

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 4, 2012**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present; Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Glenn Jones, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Judith Pfeffer, Tina Powderly, Jeff Roy, Robert Vallee. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting; Town Administrator, Mark Cerel; Town Attorney and Maxine Kinhart; Assistant to the Town Administrator. Other officials present: Robert A. Cantoreggi; Director of Department of Public Works, Gary B. McCarraher; Fire Chief, Paul J. Sharpe, Jr.; Deputy Fire Chief.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Vallee called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *January 4, 2012 Regular Session, March 21, 2012 Executive Session Minutes* **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to approve all minutes **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** ► Chairman Vallee read a letter authored by the Council thanking the citizens of Franklin for having the wisdom to approve the construction of the New Franklin High School Project. Special thanks went out to Councilor Tom Mercer and all the citizen volunteers for all they did to promote the project. ► Chairman Vallee announced Comcast, Verizon and Franklin Matters would record the Town Council meeting.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** Department of Public Works Director, Robert A. Cantoreggi had two announcements: first, roadwork on Route 140 will begin on Monday, April 9, 2012 and will last for 4 – 5 weeks and second, implementation of the water conservation plan will begin on April 17, 2012.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: NONE. APPOINTMENTS: NONE. HEARINGS: NONE  
LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: NONE**

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:** *Fire Department* – Gary McCarraher; Fire Chief & Paul J. Sharpe, Jr.; Deputy Fire Chief provided the Council with an update on the Department's performance, fleet, personnel, staffing levels and challenges. The Department currently operates with 56 employees, which include 44 firefighter/paramedics, 1 fire prevention officer, 4 full-time dispatchers, 4 part-time dispatchers, 1 part-time billing clerk and 2 chief officers. Performance measures have stabilized with approximately 3,400 incidents per year of which, 1,100 of these were medical incidents. 1,600 of the 3,400 incidents were "simultaneous" – meaning the first incident was not "cleared" before the second incident was called. One of the challenges the Department faces, are the increased use of over-time pay to cover shifts where a firefighter/paramedic is absent due to injury. As the firefighters/paramedics age, there is a greater likelihood of being injured. Over-time pay costs the Town \$500,000 per year. Hiring four additional firefighter/paramedics are estimated to cost the Town \$340,000. Chief McCarraher said the Department has applied for a federal grant which would cover the pay and benefits for four additional firefighter/paramedics for a period of two years. The money the Department would save during the two year time period on over-time pay as well as the use of a Regional Dispatch, would allow the Department to sustain the additional staff after the grant expired. Another challenge the department

faces is the replacement of the older, no longer reliable ambulances, fire trucks and other Fire Department vehicles. ► Councilor Pfeffer stated during the Capital Budget Meeting held earlier in the evening, the Capital Budget plan is to increase the funding for Fire Department equipment from \$125,000 to \$150,000 per year so that \$50,000 can be set aside to fund future fire trucks. Chairman Vallee and the Council thanked Chief McCarraher and Deputy Chief Sharpe.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: *Economic Development Committee*** - Councilor Jones announced the Town of Franklin's 2012 Economic Development Summit will take place on April 5, 2012 from 8:30-11:00AM at 9 Forge Park. This year's summit title is "Business Expansion and Retention through Work Force Development". All are invited to attend. Please RSVP to the Town Planning Director, Bryan Taberner at (508) 520-4907.

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:**

**Resolution 12-11: 2012 Enterprise Funds Capital – Appropriation \$535,000:** Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution transferring/appropriating \$220,000 from Water Retained Earnings; and transferring/appropriating \$315,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings to be expended at the discretion of the Town Administrator for the FY 2012 Enterprise Funds Capital Improvement Plan as outlined.

**MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to move Resolution 12-11 **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said the funding will be used to purchase a new vehicle and a used dump truck to be shared by the Water and Sewer Departments. Funding will also be used to pay for the partial demolition of the old DPW Building, which is dilapidated and has on-going environmental issues.

