

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 25, 2023**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at the Municipal Building, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, MA. Councilors present: Brian Chandler, Theodore Cormier-Leger, Robert Dellorco, Cobi Frongillo, Melanie Hamblen, Glenn Jones, Thomas Mercer, Deborah Pellegrini, Patrick Sheridan. Councilors absent: None. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER: ► Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chair Mercer called for a moment of silence. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ► Chair Mercer reviewed the following as posted on the agenda. A Note to Residents: All citizens are welcome to attend public board and committee meetings in person. Meetings are live-streamed by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. In an effort to maximize citizen engagement opportunities, citizens will be able to continue to participate remotely via phone or Zoom. He announced that this meeting is being recorded by Franklin TV; this meeting may be recorded by others.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Mr. Stephen Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive and Franklin Matters and Franklin TV, stated that they had a cable problem last night and are watching to make sure that does not happen again tonight. He noted the Zoom feed is fine and a live recording is being made. He explained how to get to the YouTube recording. He stated there is also an audio recording of the meeting.

HEARINGS: 7:00pm. ► *FY24 Town Council Annual Operating Budget Hearing.* ► Chair Mercer declared the continuation of the first public hearing on the FY24 Town Council Annual Operating Budget open. He stated that they ended off with the schools last evening; they will continue with the next department held.

► Hold on Line Item 422: DPW. ■ Councilor Chandler stated that last year they spent \$12,000 on chemicals, and this year it is up to \$100,000. He stated that he is glad they are hiring a fleet manager as there are so many vehicles now. He asked that the fleet manager present before the Town Council in the future. ■ Director of Public Works Brutus Cantoreggi and Ms. Kathy Mooradd, financial manager for DPW, addressed the Town Council. ■ Mr. Cantoreggi stated that they buy a lot of chemicals. He stated that this is under snow and ice. He explained that now they use a liquid system as a pre-treatment. He explained how this chemical is used and its benefits and that the cost of this chemical went up. He stated that they have over 230 registered vehicles and that they maintain every vehicle for the Town. He stated that they used to have four mechanics, but now they have only three. He noted that outsourcing has become very expensive. ■ Chair Mercer stated that they have one of the busiest departments, and DPW affects every resident in the community in one way or the other. He asked about the biggest initiatives and projects, about the Beaver Street interceptor project, and about trash pickup. ■ Mr. Cantoreggi stated that last year was one of the busiest years as they got several funding sources from the government. He stated that the infrastructure needs to be maintained. He reviewed projects including that this year they put a water line in on Arlington. He explained that Grove Street is a really big project. He stated that they did a traffic signal; they are waiting for a signal head, and it has been 23 weeks. It should be going up soon. He stated that it will improve the traffic flow and make the area safer. They are going to do some mill and overlay on Union Street. They are going to do some mill and overlay with their own machine with the DPW staff on the parade route. They fix any loose castings. They are continuing with sidewalk replacements in downtown. He stated that they are continuing with the sewer linings to get the leaks out of them. He stated that they are going to work on the interceptor; they got their permit from DOT to go

