

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 16, 2013**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 16, 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 (Remote Participation), 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, Susan Gagner; Town Comptroller, Stephan H. Semerjian; Chief of Police, Gary B. McCarraher; 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chairman Vallee announced the meeting was being recorded by Franklin TV and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. The meeting may also have been recorded by Franklin Matters. Chairman Vallee also announced Councilor Roy would be attending the evening's meeting via Remote Participation.

**HEARINGS: *FY14 Town of Franklin Budget Hearing – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:* MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to open the Hearing **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **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.** Councilor Pfeffer read each line item of the FY14 Budget. ► Councilor Pfeffer waived her request to put a Hold on Line Item 147; Treasurer-Collector and Line Item 161; Town Clerk. ► Councilor Pfeffer requested a Hold on Line Item 192; Public Property & Buildings. Councilor Pfeffer inquired how long the Facilities Director Assistant position would be funded. ► Chairman Vallee requested a Hold on Line Item 210; Police. Chairman Vallee expressed concern regarding the staffing levels of the department, particularly during the overnight shift and would like to see money from the Stabilization Fund used to finance the hiring of additional police officers. Chief of Police Stephan Semerjian said an additional officer would be added to the force by July, which will bring the number of officers to 44. Mr. Nutting explained the initial cost of a “new hire” is relatively low. But as time goes by, the officer’s vacation and benefit package increases and becomes costly to the Town. Neither Mr. Nutting nor Chief Semerjian said they wanted to hire officers only to lay them off in a few years’ time. Chief Semerjian outlined the department’s back-up plans when additional officers are needed in an emergency. Councilor Powderly disagreed with the assertion the Town has available funds to hire additional police officers and said she appreciated the department’s ability to balance Town needs with what is available. Councilor Dellorco and Chief Semerjian briefly discussed the possibility of creating a Deputy Chief of Police position and how an exam for the position would be administered. Councilor Kelly suggested Chief Semerjian present at a future Council Meeting a comparative between Franklin and other towns of similar size with regard to staffing levels. ► Chairman Vallee requested a Hold on Line Item 220; Fire. Chairman Vallee said he was

concerned two ambulances for a town Franklin's size was insufficient, and was concerned about staffing levels and the use of over-time to supplement vacant positions. Mr. Nutting explained the immediate cost of hiring additional staff is not high; it's the long-term cost of vacation and the benefit packages that cost the Town money it does not have. Mr. Nutting pointed out the Town does not have a collective bargaining agreement with the Fire Department, so the FY14 budget does not take into account any potential pay raises for the department. Chairman Vallee cited Franklin being 20 minutes away from area hospitals as the reason additional ambulances and staff are essential to the care of residents and money from the Stabilization Fund should be used to hire additional staff. Fire Chief Gary B. McCarraher responded the department relies on mutual aid from other towns and innovative thinking such as Regional Dispatch, application for grant money will all save the department money. Councilor Powderly said the Stabilization Fund is important to the overall financial health of the Town. The size of the Stabilization Fund has a huge impact on the rating awarded to the Town by bond rating agencies. Councilor Powderly said the Stabilization Fund should be used for emergencies and cannot be used for long-term needs. ► Councilor Jones requested a Hold on Line Item 395; Norfolk Aggie. Ms. Gagner confirmed this cost appears to be a recurring cost. ► Councilor Roy requested a Hold on Line Item 695; Cultural Council. **MOTION** by Councilor Roy to move \$1,000.00 from surplus monies to the Cultural Council **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **DISCUSSION:** Councilor Roy said additional funding for the Cultural Council would support their efforts to produce great programs in Franklin. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Dellorco-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Mercer-Yes, Pfeiffer-Yes, Powderly-Yes, Roy-Yes, Vallee-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 9 – 0 – 0 Unanimous.** ► Total for all budgets was \$95,109,701 and total revenues was \$95,110,755. **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to close the Hearing **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Dellorco-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Mercer-Yes, Pfeiffer-Yes, Powderly-Yes, Roy-Yes, Vallee-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 9 – 0 – 0 Unanimous.**

#### **LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:**

**Resolution 13-37: Adoption of FY 2014 Budget as Amended** –Councilor Pfeiffer read the resolution to adopt the General Fund Budget, Water Enterprise Fund Budget, Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget and Solid Waste Enterprise Budget as voted on May 16, 2013 with a Total Appropriation of \$105,560,492 of which \$94,869,624 is to be raised and appropriated and the balance transferred from available funds and Enterprise fund revenues to be appropriated as follows: Reserve for Excluded Debt -\$222,477; Parking Meter Receipts Reserved - \$17,600; **Total Available Funds to be Transferred: \$240,077.** Water Fees (Enterprise Fund) - \$4,854,885; Sewer Fees (Enterprise Fund) - \$3,652,810; Solid Waste Fees (Enterprise Fund) - \$1,942,096; **Total Enterprise Fund: \$10,449,791.** **MOTION** by Councilor Powderly to move Resolution 13-37 **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Dellorco-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Mercer-Yes, Pfeiffer-Yes, Powderly-Yes, Roy-Yes, Vallee-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 9 – 0 – 0 Unanimous.**

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** ► Councilor Jones inquired about posting updated information regarding Recycling Stickers, etc. on the Town's website. ► Councilor Mercer invited his fellow councilors to a walk through of the New Franklin High School on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

**ADJOURN: MOTION** by Councilor Mercer to adjourn **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.**  
Meeting adjourned at 7:47PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Brecht, Recording Secretary