

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 24, 2015**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, 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.

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

**PRESENTATION:** *Electric Youth*, a group of thirteen talented singer-dancer performers sung a cappella at their annual performance for the Town Council prior to their upcoming two and one-half week tour of Europe which will include performances in France and England including Disneyland Paris and other European venues. Upon their return, *Electric Youth* will perform at Norfolk Town Hill in Norfolk on July 23, 2015, and will kick-off the Franklin Cultural Festival on the Town Common on July 29, 2015. Chairman Vallee and the council members complimented the group's fantastic performance.

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:**

1. **Resolution 15-43: Appropriation-FY15 Fire Wages (Arbitration Award).** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move Resolution 15-43 by Mercer. SECOND by Kelly. Discussion:**  
► Mr. Nutting stated the Town has nine municipal unions that are bargained with; three years ago a four-year settlement was reached with eight of the nine unions. An agreement was not met with the firefighters which resulted in mediation, then arbitration, whereupon the award was brought down about three weeks ago. The award runs concurrent with the other eight unions and will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The award was for an 8% increase over four years, resulting in a total cost for FY12, FY13, FY14, and FY15 of approximately \$525,000, with an additional \$70,000 going forward. In anticipation of the award, \$415,000 was put aside to cover the cost. The additional funds will come from money in the Health Insurance account and funds remaining in the firefighters salary account; the money does exist to fund the entire \$525,000. This resolution will transfer \$470,000 to fund the FY 2015 Fire Wages Arbitration Award. The additional \$55,000 is already in the firefighters account. Recommended the Council approve. ► Chuck Allen, Franklin firefighter and resident, on behalf of the union, addressed the Council. He stated the firefighters are lagging behind in pay. He spoke about the great Franklin community and the importance of the people that make the infrastructure work. He stated a *Yes* vote would allow the firefighters to move forward. ► Ms. Pfeffer stated she is supportive of the firefighters, but will vote *No* on this resolution as it is not fair to give the firefighters a 2% increase and not give it to the other eight unions. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Feldman-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pfeffer-NO; Vallee-YES; Williams-YES. **VOTE: YES-8, NO-1. Passes.**

*Chairman Valle called a five minutes recess.*

**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. This meeting may also be recorded by and available on *Franklin Matters*.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:** None.

Chairman Vallee displayed the Purple Heart Certificate of that was presented to the Town of Franklin.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None.

**APPOINTMENTS:** *2015 Annual Committee Appointments.* Ms. Pfeffer the list of annual committee reappointments. **Motion to Ratify** Annual Reappointments to Town boards and commissions by **Mercer**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**HEARINGS:** None.

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:** None.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION** (*continued*):

2. **Resolution 15-44: Appropriation-Other Post Employment Stabilization Fund.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15-44 by **Mercer**. **SECOND** by **Padula**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated there is an over \$90 million unfunded liability. Already put in \$400,000 but also like to use free cash to put in additional money. The purpose is to transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash to the OPEB Stabilization Fund. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Feldman-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES; Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES; Williams-YES. **VOTE: YES-9, NO-0. Unanimous.**
3. **Resolution 15-45: Appropriation-Roads/Sidewalks/Drainage/Storm water/Infrastructure.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15-45 by **Mercer**. **SECOND** by **Padula**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the purpose is to transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash to fund ongoing road, sidewalk, drainage, storm water, and infrastructure. **VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** ► Mr. Nutting thanked the Council for their vote on the Fire Wages (Arbitration Award). ► There will be a Fourth of July celebration. ► The road work on Main Street and West Central Street continues. Plan is to pave the base coat on Summer Street and Main Street next week prior to the July 4<sup>th</sup> events. ► On target to pass papers in July for the recreation building. ► Working with Mr. Calarese for a fall closing on the Emmons Street property. ► The public service announcement done by high school students on the needles was great informing viewers if they see a needle do not pick it up, call 911. ► The Opiate Coalition meeting is next week. ► Confirmed that old curbing from Town Common will be used on High Street and new curbing will be put on Town Common.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** ► Mr. Dellorco reiterated that the Opiate Coalition meeting will be held on June 30, 2015 at the High School. The Fire Department will make a presentation. ► Mr. Bissanti asked about the procedure for opening the RFPs due on July 9. Mr. Nutting stated they will be opened and reviewed to make sure legal requirements met. EDC meeting will follow on July 15, 2015. ► Mr. Kelly stated Ms. Pfeffer, Mr. Nutting and Mr. Kelly, along with Senator Ross and Representative Roy attended a lunch presentation for nonagenarians celebrating ninety to ninety-nine year-old residents. It was a great

event. ► Mr. Bissanti thanked the Franklin Elks for the great Flag Day celebration on the Town Common.

**ADJOURN: MOTION by Kelly to Adjourn. SECOND by Mercer. VOTE: Yes-9, No-0, Absent-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi  
Recording Secretary