dig up Rt. 140. They are meeting with the contractor. The main construction will start late summer and fall. He noted the Beaver Street complex and the work they have been doing there. He noted a rededication for the Sculpture Park and the work they have been doing there. He stated they have been doing expansion of the parking lot at the rail trail. He reviewed the Nason Street rehab project including fencing and hydroseeding. He stated that there is a lot of collaboration and funding sources to do these. He noted that DelCorte is a great place now. He explained what we might see regarding the Beaver Street interceptor. He explained that they are putting in a big pipe, and it will cause problems and inconvenience for people regarding Rt. 140 traffic. He stated that they are going to put out a lot of information about this, and they will be as accommodating as they can. This project has to be done. ■Mr. Derek Adams, environmental affairs coordinator, stated that regarding trash, there have been long truck lines at the Millbury center, so it is a matter of waiting. ■Councilor Jones stated that it is disheartening to see all the price increases due to inflation. He asked about Line Item 424: DPW-Street Lighting. ■Mr. Hellen stated it is coming off. That account is down \$100,000 due to the LED lights conversion, and they are blending it into the entire DPW budget. ■Councilor Frongillo stated that we are a Tree City. He noted inflation increases the cost of taking care of the town. He stated that this comes and goes as we look for opportunities for efficiencies. He discussed composting. He said he is wondering where we are at for thinking about town-wide composting to divert food waste out of trash. He asked about pay-as-you-throw policies being an opportunity to reduce weight. ■Mr. Cantoreggi stated that they have been talking about it for years. He stated that when they develop the recycling center, they will be looking at considering this. This would reduce our tonnage going to Wheelabrator, but it would require additional carts and other items to consider regarding this item. He stated that people would rather have the system that we have rather than pay-as-you-throw. He stated that we encourage recycling. He stated that most budgets are about 90 percent personnel; his budget is only about 37 percent personnel with the rest as expenses. Inflation drove everything this year. He stated that for instance it costs over \$100 per ton to get rid of the comingled recycling; years ago, we used to get paid for that. It is cheaper to burn it. He stated that glass is the hardest to get rid of in the comingled. ■Councilor Hamblen mentioned the collaboration in the downtown bridge; the DPW picked up the trash and delivered the mulch. She asked about the stormwater utility fee that is going into effect and if the money it generates will pay for the unfunded mandate for the permit. ■Mr. Cantoreggi stated that he has a solid staff at the DPW. He stated that the stormwater utility fee will not cover it all. ■Councilor Dellorco asked if the DPW is short any staff. He reviewed that Mass Water and DOT just gave their mechanic staff a big raise; it is something we will run into in the future. ■Mr. Cantoreggi stated they are down three people. ■Mr. Hellen stated that they just filled one of the slots with an experienced person. ■Councilor Pellegri stated that the School Department is already doing composting. She asked how would we take care of the rats and animals. ■Mr. Cantoreggi explained that you need to get the right site. He commented that at a minimum, we have at a minimum of \$140M of infrastructure that we have to repair. ■Mr. Stephen Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive, stated appreciation of the collaboration of the priming of the electrical boxes that are being painted.

►Hold on Line Item 541: Council on Aging. ■Director Danielle Hopkins and Deputy Director Sarah Amaral addressed the Town Council. ■Chair Mercer thanked Ms. Hopkins for her presentation earlier this year. He stated that the Center is more vibrant probably due to leadership. He asked her to describe how the new van will service the community. ■Ms. Hopkins stated they will be getting a new van; this will be their only van. She noted that they have GATRA also. She stated that regarding the van, they will be able to do field trips and senior days. She stated that they have a supportive day program, and this will be a service that they can have for door to door, and they can do medical appointments. ■Councilor Jones stated that he is happy with the work done at the Senior Center. ■Councilor Pellegri stated that she loves the Senior Center. She stated that there are many out-of-town people there. She asked about using the bus for medical appointments. ■Ms. Hopkins discussed how they will add in medical appointments. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger thanked them for all they do. He stated that it is a community place. ■Councilor Dellorco asked if there will be any volunteers for the driving. ■Ms. Hopkins said that they planned the budget for a part-time driver, but it should be a full-time driver with an administrative

assistant to coordinate. ■Councilor Hamblen thanked them for the work they do. She asked about the Senior Olympics. ■Ms. Hopkins stated that Senior Olympics will be a two-week event from June 12 to June 23, with 18 events, and the last day is a barbeque and award ceremony. She stated that they are always looking for volunteers.

