

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
11-19-2014**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Brett Feldman, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee, Steve Williams. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Maxine Kinhart, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney; Jim Dacey, Treasurer/Collector.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: MOTION by Pfeffer to nominate Bob Vallee to serve as Chairman of the Council. **SECOND** by Kelly. Close nominations. **Vote Unanimous.** **MOTION** by Bissanti to nominate Matt Kelly to serve as Vice Chairman of the Council. Close nominations. **Vote for Vice Chair. Unanimous.** **MOTION** by Padula to nominate Judy Pond Pfeffer to serve as Clerk of the Town Council. **SECOND** By Kelly all those who seek to close the nomination say Aye. **AYE – Unanimous.** **MOTION** to approve Judy Pfeffer as Clerk. **Unanimous**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Kelly to accept Minutes of July 30, 2014. **SECOND** by Mercer. **Vote Unanimous**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Vallee announced the meeting would be recorded by Franklin TV and available for viewing on Comcast Channel 11 and Verizon Channel 29. The meeting is also being recorded by Franklin Matters.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: ► Frank Todesco, 409 King Street back to update Council on his tree. He considers it a Public Safety matter. The State did come on his property and take trees down. He had Jameson Mendell come in a take the tree down and he is going to submit the bill to the town for payment. Who should he give this bill to? Town Administrator took bill.

APPOINTMENTS: None

HEARINGS: *Tax Classification Hearing – 7:10PM.* Ken Norman; Chairman of the Board of Assessors introduced Board of Assessor members John Neas and Chris Feeley, as well as Kevin Doyle; Director of Assessing. Mr. Norman said the packet each Councilor was given was similar to the previous year’s packet, but with updated figures. Data was included for both ‘single-rate’ and ‘split-rate’ tax rates. The proposed ‘single-rate’ tax rate would be increased by \$.39 to \$14.85. Mr. Norman stated that values are trending up slowly. The bonding on the high school has kicked in or tax would have gone down. Vallee invited public comment, but there were no comments. **MOTION** by Councilor Kelly to close the Hearing **SECOND** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: *Let's Eat (Franklin) LLC d/b/a Three: Change of Manager-*
MOTION to approve the request the by Let's Eat (Franklin) LLC d/b/a /Three for a Change of
Manager to Ashley Waites. This is a routine matter. **SECOND** by Councilor Kelly. **Vote:**
Unanimous.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: Chairman Franklin High School Building
Committee/Councilor Tom Mercer present for update. FHS Building Project is complete. Few
items remain on punch list that are being done after school hours, Saturdays, holidays and should
be done by the end of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Contractor has turned over 2nd parking lot six
months early. Old high school had 622 spot new has 617 spots. Weather permitting Friday or
Monday they are going to do Panther Way. Site Contractor will get fields into sub-grade
condition before shutting down. FHS Building Committee wants to ask the Councils' opinion to
make the planned multipurpose practice field a regulation turf field instead of a grass practice.
Grass field will be on a pitch and not usable as a game field. Have existing funds. Instead of
season off season on. The decision is in the purview of the Building Committee they are only
looking to the Council for opinion. Cost 1.25 million. Straw poll unanimous. Councilor Recuse.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Resolution 14-77: *WHEREAS a public hearing on the Property Tax Classification was held
and closed on November 19, 2014.* **MOTION** by Councilor Mercer is made and seconded to set
the Residential Factor at [1.000000]. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

Resolution 14-78: *A public hearing on the Property Tax Classification was held and closed on
Nov 19, 2014.* A **MOTION** by Councilor Kelly is made and seconded that there [not be] an
exemption for open space. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

Resolution 14-79: *A public hearing on the Property Tax Classification was held and closed
on Nov 19, 2014.* A **MOTION** by Councilor Mercer is made and seconded that there [Not be]
an exemption for small Businesses. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

Resolution 14-80: *A public hearing on the Property Tax Classification was held and closed on
Nov 19, 2014.* A **MOTION** by Councilor Kelly is made and seconded that there [Not be] an
exemption for residential property. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

Resolution 14-66: Authorization to Grant Utility (Sewer) Easement –Councilors Mercer,
Bissanti recused themselves from any discussions; **Motion by Kelly to remove Resolution 14-
66 from the Table. SECOND** by Padula. **VOTE Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0 Abstain 2.** Motion to
waive the reading by Kelly. **SECOND** by PFEFFER. **VOTE Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0 Abstain 2.**
Motion to MOVE Resolution 14-66 Kelly. **SECOND**▶ by Williams. **DISCUSSION.** This is
part of the whole Cook's farm, we granted them and the country club a sewer extension and this
allows them to go on to town property to fix it because we are not fixing it.
VOTE to Approve: Yes-6, No-0, Absent-0, Abstain 2

Resolution 14-76 Acceptance of Private Road Covenant with Developer of Unnamed Street off Upper Union Street (Mount View Farms Subdivision) MOVE to WAIVE the Reading Mercer. SECOND by Kelly. VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0. MOVE Resolution 14-76 Counselor Mercer. SECOND Kelly. DISCUSSION. Town Administrator stated this is covenant we do to subdivisions so they don't become public ways. **Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.**

Resolution 14-81 Refunding Bond Order. Treasurer Collector Jim Dacey, working with our Bond Counsel, Peter Frazier went through our bonds and suggested we refinance some and we are saving several hundred thousand dollars. **MOVE Resolution 14-81 Mercer, SECOND Kelly. Vote: Unanimous**

Resolution 14-82: Appropriation Sewer Retained Earnings. Be It **MOVED** by Kelly and Voted by the Town Council to transfer One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the Sewer Retained Earnings Account to pay for emergency repairs to the culvert under the Beaver Street Sewer line. **SECOND** by Padula. **Vote: Unanimous**

Resolution 14-83: Acceptance of Gift-Town of Franklin-Council on Aging. The Fletcher Hospital Corporation has generously donated \$1,500 to be used by the Council on Aging for their charitable endeavors for the elderly of the Franklin Community. **MOVE Resolution 14-83. Mercer. SECOND Williams. DISCUSSION.** The Town Council of the Town of Franklin on behalf of the Council on Aging gratefully accepts this generous donation and thanks the Fletcher Hospital Corporation for their continued support. **Vote: Unanimous**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Governor is currently facing a major shortfall in the state budget proposing cutting local aid. Rep Roy has sent a letter expressing his opposition. Very difficult time of year for us to do. ► Winter is here and soon it will be snow. Be cautious. ► Sprinkler head in Sullivan School. By 9:30 restoration company was on site. Working weekends till finished. Custodians, firemen, Facilities, Gus, police all stepped up and should be commended.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: ► Booklet of town services should be should be on our website. ► RFP Pond Street was due today and one came in today late was due 10:30 came in at 10:40.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS: ► Saturday 22nd 136 Chestnut Street. Open House. ► Staff reacted amazingly, Mike Ellsworth name keeps coming up as someone who really stepped it up.

ADJOURN: MOTION by Councilor Mercer to adjourn. **SECOND** by Councilor Padula. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maxine Kinhart