

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 23, 2013**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 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: Jim Dacey; Treasurer/Collector, Brutus Cantoreggi; Department of Public Works Director, Carlos Rebelo; Department of Public Works Highway Superintendent, Maureen Sabolinski; Superintendent of Schools.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Vallee called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Vallee noted former councilman and assessor Vinnie DeBaggis had recently passed away.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *November 7, 2012 Regular Session.* **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to move approval of minutes **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Vallee announced the meeting was recorded by Franklin TV and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. The meeting might also have been recorded by Franklin Matters.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:** NONE.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** Franklin Food Pantry Chairman of the Board; Steve Sherlock of 10 Lawrence Drive notified the Council of the Pantry's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Phonathon which will take place on February 6 & February 16, 2013. Mr. Sherlock appealed for additional volunteers and thanked Dean College for their support of the fundraiser.

**APPOINTMENTS:** *Historical Commission – Connie Lawson:* **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to ratify the appointment of Connie Lawson of 46 Prospect Street to serve as a full Member of the Historical Commission **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**HEARINGS:** NONE.

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS:** NONE.

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:** *Jim Dacey – Treasurer Collector:* Mr. Dacey provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Treasurer/Collector's Office. Mr. Dacey estimated \$130 million dollars pass through the Treasurer/Collector's Office each year. Mr. Dacey said he is constantly looking for more efficient ways to manage the office. Mr. Dacey also provided a projection of the Office turnover during the next 5 years – which included his own retirement during that time. He made the case that the Treasurer/Collector ought to be an appointed position and not an elected position citing the extensive experience and certification required of the position. Discussion followed regarding adding the Treasurer/Collector Appointment as ballot question in this fall's election.

*Brutus Cantoreggi – Director of Public Works:* Mr. Cantoreggi provided an overview of the Town's snow removal system with the assistance of Highway Superintendent Carlos Rebelo and Superintendent of Schools Maureen Sabolinski. Mr. Cantoreggi reviewed the varying snow removal costs depending on if roads are plowed, sanded, salted and the use of contract drivers. Mr. Cantoreggi described the system the Department uses to determine how roadways will be treated. Variables such as weather forecast and time of day when a storm is expected determine the course of action. Several Councilors asked

questions regarding how the DPW determines whether to plow the roads or treat the roadways with sand/salt. Plowing does not occur if less than 3 inches of snow is predicted. Roadways are treated with minimum salt for environmental reasons. Mr. Cantoreggi stated storms which begin during the early morning rush hour are the most difficult to predict and to maintain cleared roadways. Mr. Cantoreggi stated main roads are the priority so that emergency vehicles can travel, and school and municipal properties are next. ► Councilor Dellorco expressed concern the cost of snow treatment/removal was a greater concern than the safety of its residents. Councilor Dellorco recounted his own recent experience driving on snow covered roadways and spoke of a number of car accidents that occurred during recent snow events because of poor roadway conditions. ► Several councilors asked for more information regarding how the Town determines when to issue a delayed school opening or school closing. Mr. Cantoreggi and Ms. Sabolinski explained the Police Department, DPW and Ms. Sabolinski collaborate to make the decision. The decision must be made by 5:30AM – so morning storms are particularly difficult to gage.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE.**