►Hold on Line Item 610: Library. ■Councilor Frongillo stated that there are many people who do not go to the library, and they miss out on how important the library is. People who go to the library use it for so many things: it takes care of our kids, and it takes care of our teens. He stated that there are always opportunities to be better. He asked how they think about their vision of where they would like to be. ■Library Director Felecia Oti and Youth Services Librarian Caleigh Keating addressed the Town Council. ■Ms. Oti stated that they have a wish list. She stated that they have a five-year strategic plan. She stated that she is aware that many people do not use the library. She stated that the footprint of the library has increased, but staffing levels have stayed the same, and programming is up. She stated that they almost do 120 programs a month. ■Ms. Keating explained that they are in the middle schools every week; they bring carts of book to the schools. They promote a culture of reading. ■Ms. Oti stated that library visits have increased. She stated that summer is the busiest time of year. She stated that the building is already too small, and Ms. Keating is going to run all of her programs outside. She stated that Dean College has offered their facilities for programs when it rains. She discussed the increase in programming. She stated that they need more professional staff. She stated that Ms. Keating is a department of two. She talked about the strategic plan. She stated that people want the programs to go to them. She stated that some people do not have the means to get to the library. She stated that they need more money to keep the collections current. She stated that they are here to meet the needs of the people. She stated that they also need to expand their hours. She stated that with a little more money, they could be open seven days. ■Councilor Frongillo stated that Ms. Keating has made a large impact on the town. He stated that we need more money. ■Mr. Hellen noted making the investment for full-time folks with higher level education degrees. He stated that this has been a critical piece. ■Councilor Jones asked about the state's requirement for funding. ■Mr. Hellen reviewed the minimum requirement that satisfies the state from putting the town on the waiver list regarding the library. ■Councilor Jones asked what else the library would want. ■Ms. Keating stated an outdoor play area for families. ■Councilor Sheridan suggested programs in different languages. ■Ms. Keating discussed that in the past, they have done some bi-lingual story times. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger stated that he would hope there will be some collaboration with the schools. ■Ms. Keating explained the current collaboration. ■Councilor Chandler stated that Ms. Oti has a great staff. He noted that Ms. Oti's budget went down, and he appreciates that. ■Mr. Stephen Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive, stated that a problem is that the library's calendar and Senior Center's calendar are so big that they cannot fit into the community calendar. He stated that there are five calendars for people to look at to see what is going on.

►Hold on Line Item 630: Recreation. ■Chair Mercer stated that he held this department because he thinks it is important for the community to hear what is going on at the Recreation Department. ■Recreation Director Ryan Jette stated that he is having the busiest year that he can remember, and revenues continue to be impressive. He stated that they have signed up over 6,300 kids this year so far. He stated that they have some great projects being worked on. ■Councilor Dellorco stated that we have a good youth sports organization in town. He stated that he thinks Mr. Jette is the best recreational director in the state. ■Councilor Jones confirmed that the Recreation Department is still the only budget line item that is self-funded. ■Mr. Jette stated that there are three full-time staff members. ■Chair Mercer stated that the collaboration with the schools is a great thing. ■Councilor Hamblen noted that Mr. Jette and his staff take care of the community garden. ■Mr. Jette reviewed some of his CPA projects. ■Stacey, resident (via Zoom), thanked the Recreation Department for all they do.

►Hold on Line Item 695: Cultural Council. ■Councilor Jones asked about the increase. ■Mr. Hellen stated that they have been trying to work on this for a few years. He stated that if they are going to have a

town cultural festival, they should have some level of funding and seed money rather than having the volunteers do all the fundraising work. He stated that if approved, a public arts director would oversee all of this. This is just a small investment. He explained that with the competing demands, this is having everyone getting a little something in the budget. ■Councilor Jones noted that the cultural festival would not be returning this year. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger stated that the need is there, and it is nice to see the dollars put forth from the Town for the arts. He discussed the importance of the grants. ■Ms. Kaye Kelly, resident, said thank you for the extra \$10,000. She reviewed the requests that are put in for grants. She stated that they are calling it an intermission regarding the festival. She stated that she just could not do it this year. She stated that hopefully, they will regain the volunteers that they need; she hopes the festival is something that they can come back to.

►Chair Mercer stated that concludes all the held departments. He stated that they are required to have two public hearings on the budget. He stated that he declared the continuation of the first public hearing on the FY24 Town Council Annual Operating Budget closed.

►Chair Mercer stated that he declared the second public hearing on the FY24 Town Council Annual Operating Budget open.

