

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 19, 2014**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present; Andrew Bissanti, Brett Feldman, Glenn Jones, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee, Steve Williams. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting; Town Administrator, Mark Cerel; Town Attorney and Maxine Kinhart; Assistant to the Town Administrator. Other officials present: Robert Cantoreggi; DPW Director, Laurie Ruzsala; Water and Sewer Superintendent, Mike Maglio; Town Engineer, Deacon Perrotta; Director of Operations.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Vallee called the meeting to order at 7:00PM with a moment of silence and the Boy Scouts from Troop 126 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NONE.

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 may also be available on the blog Franklin Matters.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: ► Chairman Vallee read the proclamation which thanked the Depoto family for their generosity and congratulated them on 76 years of business and three generations of family operations and wished them continued service. Mrs. Depoto thanked the Council for all they do.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: NONE.

APPOINTMENTS: *Caitlin Coyne – Historical Commission:* **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to ratify the appointment of Caitlin Coyne of 10 Anchorage Road to serve as an associate member of the Historical Commission **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

Eric Buliung – Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund: **MOTION** by Councilor Pfeffer to appoint Eric Buliung of 12 Lenox Drive to serve as a member of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust Fund **SECONDED** by Councilor Jones. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

HEARINGS: NONE.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: NONE.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *Department of Public Works – Roads, Water, Trash and Lincoln Street* – Robert Cantoreggi; DPW Director, Laurie Ruzsala; Water and Sewer Superintendent, Mike Maglio; Town Engineer, Deacon Perrotta; Director of Operations. Mr. Cantoreggi presented to the Council an outlook on current and future Town construction projects. Mr. Cantoreggi focused on how the previous 7.4 million dollar appropriation was spent and the type of appropriation needed for the next 5-Year Plan. Details on specific streets slated to have water lines and road reconstruction completed and updates on the Lincoln and Daniels Streets waterline and road reconstruction project were provided. Plans to have sidewalks installed on Panther Way and parking lot improvements to the Senior Center and Police Station were reviewed. In addition to road improvements, the DPW will be constructing a new DPW Storage Facility as the previous storage facility was constructed over contaminated land and had inadequate space for equipment. Mr. Cantoreggi discussed Sewer System improvements, which included the installation of new grinder pumps on Milliken Road and the monitoring of the Charles River Pollution Control District sewer treatment plant reconstruction project. Mr. Cantoreggi said he anticipated logistical issues during the State run Downtown Reconstruction Project scheduled to begin this Spring. Moving forward, Mr. Cantoreggi said a Sewer Capacity Study will commence shortly and the completion of construction projects at Panther Way Park, the Recycling Center and DelCarte

Playground. Mr. Cantoreggi said the DPW planned to hold an Open House event possibly on Earth Day. ► Chairman Vallee voiced concern regarding the appearance of the Recycling Center. Mr. Cantoreggi said the Recycling Center location makes it challenging to shield the center from the road, but the newly planted trees will grow to screen the center. Mr. Cantoreggi, Chairman Vallee and Councilor Kelly agreed to tour the Recycling Center together in order to come up with an agreeable plan. ► Councilor Jones suggested updating residents of road closures during the Downtown Reconstruction Project via phone/text/email messages. Mr. Cantoreggi said some residents have complained about the auto phone messages and he has learned to use the phone messages sparingly. Councilor Jones inquired about the Beaver Street Interceptor. Mr. Cantoreggi said the interceptor still operates and would cost in excess of 10 million dollars to replace. ► Chairman Vallee commended the DPW on the work they do.

Department of Public Works - Initiative 14 Plan – Robert Cantoreggi; DPW Director. Mr. Cantoreggi presented a request for the Council to appropriate 7.5 million dollars to complete much needed waterline improvements, road reconstruction and pavement preservation. Mr. Cantoreggi reviewed possible funding sources, Town road rating goals and a Proposed 5-Year Plan to reconstruct several roads. ► Mr. Nutting said there is no consistent funding source to do needed road repair and reconstruction work. Mr. Nutting said a dedicated over-ride may be the Town’s best option to address the aging roads and waterlines. ► Councilor Williams asked what a 1.5 million dollar over-ride would mean to the average taxpayer. Mr. Nutting said the over-ride would cost the average taxpayer \$130 more in taxes per year. ► Various other topics were covered. The new Town App to report poor road conditions such as potholes, broken streetlights, etc. is an efficient system and works well according to Mr. Cantoreggi. Mr. Cantoreggi clarified the Town covers up to \$40 for mailboxes and posts damaged by the Town snowplows. ► Mr. Cantoreggi made a request for the Council to consider limiting solid waste collection holidays to the six major holidays in order to better serve the residents. The Council supported the request. ► Chairman Vallee said Mr. Cantoreggi and the DPW do an outstanding job and are proactive.