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:**

**Resolution 13-01: Appropriation – Capital FY 13:** Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to transfer/appropriate \$1,598,000 from Free Cash to be expended for the 2013 Capital Improvement Plan. **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to move Resolution 13-01 **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained all budget items were vetted by the Council Subcommittee and voted unanimously to move forward. A few requests were being postponed until later on in the year when the Town has a better handle on finances. ► Councilor Powderly noted there were no requests for textbooks in the school budget. Ms. Sabolinski explained the Department has decided not to order/invest in any new textbooks until the State completes the curriculum changes for next year and the impact of those changes are analyzed. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Resolution 13-02: Appropriation – Sewer Enterprise Capital FY 13:** Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to transfer/appropriate \$163,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings to be expended for the FY 2013 Sewer Enterprise Capital Improvement Plan. **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to move Resolution 13-02 **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained sewer pumps are becoming increasingly clogged with “swifsters”. Mr. Nutting said the plan is to install grinder pumps that will prevent the sewer pumps from clogging. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Resolution 13-03: Appropriation – Water Enterprise Capital FY 13:** Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to transfer/appropriate \$136,000 from Water Retained Earnings to be expended for the FY 2013 Water Enterprise Capital Improvement Plan. **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to move Resolution 13-03 **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained the Town is replacing the old and worn out water pump generators. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Resolution 13-04: Appropriation – Water Enterprise Water Lines FY 13:** Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to transfer/appropriate \$900,000 from Water Retained Earnings to be expended for the FY 2013 Water Line Capital Improvement Plan. **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to move Resolution 13-04 **SECONDED** by Councilor Powderly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained this resolution continues a very successful program to replace water lines. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**Bylaw Amendment 13-699: Amendment of Service Fee Rates – Administration: Alcoholic Beverages License - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Councilor Pfeffer read the bylaw to amend Service Fee Rates. **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Bylaw Amendment 13-699 **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained this is the addition of a fee for hotels, which will enable the hotels to serve alcohol to their customers. The fee addition was at the request of hotels so that they may

maintain their businesses. **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:** ► Mr. Nutting recognized Michael Squillace Family. Mr. Squillace who recently passed away, was a Town of Franklin employee where he worked as a laborer and equipment operator since 2005. Prior to working for the Town, Mr. Squillace served 2 tours of duty overseas in Afghanistan. Mr. Nutting said Mr. Squillace death was the result of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. ► Mr. Nutting said he had attended a Water Works Association meeting where David Allard was recognized by his peers for the great work he does at the Franklin Water Department. ► Mr. Nutting said the Charles River Watershed Association plans to recognize at their annual meeting this April, Brutus Cantoreggi as an outstanding public official. ► The Governor’s Budget comes out tomorrow. Mr. Nutting plans to proceed cautiously until there is a firmer grasp on the economic situation.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilor Kelly requested at the next Council Meeting a discussion on changing the Town Treasurer position from an elected position to an appointed position be added to the Agenda.

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** ► Councilor Kelly sent his condolences to the DeBaggis Family. ► Councilor Powderly said she had received an anonymous letter regarding smoking. Councilor Powderly said smoking issues fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health, and anonymous letters no matter how important the issues addressed in the letters cannot be addressed by the Council. ► Councilor Pfeffer asked about the condition of Ledge Street. Mr. Nutting said he has gone out to the site and is aware the whole neighborhood needs repairs. Temporary repairs will be made when weather allows and permanent repairs will be completed by this summer. ► Councilor Jones asked Mr. Nutting if he had any information regarding the recent National Grid commercials asking customers to register with them so that during a weather emergency the customers can receive service updates via emails/texts. Mr. Nutting said he did not have any information on this program. Councilor Jones also asked if National Grid is scheduled to return to the Council. Mr. Nutting said he is not aware of any plans for National Grid to provide any additional presentations. Mr. Nutting said National Grid plans to repair the Union Loop during the next 1-4 years and will continue to make repairs to their system. Mr. Nutting expects an update from National Grid when the power company has completed the upgrade of their communication plan. Councilor Jones asked if it is possible to invite the newly elected officials to a Council Meeting. Mr. Nutting said scheduling the newly elected officials are being worked on now. ► Councilor Bissanti sent his condolences to the Squillace Family and the DeBaggis Family. Councilor Bissanti said the use of Calcium Chloride works 13x faster than rock salt and de-ices twice as fast on roadways. ► Councilor Roy offered his condolences to the DeBaggis Family and was thankful the Council was able to give Mr. DeBaggis his Citizenship Award in December. ► Councilor Vallee asked about the budget. Mr. Nutting said another budget will come out in April.

**ADJOURN: MOTION** by Councilor Jones to adjourn **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

The Regular Session of the meeting ended at 8:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Brecht, Recording Secretary