►Chair Mercer stated that he is going to do this differently. They are not going line item by line item, department by department. He is going to reach out to the Town Council and ask them if they have any questions on any departments that were not asked last night that they would like to ask during this second public hearing. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger asked for a follow up to the question asked to the School Department last night about the balance in the reserves at the end of FY23 and FY24. He asked how many vacancies are in the School Department for FY23. ■Superintendent of Schools Lucas Giguere and Ms. Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator, addressed the Town Council. ■Ms. Goodman reviewed that FY23 revolving accounts anticipate ending somewhere in the \$8.1M range which does not include food service which is self-sustaining. She stated that the FY24 year end is anticipated to be about \$5.9M. She stated that we have \$7.1M anticipated to be used toward the FY24 budget, and we will also pick up about \$4.7M in FY24. She explained how the fund gets the money. She stated that revolving accounts are established through Mass General Law. She stated that they are fee-based accounts. So, money is charged to participants for a fee such as athletics, extracurricular activities, and transportation, and the money goes into the account. She explained that the \$8.1M surplus is not in the school budget. She stated that you set the budget on an annual basis and whatever we do not spend at the end of the year would fall to free cash and go into the towns general fund at the end of the year. She reviewed that the revolving accounts revolve from year to year; the money raised in the account is used to offset particular line items within the budget. She stated that at the beginning of the year they had far more vacancies and they filled some over the year. She does not know how many there are right now. ■Chair Mercer explained that the question may be has there been a surplus that has gone back to free cash. ■Ms. Goodman stated that generally, they try to minimize the surplus going back to free cash. She stated that they try to spend the budget that is allocated to them. ■Councilor Cormier-Leger asked about the pink slips that went out. He asked about the arts and music cuts. ■Mr. Giguere stated that he could share broadly. He stated that they did not renew 24 members. He stated that 10 were involuntary transfers due to movement and contractual seniority. He stated that the second part of the question is if any funding were received, would we bring back staff. He stated that they would look to bring back some staff. He stated that some of the decisions to not renew were enrollment driven. He talked about the arts and music cuts. He stated that unfortunately, they have to make tough decisions. He stated that they look at enrollment first. He stated that for music, it is a supportive community that is looking out for every interest. He stated that our goal is not to remove programming. He noted the 24 staff member cuts. He stated that he would say to the music folks that he is cognizant of the impacts of the cuts and this is tough. He explained that there is a finite amount of money that we are working with. He stated that the money they have is not enough to do the job the way it should be done. ■Councilor Frongillo stated that he

wanted to give them the opportunity to address some of the questions he has been hearing. He reviewed that the budgets for the next few years are unsustainable and are larger than the amount of money we bring in. He stated that we need to fund our schools. He asked them to speak about the notion of sustainability of the current budget. He stated that another question he hears is about efficiencies and is looking at facilities to house the number of expected students. ■Mr. Giguere stated that it has been made clear to him the consternation on the teacher contract. He stated that whether people agree or not, the decision to bargain with the teachers and support the teachers ended with the agreement. He stated that the messaging has been made clear to him about this. He reviewed how they developed their budget for this year. He reviewed the idea of trying to keep an organization going with high quality people, and they want the best, and that was the attempt to do that. He reviewed efficiencies and discussed that they did a redistricting analysis. He stated that they had a report that came out after the Davis-Thayer closure. He stated that at the end of the redistricting analysis, it seemed like a longer-term plan to analyze each of their facilities. So, we are not moving kids yet because we do not want to do this twice. We know that the report did not include how we used specialized programs. He stated that they need to analyze what are our needs. He stated that when looking at enrollment, within 2.5 to 3 years they are going to have the same number of kids they have now in elementary school. ■Councilor Sheridan asked about the timeline for pink slips. ■Mr. Giguere reviewed the contractual obligation and the timing of the pink slips. ■Councilor Jones asked what can the School Committee do to reach out to legislators to address unfunded mandates. ■Mr. Hellen discussed unfunded mandates. He stated that they are incredibly difficult and challenging to fix. ■Chair Mercer stated that unfunded mandates are nothing new. He stated that he applauds the Franklin School system for working on the collaboratives and the inclusionary piece within the system. ■Councilor Pellegrini asked about the \$8.1M in the revolving account. ■Ms. Goodman stated they use revolving funds to supplement the budget. She reviewed how funds may fall to free cash. ■Mr. Stephen Sherlock, 10 Lawrence Drive, stated that he wanted to provide a historical perspective. He reviewed the 2008 joint meeting between Town Council and School Committee due to a reporting issue. He thanked Ms. Goodman for her hard work and said happy retirement. ■Ms. Oti thanked the schools for the parking and the great communication between the library and schools. ■Mr. Giguere thanked Ms. Goodman for her work and wished her happy retirement.