► Councilor Powderly clarified the reason the Enterprise funds could be utilized as the purchased equipment will be used by more than one department. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Resolution 12-22: FY 2012 Capital Improvement Plan – Total Requested \$1,907,500:** Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to transfer/appropriate funds for the 2012 Capital Improvement Plan.

**MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said the goal of the resolution was to allow the Town to keep up with equipment, supplies and other infrastructure improvements and had been vetted by both the Capital Improvement Subcommittee and the Council. ► Councilor Powderly asked for clarification on \$60,000 to be spent on improvements to the Transfer Station. Councilor Pfeffer said all of the improvements are designed to spruce up the Transfer Station area. Planned improvements to the Transfer Station include: replacement of the existing rusted fence, repairs to the guardrail, planting of trees and a new compactor. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Resolution 12-23: Appropriation for the Library - \$50,000:** **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to waive the rules to allow Resolution 12-23 to be added to the agenda **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly.

**VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash: \$10,000 for the purpose of Library Salaries and \$40,000 for Books & Publications.

**MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Resolution 12-23 **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said the Town had applied for a waiver from the Library Commission. The waiver request will be decided on April 5, 2012 and Mr. Nutting said the additional funding would express to the Library Commission the Town's commitment to the Public Library and would hopefully persuade the Library Commission to grant the waiver. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Bylaw Amendment 12-681: Amendment to Franklin Town Code: Chapter 4, Administration of Government – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to waive the reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Bylaw Amendment 12-681 to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Powderly. **DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Nutting said the bylaw amendment is part of the continued clean up of bylaws. This bylaw amendment more accurately delineates the Town Administrator and the Town Clerk responsibilities. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Bylaw Amendment 12-682: Amendment to Franklin Town Code: Chapter 110, Licenses and Permits - Designation of Issuing Authority – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to waive the reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Bylaw Amendment 12-682 to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Powderly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said this is a language clean up of an existing bylaw, which does not change but clarifies the authority of the Town Administrator. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Bylaw Amendment 12-680: Amendment to Franklin Town Code: Service Fees – Solid Waste and Recycling – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Councilor Pfeffer read the bylaw amendment to change the trash fee schedule. **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Bylaw Amendment 12-680. **SECOND** by Councilor Powderly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained the Trash Fee would be reduced from \$220 to \$204. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Dellorco-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly- Yes, Mercer-Yes, Pfeffer-Yes, Powderly-Yes, Roy-Yes, Vallee-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 9 – 0 – 0 Unanimous.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:** ► He thanked Town Employees for their part in reaching an agreement to change the health insurance plan, which will help the Town balance its budget. ► Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Nutting urged folks to sign-up to help clean up Franklin. ► Mr. Nutting requested an Executive Session to negotiate collective bargaining.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE. NEW BUSINESS:** ► Chairman Vallee will be adding to a future Agenda the possibility of creating a new citizen’s committee to explore the feasibility of erecting an emergency facility in Franklin.

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** ► Councilor Powderly recognized the DPW for the work they did on the Washington Street culvert. Councilor Powderly said she was thrilled to see the turnout for the New High School vote, as well as the outcome. ► Councilor Mercer thanked the voters for coming out to vote, the current and previous Town Council, the Building Committee, School Committee, School Administration, Finance Committee and all other Town Committees and volunteers who came out and supported the project. ► Councilor Pfeffer clarified that although the Capital Budget was approved at the evening’s meeting in a matter of minutes, the Capital Budget Committee met almost weekly to review all of the items and to make sure money is spent wisely. ► Councilor Bissanti stated how proud he was of the Town for supporting the New Franklin High School Project.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Chairman Vallee said the Town Council would go into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy for collective bargaining and declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the body. Open Session did not reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session. **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining strategy and not to resume Open Session **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Dellorco-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly- Yes, Mercer-Yes, Pfeffer-Yes, Powderly-Yes, Roy-Yes, Vallee-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 9 – 0 – 0 Unanimous.**  
The Regular Session of the meeting ended at 8:02PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Brecht, Recording Secretary