

# Town of Franklin

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

## Memorandum

June 16, 2020

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator

**Re: Resolution 20-39: MECC Stabilization Fund**

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The Metacomet Emergency Communications Center (MECC) is a Regional 911 center dispatching for the towns of Franklin, Norfolk, Plainville and Wrentham. In FY21 a merger is anticipated of the Mendon/Millville regional dispatch center into the Metacomet Emergency Communications Center (MECC) on January 1, 2021. This move will save \$670,553 in operating capacity on the municipal side.

A stabilization fund is needed to allow for the reintroduction of a full year assessment for the MECC in FY25. This assessment may be in the order of \$1.5 million. A stabilization fund is needed in order to save the money to phase back in that large of a budget line item over one to three years. A portion of the savings from the state grant will be deposited each year to save up for this.

The stabilization fund will also be available for transitory capital and operational costs for the Fire and Police Departments. As public safety communications infrastructure continues to evolve and as we continue to evolve in public safety operations, a fund to use the savings from the public safety regional dispatch makes sense to have set aside. As an example to this, this past year the Town needed to appropriate almost \$300,000 to adjust our fiber communications network due to the copper lines being pulled out by cable companies. Another example are one time funding sources for grants to offset personnel costs, but then are required to come back onto the operating budget when the one time revenues dry up. Ultimately, this gives public safety much more flexibility and is a sound financial policy.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to ask.



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN**

**RESOLUTION 20 - 39**

**Creation of MECC/Public Safety Stabilization Fund, as Authorized by  
G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5B and Transfer of Funds Thereto**

**WHEREAS,** G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5B authorizes a municipality to create a stabilization fund for a specified purpose and to appropriate amounts thereto, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Franklin has need for a special purpose stabilization fund to allow it to accumulate funds to pay the assessments which will be due from the Town to Metacomet Emergency Communications Center (MECC) to fund its operations, as well as to accumulate funds to pay unanticipated capital and operating expenses of Town Police Department and/or Fire Department,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT VOTED** by the Franklin Town Council that:

1. As authorized by G.L. Chapter 40, Section 5B, a special purpose stabilization fund to be known as "MECC/Public Safety Stabilization Fund" is hereby created; the purpose(s) for said stabilization fund shall be to accumulate funds to pay the assessment(s) which will be due from Town to the Metacomet Emergency Communications Center (MECC) to fund MECC's operations and/or to accumulate funds for Town to pay any unanticipated Town Police Department and/or Fire Department capital and operating expenses.
2. The sum of \$447,355 is hereby transferred from account 01225200 Regional Dispatch to the MECC/Public Safety Stabilization Fund.

This resolution shall become effective on and after July 1, 2020.

**DATED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2020

**VOTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNANIMOUS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:**

**YES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ABSTAIN:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ABSENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECUSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teresa M. Burr, CMC**  
**Town Clerk**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Glenn Jones, Clerk**  
**Franklin Town Council**