■Councilor Frongillo asked the Facilities Department about the flooding they had this year at the Senior Center. He asked about investments that could be made to prevent large expenses like those. ■Director of Franklin Public Facilities Michael D'Angelo explained how MIIA pays the bills, how everything gets fixed, and how MIIA usually sues after an incident. He reviewed the cause of the Senior Center flood. He reviewed the three incidents at the school that happened over seven years and that MIIA sued the contractors for that. ■Mr. Hellen stated that MIIA is a great insurance company. He noted that there is a lot of facility in this community and only \$3.5M available. ■Town Attorney Mark Cerel stated that you do the best you can, and it depends on the circumstances, which is why you carry insurance, because you cannot possibly predict everything, and you minimize your risk by maintaining your buildings.

►Chair Mercer stated that he will declare the second public hearing on the FY24 Town Council Annual Operating Budget closed. He stated that he would like to turn it over to Mr. Hellen. ►Mr. Hellen stated that the public hearings are done, the voting document and the resolutions are on the agenda. There is another public hearing scheduled for tonight. He stated people have asked him where they go from here. He stated the cherry sheets have not been released yet. He stated that if everyone is in agreement, they can move forward with his suggested budget adjustments/recommendations. He reviewed the state's legislative process and that they are usually obligated to deliver a budget by June 30. He stated that the assumptions used will be based on the Senate budget. He reviewed that the Capital Budget Subcommittee already approved the gear for this year for police and fire; we are talking about next year. He reviewed his suggested budget recommendations and the additional funds for the School Department. He discussed the required two-thirds authorization for the MECC stabilization account and stated that it is an item that needs to be put on the agenda which means you need 48 hours to put out. He noted that additional

adjustments can be made all the way through November. He stated that he has always said to the School District, if there is some sort of funding or something that pops up, they just need to walk next door and ask and talk to him, and they will talk to the Finance Department. He stated that the \$1.8M increase and some of the other things they are working on over the summer can provide at least a significant amount of relief for some of the issues they have heard over the last couple of days. He recommended voting on the voting document as is. Then, on June 7, we will put two resolutions on the agenda to modify the document and the budget amendment from what is being voted tonight to update the number including for the MECC. ► Chair Mercer stated that this is plan B that we continue to talk about. It certainly gets us to a number that is consistent with what we have been able to do for the past four or five years. He thanked Mr. Hellen.

HEARINGS: 7:00pm (continued). ► **Bylaw Amendment 23-897: Sewer Rate Increase.** ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing open. ► Mr. Hellen stated that this has been discussed. We are required to do this. This is the final and second vote for a three-year sewer rate increase to pay for the 109-year-old Beaver Street interceptor replacement. ► Chair Mercer declared the public hearing closed.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

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

- a. **Resolution 23-33: Adoption of the FY24 Budget (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-33 - Majority Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-33: Adoption of the FY24 Budget by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Councilor Frongillo stated that he wanted to speak to the adjustments because they are important, and this is the process at work. He discussed that these sessions are to scrutinize what Mr. Hellen put forward and make adjustments as necessary. He stated that we are lucky to have Mr. Hellen. ► Chair Mercer thanked the town administrator, the superintendent of schools, the entire School Department, the entire municipal part of our government, and every department head and staff member for the work that goes in to putting together a \$150M budget. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- b. **Resolution 23-34: Salary Schedule: Full-Time Elected Official - Town Clerk. (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-34 - Majority Roll Call Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-34: Salary Schedule: Full-Time Elected Official - Town Clerk by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is required by law that the Town Council approve the salary for this elected official. This salary increase is commensurate at 2.5 percent with other Town employees. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- c. **Resolution 23-35: Departmental FY24 Expenditure Limits, Town Code Chapter 73, MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-35 - Majority Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-35: Departmental FY24 Expenditure Limits, Town Code Chapter 73, MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 by **Dellorco. SECOND** by **Hamblen. Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is required by statute to reauthorize every year; these are the same limits that have been in Town bylaw for many years. ► Councilor Cormier-Leger provided a review of a revolving fund. He confirmed that the balances in the accounts at the end of the year just stay there and get used for the same purposes the next year. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- d. **Resolution 23-23: Approval of FY24 Community Preservation Annual Budget (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-23 - Majority Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve**

