now have heroin addicts from the middle class due to evolution from pain killers. He makes sure limited resources that he has are spent in a way to connect offender to community. He stated what the Town of Franklin is doing about opiate abuse and recognizing the opiate crisis is commendable. He would like to work with Town Council in locating a youth academy. He noted the sheriff's office can be supportive and helpful. ► Mr. Dellorco stated Sheriff Bellotti does a great job. He stated the first drop-in center opened last night in Milford; next week will be in Franklin. People can come in with no obligation and councilors, police, and lawyers are there to offer help.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:** ► Mr. Bissanti stated the EDC met tonight to address the vacant/abandon housing bylaw. The biggest question going into the meeting was whether the bylaw was strong enough regarding blighted and vacant properties. He stated at this point in time he thinks it is. With attorney general's vacant housing initiative these houses are being given stern warning and after that go into receivership to be repaired and/or auctioned off. Abandon properties in residential sector have stronger law now and this initiative was passed last May. Already taken four dilapidated properties in the area and there are more out there. Very informative meeting.

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

1. **Resolution 16-17: Ratification of AFSCME Local 1298, Public Telecommunications.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-17 for Ratification of AFSCME Local 1298, Public Telecommunications by **Jones**. **SECOND** by **Padula**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated there are nine collective bargaining units. Seven of them have agreed to a three-year contract. This would be the eighth contract. The terms and conditions are very much in line with the other settlements. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
2. **Resolution 16-18: Appropriation: Elections Expenses.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-18 for Appropriation: Elections Expenses – total requested \$3,500 by **Pfeffer**. **SECOND** by **Jones**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated there was an extra-long election this fall and extra work had to be done. The budget would be a little short so a transfer of \$3,500 was requested to make ends meet. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
3. **Resolution 16-19: Appropriation: Veteran's Benefits.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-19 for Appropriation: Veteran's Benefits – amount requested \$50,000 by **Pfeffer**. **SECOND** by **Jones**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated veteran's business is up due to 15 years of war, economy, and other issues. Probably an annual event where will transfer money into veteran's benefits; 75% of this is reimbursed by the Commonwealth. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
4. **Resolution 16-20: Appropriate and Authorize the Borrowing of Funds to Pay Costs of the Purchase of Sidewalks and Related Work – 2/3 Vote.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-20 for Appropriate and Authorize the Borrowing of Funds to Pay Costs of the Purchase of Sidewalks and Related Work – 2/3 Vote by **Jones**. **SECOND** by **Padula**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated last year requested from Town Council \$50,000 to design sidewalk construction along Pleasant, Griffin, and Chestnut Streets in order to complete a long needed sidewalk program. At the time the DPW had estimated the cost at \$1,850,000. The design was done over the winter. Have gone out to bid and total cost is \$1,800,000 which is spelled out in the memo. Requesting Town Council's approval. Would come back in the next couple of years and pay off the note so there would

be no long-term borrowing. This would allow work to get going and with luck could get most of it done this year depending on weather. It would be granite curb sidewalk with bituminous. It would go from Church down to Griffin Street with a crossing light at DelCarte, a short section of Griffin road, and then on to Chestnut Street to Route 140. This was on the Master Plan as well. ► Mr. Padula said it looks like a section of this is going to be concrete where St. Mary's is. He asked the type of granite and if a crossing area could be put in at DelCarte as the sidewalk would be on the other side of the street. ► Mr. Cantoreggi, Director of Public Works, stated both on the concrete piece and bituminous it would be straight granite. ► Mr. Nutting stated money was in the budget for a crossing at DelCarte, similar to a school crossing with a light. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated she was happy this was coming to fruition; it is a good project. ► Mr. Vallee asked if Section Four of the resolution suggests that if you are short of funds you can transfer from another account. ► Mr. Nutting stated no. ► Mr. Jones said he supported this project. He understands that Pleasant and Chestnut Streets can become a raceway and this is a difficult area for pedestrians. He wants to make it as safe as it can be. ► Maxwell Morrongiello, 210 Chestnut Street, thanked Town Council for taking on this issue. It will be great for property values, pedestrians, and public safety. Believes this will greatly improve Franklin community. ► Bill Leonard, 3 Henry Lane, thanked Mr. Nutting for all his hard work with this. Chestnut and Pleasant Streets can be a raceway. This will provide a better quality of life, people will be more active, and kids can walk to DelCarte to go fishing. This is a great project; he thanked the Town and hoped the funds would be appropriated. ► Christine Apicella, 27 Padden Road, was on the Town's 2013 Master Plan Committee. She is very much in favor of this. It is consistent with the 2013 Master Plan with the goal of making Town more walkable and bike-able. It reduces the amount of driving that will be needed to access areas. It is a worthwhile investment. ► Donna Grant, 31 Longfellow Drive, noted there were two children in the audience that had gone door-to-door requesting petition signatures because they would like to have sidewalks on Pleasant and Chestnut Streets. She applauded the Town's good wisdom in voting this in tonight. ► Joanne Basile, 30 Philomena Way, stated she has children that would like to be able to walk to school; she cannot walk her dog safely to DelCarte. This will make it a safer place to raise children. ► James Hill, 5 Gloucester Drive, stated he used to live on Pleasant Street and moved years ago because it was dangerous for young children. This plan is a great idea especially for children. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

5. **Proposed FY 16 Capital Plan - Memo.** (See Discussion under Resolution 16-21.)