Wine & Malt Package Store License – Mr. Nutting said this topic was added to the evening’s Agenda because a Wine & Malt license was denied at the last Council Meeting and Councilors were interested in developing a process to advertise newly available “Beer & Wine” and “All Alcohol” licenses. Mr. Nutting said it would not be too much work to announce available licenses and to work on this process.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Citizens Committee – Chairman Vallee reported he and six other Councilors recently met with Milford Regional Hospital in an effort to address the distance of area hospitals to Franklin. Chairman Vallee said he would assign the issue to the Citizens Committee to evaluate the possibility of having a type of clinic or emergency room situated in Franklin whose mission it would be to stabilize a patient before the patient is transported to an area hospital.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

Resolution 14-14: Purchase of Land at 92 Wachusett Street Authorization and Appropriation: Councilor Pfeffer read the resolution to purchase land containing buildings and improvements located at 92 Wachusett Street for the sum of \$159,100 for access to abutting Town-owned land, as well as public recreation and other municipal purposes. **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Resolution 14-14 **SECONDED** by Councilor Kelly. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said the house would be demolished and the land would be used for much needed additional parking spaces at Fletcher Field. Councilor Padula recused himself from the vote. **ROLL CALL: Bissanti-Yes, Feldman-Yes, Jones-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Mercer-Yes, Padula-Recused, Pfeffer-Yes, Vallee-Yes, Williams-Yes. VOTE to Approve: 8 – 0 – 0 – 1.**

Bylaw Amendment 14-731: Chapter 82, Appendix A, List of Service Fee Rates – 1st Reading: Councilor Pfeffer read the bylaw amendment to increase the service fee rates for Curbside Trash for a 65 Gallon Trash Cart from \$212 to \$216 and the fee for a 35 Gallon Trash Cart from \$192 to \$196 for FY15. **MOTION** by Councilor Jones to move Bylaw Amendment 14-731 to a 2nd Reading **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Nutting said the fees reflect a cost of living increase included in the Trash Contract. The Town will subsidize a portion of the cost of living increase, but part of the increase will be passed on to

residents. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting announced the Town exceeded the amount appropriated for the Snow Budget by about \$150,000. Mr. Nutting said the Town has funds available to make up the difference in Free Cash. ► The Housing Trust is accepting RFP bids on affordable homes. If anyone is interested in selling a home for \$300,000 or less; the Town is looking to purchase homes for the Housing Trust to sell as "affordable" housing. ► Mr. Nutting clarified the Medical Marijuana facility proposed in Franklin is a "grow only" facility. Mr. Nutting said the Town could not prohibit facilities from locating in Franklin based on current laws, and the Town did zone these types of facilities to industrial parks located away from schools and religious organizations.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilor Pfeffer inquired about a letter from the 4th of July Coalition and asked if there were outstanding bills which need to be paid. Mr. Nutting said he was waiting for a full report from the Coalition.

NEW BUSINESS: ► Councilor Pfeffer spoke about the Housing Trust and the criteria a prospective seller would need to meet and the necessity to complete a comprehensive form due by April 1st. The Trust wants to put families in homes.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS: ► Councilor Jones congratulated the Davis Thayer PCC for a successful auction which raised \$17,000 to go into the PCC budget to cover things the School Budget does not cover. Councilor Jones announced the Franklin Education Foundation would be hosting an upcoming Trivia Night. ► Chairman Vallee said he would charge the Citizens Committee with reaching out to area hospitals to determine the feasibility of opening a trauma/urgent care center in Town. ► Councilor Kelly spoke about the 150 Emmons Street property and encouraged residents to contact Councilors if they have questions regarding the property. Contact information is available on the Town's website. ► Councilor Padula spoke in support of a trauma/urgent care center in Franklin. Councilor Padula addressed the perception the Council votes as a unit and cited the previous Council meeting where the Council was split on an issue.

ADJOURN: MOTION by Councilor Jones to adjourn **SECONDED** by Councilor Mercer. **VOTE to Approve: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:32PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Brecht, Recording Secretary