Resolution 23-23: Approval of FY24 Community Preservation Annual Budget by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is the approved recommended budget from the CPC for the year. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

- e. **Resolution 23-24: FY24 Community Preservation Appropriation of Debt Service Funds – Maple Hill and Schmidt Farm (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-24 - Majority Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the resolution. ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-24: FY24 Community Preservation Appropriation of Debt Service Funds – Maple Hill and Schmidt Farm by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is required payment. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- f. **Resolution 23-25: FY24 Community Preservation Appropriation of Capital Funds (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-25 - Majority Vote).** ► **MOTION to Waive** the reading by **Cormier-Leger**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-25: FY24 Community Preservation Appropriation of Capital Funds by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that he requests a last-minute amendment to this to take off the Nason Street Tot Lot. This is good news as the project is done. The money will go back in the budgeted reserve. We do not need the \$25,000. He stated that the Nason Street Tot Lot opens on Wednesday, May 31, at 5 PM. ► **MOTION to Amend** Resolution 23-25: FY24 Community Preservation Appropriation of Capital Funds to remove the \$25,000 allocation to reduce the total amount by **Frongillo**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No discussion.** ► **VOTE (on the amendment): Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **VOTE (on the amended motion of Resolution 23-25): Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- g. **Bylaw Amendment 23-897: Sewer Rate Increase - Second Reading (Motion to Approve Bylaw Amendment 23-897 - Majority Roll Call Vote).** ► Councilor Jones read the bylaw amendment. ► **MOTION to Approve** Bylaw Amendment 23-897: Sewer Rate Increase by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Councilor Pellegri asked how can we predict what it is going to be. She asked why we are not doing one year. ► Mr. Hellen explained that the financing is set; the application had to lay out the costs for the entire project. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE: Chandler-YES; Cormier-Leger-YES; Dellorco-YES; Frongillo-YES; Hamblen-YES; Jones-YES; Mercer-YES; Pellegri-YES; Sheridan-YES.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- h. **Resolution 23-36: Authorizing the Borrowing of Money to Pay Costs Associated with Designing, Constructing and Equipping a PFAS Treatment Facility at the Well 7/7A Site (DWSRF 12544) (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-36 - ⅔ Majority Vote).** ► **MOTION to Waive** the reading by **Cormier-Leger**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-36: Authorizing the Borrowing of Money to Pay Costs Associated with Designing, Constructing and Equipping a PFAS Treatment Facility at the Well 7/7A Site (DWSRF 12544) by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Hellen stated that this is the same thing we talked about a few weeks ago. He stated that we need to do both of these votes as required by code to send to DEP for approval. ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
- i. **Resolution 23-37: Authority for Town Administrator to File Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Application (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-37 - ⅔ Majority Vote).** ► **MOTION to Waive** the reading by **Cormier-Leger**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-37: Authority for Town Administrator to File Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Application by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Hamblen**. **Discussion:** ► Councilor Frongillo asked for a quick summary of this. ► Mr. Hellen stated that we are being required by the Commonwealth and/or EPA to upgrade for the PFAS regulations which is a forever chemical. This loan application is for a \$6.5M upgrade to our wells to make them more PFAS

compliant. He noted that the Town Council is sending a letter regarding the unfunded mandate.

► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

- j. **Resolution 23-38: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4 (Motion to Approve Resolution 23-39 - Majority Vote).** ► **MOTION to Waive** the reading by **Cormier-Leger. SECOND by Dellorco. No discussion.** ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**
 ► **MOTION to Approve** Resolution 23-38: Cable Funds in Support of PEG Service and Programming per MGL Ch. 44, §53F3/4 by **Dellorco. SECOND by Hamblen. No discussion.**
 ► **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Hellen thanked all of the councilors for their support and all for an incredible job on the budget. He stated that tomorrow is the Memorial Day breakfast from 9 AM to 11 AM. He noted the parade on Monday.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Capital Budget Subcommittee.** None
- b. **Economic Development Subcommittee.** None.
- c. **Budget Subcommittee.** None.
- d. **GATRA Advisory Board.** ► Councilor Frongillo said that he would provide a GATRA update at the next meeting. He stated that he would speak to Arts and Culture. He stated that they had their third and final listening session, and they are now working on organizing all the thoughts they collected.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: ► Councilor Pellegri stated that they should look at the Town Council rules and regulations so the hearings do not go on to midnight.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Councilor Cormier-Leger thanked everyone who came out to the third Arts and Culture tour. He stated welcome to PCI, a company that just opened a gigantic mail facility in Franklin. He gave condolences to the Gaspar family. He stated that he is looking forward to attending the breakfast tomorrow. He stated that this was not an easy two days, but he thinks we can feel good about where we are and where we are going. ► Councilor Chandler stated they did a good job on the budget and it was a lot of work. He thanked all of the department heads and their people. ► Councilor Pellegri thanked all the department heads and their people; it was a difficult budget. ► Councilor Sheridan gave condolences to the Gaspar family. He asked everyone to remember those who gave their lives for this country. ► Councilor Frongillo stated that he wanted to add on the note of cultural grants and investments. He received a grant to pilot a local movie theater experience to bring that back; their second film is on Tuesday at 7 PM at The Black Box theater. ► Councilor Hamblen thanked all for their work on the budget. She stated that she was trying to process all the feelings and emotions that happened last night and that usually around this time in the term she critiques herself to see if she is being effective. She stated that today, she thought why did I move to Franklin. She stated that she has been here 13 years. She stated that she came here for the open space and the low tax rate. She stated that now she knows what a low tax rate means. She discussed the budget and that it is a struggle to get all the things done. She thought about what they learned last night. She stated that they learned when they are out of their comfort zone. She stated that the administrators are fearful that they cannot sustain this. She stated that the conversations they had help everyone understand where they all stand, and she thanked Councilor Frongillo and Mr. Giguere for what they said. She stated that she wants to validate feelings so they can move forward as a team. She stated that they can get tough things done. ► Councilor Jones stated that this has been his fifteenth budget. He stated that he is happy and proud of everyone who stepped up during this budget season. He noted that his son received an award for best actor. He noted the eighth grader who spoke last night about the importance of music was his daughter, and he congratulated her. He explained that every part of our system matters to someone. He stated that at the end of the day, they have to make

some tough decisions, but he thinks they did a good job. He explained the valuation of the town is that it is a \$4.6B community. ► Councilor Dellorco thanked everyone on the budget process and stated that now they have to fix it. He noted the veterans' breakfast for tomorrow. He encouraged everyone to thank the veterans especially those who never made it home. He stated that on July 3, Franklin Rod and Gun is having a fishing derby. He reviewed the cost and food provided. He stated that every kid gets a trophy no matter the size of the fish. ► Chair Mercer offered condolences to the Gaspar family for their tragic loss. He thanked all involved for their work on the budget. He stated that the budget is the most important thing that we do. He stated his concerns for the entire community is the sustainability of where we are and how we move forward. He stated that he is looking forward to working together with the joint budget subcommittee in putting together a strategic financial plan as we move forward for the next three to five years for what we need to be looking at and what we may or may not need for an override, but these are things that we have to develop a plan for. He stated that he thinks we are in a good place; we have worked hard over the past couple of days as a council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: ► MOTION to Adjourn by Hamblen. SECOND by Jones. No Discussion. ► VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary