

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 6, 2013**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present; Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Glenn Jones, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer (Remote Participation), 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: Stephan Semerjian; Chief of Police.

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 explained all votes would be conducted by “roll call” as there was one council member who was attending the meeting remotely.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *February 6, 2013 Regular Session.* **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move the minutes **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Vallee announced the meeting was recorded by Franklin TV and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. Franklin Matters may also have recorded the meeting. Chairman Vallee reminded everyone of the Primary Election on Tuesday April 30th with the Main Election scheduled for Tuesday June 25th.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: NONE.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NONE.

APPOINTMENTS: NONE.

HEARINGS: NONE.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: NONE.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *Chief of Police, Stephan Semerjian* provided the Council with a brief history of the department, highlighting the training the department engages in and the recently awarded “America’s Safest City 201 Award” by NeighborhoodWatch.com. Chief Semerjian shared several slides which included pictures of the Department’s Motorcycle Unit & K-9 Unit, car accidents, contraband found in vehicles including drugs and weapons. In addition, there were several slides of police officers participating in community service

projects such as DARE and Holiday Meals for Franklin Seniors. Councilor Dellorco pointed out several officers' coach sports teams at Franklin High School. The councilors thanked Chief Semerjian for the remarkable job the Police Department performs.

Financing the New High School –Town Administrator Jeff Nutting provided an overview of a proposed change of financing for the New High School. Mr. Nutting said based on current information, the Town's actual cost for the New High School will be less than originally projected. With this in mind, Mr. Nutting recommended borrowing \$44 Million Dollars this August with an interest rate of 3.65%. The Town originally borrowed \$47 Million Dollars with an interest rate of 4.25%. The reduced borrowed sum, and the reduced interest rate would save the average homeowner 20% over the life of the loan. The Council agreed the Town should proceed with the updated financing plan.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Resolution 13-08: Swahn Lane, A Private Way Acceptance of Covenant with Owner: Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the covenant whereby the Swahn Lane roadway and related drainage would be the private property owner(s) exclusive obligation to maintain and repair.

MOTION by Councilor Jones to move Resolution 13-08 **SECONDED** by Councilor Powderly. **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.

Resolution 13-09: Transfer of Tax Title Possession Parcels to Different Municipal Purposes – As Amended: Councilor Powderly read the resolution to transfer the care, custody, management and control of Town's tax title possession parcels from the Town Administrator, as custodian, to another Town Board, Commission or Department for another specific municipal purpose. **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to move Resolution 12-09 **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained this is an annual event the Town undertakes. The staff reviews the Town's tax titles and identifies property that would be better suited for a specific department. Most of the properties identified in this resolution were recommended to go to the Conservation Commission. Councilor Pfeffer inquired about one parcel and why the parcel was not offered for sale to adjacent property owners. Mr. Nutting said the parcel in question is deemed wetlands and he did not believe the adjacent property owners would want to pay

taxes on unusable land. The Council decided to amend the resolution to remove the parcel of land located on a paper street "Roosevelt Avenue". **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to move Resolution 13-09 Amended striking Map Location #3 and request a presentation at a later date **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.** **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to move Resolution 13-09 As Amended **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **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.**

Resolution 13-10: Town of Franklin Net Metering Power Purchase Agreement Authorization: **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to waive the reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **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.** **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Resolution 13-10 **SECONDED** by Councilor Powderly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained this resolution agreement allows an additional 4 Megawatts be added to the original 3 Megawatts for a total of 7 Megawatts as part of the Net Metering Power Purchase Agreement. Once the facility is completed, the town will buy approximately 75-80% of its school and municipal electricity saving the Town money and protecting the environment. **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.**

Resolution 13-11: Authorization to Expend Funds in Excess of Available Appropriations: Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to authorize the expenditure of funds in excess of the available appropriation for snow and ice removal upon approval by the Town Administrator. **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to move Resolution 13-11 **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained the resolution is precautionary. The Town has spent \$700,000 of its \$900,000 budget for snow/ice removal. The resolution would allow Mr. Nutting to go over the snow/ice removal budget if necessary. **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.**

Bylaw Amendment 13-700: Chapter 82, Amendment of Service Fees - Solid Waste and Recycling – 1st Reading: Councilor Pfeffer read the bylaw to amend the

List of Service Fee Rates. **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Bylaw Amendment 13-700 to a 2nd Reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Powderly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting explained the necessity to increase the fee for a Trash Cart by \$8.00. The current trash system has reduced the overall cost of trash removal, however the cost of disposal and collection contracts increase by approximately 3% per year. Councilor Powderly noted the current trash fees are less than the previous system. **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 reported DPW Director Robert Cantoreggi had recently completed a roads maintenance class. ► Mr. Nutting said the Library would be offering new programs beginning in March and April. Program information will be announced on Facebook as well as the Town’s website. Mr. Nutting was pleased to announce the Town received a waiver from the Board of Library Commissioners releasing the Town from allocating over \$900,000 to the Library’s budget. ► Mr. Nutting reported he had received a thank you letter and a \$900 check from the Pakistani men the Town recently hosted. ► Mr. Nutting thanked the DPW for their work during the blizzard. Mr. Nutting said he had received several thank you notes from citizens who were pleased with DPW’s snow removal efforts. ► Mr. Nutting announced the budget would be available by week’s end. The budget will have “level service” with no layoffs and no program changes. The Finance Committee has scheduled Budget Hearings on March 13, March 14 and March 28th. ► Mr. Nutting requested a Downtown Project update be added to the Council’s April 3rd Meeting Agenda. ► Assistant to Town Administrator Maxine Kinhart invited citizens to attend a Public Hearing to review plans for the DelCarte Recreation area. The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday March 12th at 6:30PM in the Third Floor Training Room.

OLD BUSINESS: ► Councilor Jones inquired about a future meeting with National Grid. Mr. Nutting and Councilor Roy stated the last meeting was productive and National Grid’s response to the last storm was much improved.

NEW BUSINESS: ► Councilor Roy requested the Franklin Housing Authority attend an upcoming meeting to provide the Council with an update. Councilor Roy suggested the Council begin to think about the potential impact a Milford casino would have on Franklin. ► Councilor Bissanti said he recently attended a Community Preservation Act Meeting where he learned about some of the programs available to towns. ► Chairman Vallee inquired about the condition of

railroad property located in the Union and Cottage Street vicinity. Chairman Vallee said he would like to see the property cleaned up. Mr. Nutting said the property is owned by CSX and past efforts to have the property fenced or sold to the Town have been unsuccessful. Mr. Nutting offered to look into having something done with the property.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS: ► Councilor Powderly wished the Franklin High Schools Girl’s Varsity Basketball Team good luck this weekend. ► Councilor Jones announced Davis Thayer’s fundraiser; “Lets Bake for The Kids Auction” will take place at the Adirondack Athletic Club on March 9th at 6:00PM. ► Councilor Bissanti spoke about his recent experience reading to a third grade class at Davis Thayer Elementary School.

ADJOURN: MOTION by Councilor Powderly to adjourn **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.** Meeting adjourned at 8:18PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Brecht, Recording Secretary