6. **Resolution 16-21: Appropriation: Fire Truck Stabilization Fund.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-21: Appropriation: Fire Truck Stabilization Fund – amount requested \$100,000 by **Padula**. **SECOND** by **Jones**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated they have been saving for the replacement of a fire truck. There is about \$380,000 currently in the account. This will add an additional \$100,000. If it were appropriated next year, there would be sufficient funds to replace the truck. All votes into the stabilization fund are by 2/3 vote. ► Ms. Pfeffer asked if she could read the Proposed FY 16 Capital Plan memo. ► Chairman Kelly stated yes. ► Ms. Pfeffer read the Proposed FY 16 Capital Plan memo. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

7. **Resolution 16-22: Appropriation: Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-22: Appropriation: Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund – amount requested \$200,000 by **Pfeffer**. **SECOND** by **Jones**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated there are two fields; it is known that Town will get 10-13 years out of them. So, started saving several years ago. The idea is to fund this and then spend next fall and winter going through bid process and then make final decision. Have to consider what the

infield material will be. This resolution would add \$200,000 and would allow account to get up to \$850,000. It is thought total cost will be in excess of \$1.0 million. So, will be back next year requesting the remaining balance. ► Mr. Jones stated he is glad this issue is being addressed. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Jones-YES; Kelly-YES; Padula-YES; Pellegrini-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

8. **Resolution 16-23: Appropriation: Capital, FY 16.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-23: Appropriation: Capital, FY 16 – total requested \$1,938,607.09 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Jones. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this was the plan that was presented and reviewed by the Council subcommittee and the FinCom. He noted the reduction in Free Cash from last year of approximately \$700,000. Cannot afford everything everyone asked for and had to make choices. ► Ms. Pfeffer verbally corrected an incorrectly read amount. ► Mr. Jones seconded the verbal correction as adjusted. ► Mr. Padula asked which fire station roof was to be upgraded. ► Mr. Nutting stated entire roof of Station 2 as it is 15 years old. There are a few upgrades needed in the interior roof panels as well due to the leaks and water issue. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
9. **Resolution 16-24: Appropriation: Water Enterprise Capital, FY 16.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-24: Appropriation: Water Enterprise Capital, FY 16 – total requested \$1,137,000 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Jones. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is the annual appropriation to keep the water system up-to-date. The Council over the years has been very supportive. This includes potential studies for Wells #3 and #6. ► Mr. Jones asked Mr. Nutting to explain the difference as to where this money comes from versus the money for other capital items. ► Mr. Nutting stated water and sewer are enterprise accounts which mean they are self-supporting entities on their own. All the rates that are collected from the users support the entire system including wages, salaries, benefits, retirements, as well as capital improvements. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
10. **Resolution 16-25: Appropriation: Sewer Enterprise Capital, FY 16.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-25: Appropriation: Sewer Enterprise Capital, FY 16 – total requested \$1,227,000 by **Pfeffer. SECOND** by **Jones. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this is the same explanation. ► Chairman Kelly asked Mr. Cantoreggi why security improvements are needed with the sewer. ► Mr. Cantoreggi stated the doors have not been upgraded in about 75 years and there are about 75 different keys for everything and it is very difficult to get in and out. It is all part of an asset management plan like was done with the roads and water buildings. This is the first step to upgrade the buildings; replace all the doors and lock systems. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
11. **Resolution 16-26: Appropriation: Recreation Improvements.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 16-26: Appropriation: Recreation Improvements – amount requested \$41,700 by **Padula. SECOND** by **Dellorco. Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated Ryan Jette, Director of Recreation, works on constant improvements to the fields. Request was made to make some new improvements to existing facilities using the Fletcher Trust Fund which can only be used for parks, playgrounds, and public improvements; only the interest in the fund can be used. ► Mr. Dellorco thanked Mr. Fletcher for the Trust Fund. He noted this will not cost the Town any money as it is coming out of the fund. The improvements need to be done. ► Mr. Jones stated this is short change on several things that need improvement. This is one area that goes right to the youth. Should continue to put a lot of focus on this, invest further, and continue to improve fields and recreation areas for the kids. ► Mr. Nutting stated there are other improvements that go on throughout the year that are worked out between the individual leagues and the DPW. Sometimes they cost share labor for materials. Carlos Rebelo and the group do a great job maintaining all of the fields. ► Mr. Bissanti commended the Recreation Department and said they have done a great job. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**12. Bylaw Amendment 16-757: Amending the Code of the Town of Franklin by Adding a New Chapter to Require That Property Owners Provide Notification to Public Safety Officials of the Existence of Certain Structures And/Or Uses – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. MOTION to Waive the Reading by Jones.**

**SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion. VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. MOTION to Move** Bylaw Amendment 16-757 for Amending the Code of the Town of Franklin by Adding a New Chapter to Require That Property Owners Provide Notification to Public Safety Officials of the Existence of Certain Structures And/Or Uses to second reading by **Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. Discussion.**

► Fire Chief Gary McCarraher stated this bylaw is to alert firefighters and police officers to the presence of solar panels on flat roofs. Solar panels create an electrocution hazard to firefighters. On pitched roofs the panels can be seen and the hazard can be avoided. The proposed bylaw also requires a posted placard indicating the presence of hazardous materials. He showed prototypes for the reflective decals that would be placed at a building's main entrance. He noted that currently there is a larger presence of hazardous materials in the industrial parks. ► Mr. Nutting stated this would be for commercial/industrial and multi-family if they have a flat roof. ► Mr. Jones stated he is in complete support of anything that can be done to help protect firefighters and police. He noted that solar panels cannot be shut off, they are constantly live. ► Ms. Pellegrini asked why this amendment would not be placed under the hazardous material chapter. ► Mr. Cerel stated it was his determination that the focus was on property owners to give notice to public safety. Wanted a stand-alone chapter that was obvious rather than putting it in with something else that already existed. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated she disagreed with not putting it in the hazardous material bylaw. In addition, she stated there are 13 permits for hazardous material in the Town of Franklin and this is totally wrong; there should be many more. This is important for the safety of the firefighters. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** ► Mr. Nutting stated hopefully will wrap up the budget and get it to Finance Committee in the next three or four weeks; will keep Council up-to-date. ► Downtown project has started again. Will have meeting next Tuesday and every other week. They do send emails in the middle of the day indicating a road will be closed for the next hour. Sometimes do not get much notice. ► Mr. Hellen stated the Town is now on YouTube. Today the Town signed a new contract to redesign and convert the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** ► Mr. Bissanti asked Mr. Nutting for some updates on the farm retail stand item. ► Mr. Nutting stated the staff will have a draft in about two weeks. ► Mr. Bissanti confirmed the alcohol awareness item was done. ► Ms. Pellegrini stated she has heard from some residents that live on Grey Wolf and Eagles Nest that they are having a problem/concern with the builder, Ronca. She asked if they can meet with Mr. Nutting. ► Mr. Nutting stated it is a condo-association which is a completely private property matter and the Town has no legal jurisdiction. He stated he is always happy to talk to people. They are permitted through the Planning Board and if the developer is not doing something, they need to figure out their own legal path. ► Mr. Padula asked about the progress on the playground. ► Mr. Nutting stated he and Gus Brown met with the testing company last Friday. They need to test the concrete and then by end of April/beginning of May do the repairs.

**NEW BUSINESS:** ► Ms. Pellegrini stated she would like to start a procedure for those turning 100 years old such as a proclamation and if possible an invitation to the Town Council meeting. She would take on the responsibility of finding out through the Town Clerk's office those people who are turning 100.

► Other council members stated that was a good idea.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** ► Mr. Jones stated April is autism awareness month. He noted the Franklin Police Department has posted new forms on the website to help assist first responders in interactions with persons in the autism spectrum. He stated he met with the Town Administrator and Steve Sherlock of Franklin Matters in improving communication. He stated Mr. Hellen has been doing a great job

implementing these new changes and he thanked Mr. Sherlock. ► Mr. Dellorco gave a shout out to District Attorney Michael Morrissey for Representative Roy, himself, and others from the SAFE Coalition to go to Atlanta for the summit. He said we have problems up here, but there are problems everywhere. They have it really bad in the south. Opening first drop-in center on April 14. If any kids need help, come in. ► Mr. Bissanti stated initiatives put through tonight made him proud to be part of this Council. He noted he and Mr. Dellorco will be doing three proclamations for the Eagle Scouts at the Methodist Church. These young men and their parents should be commended for the great things they are doing for the Town and they will be great successes in life. ► Ms. Pfeffer stated the lottery was held for the two affordable houses. There were seven people in the lottery; the most so far. There were four qualified families and two Franklin residents each found a house and now in process of getting their mortgages. The library had a going away party last Friday and this Friday will be the last day they are opened until they reopen at 25 Kenwood Circle in May. Right now the new parking lot is dark; hopefully it will be lighter. ► Ms. Pellegrini commended Roger Calarese and his crew for taking down the building as they are so neat. She thanked Steve Sherlock as he has been taking pictures throughout the Town of everything that has been going on and can find photos on his website.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.**

**ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Jones. SECOND by Dellorco. VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi  
Recording Secretary