

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 23, 2015**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Matt Kelly, Thomas Mercer, Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee, Steve Williams. Councilors absent: Brett Feldman. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *September 9, 2015.* Motion to **Approve** the September 9, 2015 meeting minutes by **Padula**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

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 others.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

APPOINTMENTS: None.

HEARINGS: None.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *Neighbor Brigade.* ► Chairman Vallee read the proclamation commending the Neighbor Brigade. Leaders Linda Gagnon and Cheryl Ferri established the Franklin Chapter of the Neighbor Brigade, a non-profit corporation that establishes and mobilizes community specific networks of volunteers to help residents facing sudden crisis such as devastating illness, accidents, or other tragic events. Chairman Vallee thanked Ms. Gagnon, Ms. Ferri and the all the Neighbor Brigade volunteers and awarded them a trophy in appreciation and recognition for their work. ► Ms. Gagnon addressed the Council and provided a brief overview of the Neighbor Brigade, and thanked everyone for their support and help. She stated they now have 200 volunteers and last year provided services to over 400 requests. ► Ms. Ferri addressed the Council and gave additional insight into the program and the role of the volunteers, and thanked the Council for their recognition. She also noted more information could be found on their website.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

1. **Resolution 15-57: Appropriation Water Enterprise – Prior Year Bill.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 15-57 that a prior year bill in the amount of \$4,320.00 be paid from the FY 2016 Water Enterprise Operating Budget by **Mercer**. **SECOND** by **Padula**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the bill was not received until August which was after the fiscal year end. **VOTE: YES-8, NO-0, Absent-1.**

2. **Resolution 15-58: Dissolution of High School Building Committee.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15-58 to dissolve the High School Building Committee by **Kelly**. **SECOND** by **Padula**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the high school has been completed and only a punch-list remains; the Committee's work has been done. ► Chairman Vallee thanked the High School Building Committee Chairman Tom Mercer and the Committee members for their hard work. **VOTE: YES-8, NO-0, Absent-1.**
3. **Resolution 15-59: Appropriation: Insurance Recovery: Fiber Optic Network.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15:59 to authorize payments in excess of \$20,000.00 from insurance proceeds for purposes of paying invoices related to damage to the Town fiber optic network by **Mercer**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated there is no amount requested. This is an insurance claim which is being paid by the insurance company. During the construction of Downtown the fiber optic network was damaged. The Town filed a claim of about \$27,000.00. If a claim is more than \$20,000.00 the Town Council has to vote to approve it. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
4. **Resolution 15-60: Appropriation: Insurance Recovery: Police Department.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15:60 to authorize payments in excess of \$20,000.00 from insurance proceeds for purposes of paying invoices related to the storm damages at the Police Department by **Pfeffer**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated the lightning strike at the Police Department had about \$100,000.00 in damage which is being paid for by the insurance. He noted there is a \$5,000.00 deductible on each of these two insurance claims which the Town will have to pay. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**
5. **Resolution 15-61: Appropriation: Senior Center Renovation Project.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15:61 to raise and appropriate \$601,500.00 for the Senior Center renovation project by **Mercer**. **SECOND** by **Kelly**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated \$1.0 million was initially set aside for this, but now there is a cost estimate from the architect and this is the additional amount needed. There is some flexibility in this number. Plans will go out to bid to complete second floor and finish first floor. ► Mr. Mercer stated when originally going into this project they were just looking to renovate second floor, but then realized needed to make adjustments on the first floor—this is where additional costs have come in. ► Ms. Pfeffer said it was important to make café bigger as it is being used so much. ► Mr. Kelly thanked Committee for their work. **VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated Union Street will be closed on Saturday from 5:00 AM to 8:00 PM for repairs to tracks on Union Street. Detours will be set up. ► Parking meters on East Central Street will come out today as putting in electrical conduit for new lights. Police will post two-hour parking from Mondays through Fridays. ► Ashland Fire Department provided great letter about Laurie Roy, a firefighter in Franklin who donates her time every year to teach leadership to girls. He thanked Ms. Roy for her volunteering. ► Linda Naughton retired from the Police Department; Mr. Nutting wished her well. ► Beth Wierling, Town Planner, will be leaving and taking another position in Norton. ► First meeting of the new Town Council will be on November 12, 2015 due to the holiday. ► In response to questions, Mr. Nutting stated the gas line will be disconnected soon as the Recreation Department will be moving to Beaver Street; Emmons Street will then be paved.

OLD BUSINESS: ► Mr. Padula gave an update on the DelCarte issue regarding the feasibility of putting fish in the pond. They have hired someone to do the study. The study should be back by early next year to find out what is needed to do about eliminating some of the weeds and determining which species will be good for the pond. Hopefully, by sometime next year, there will be fish in the pond. Also, Mr. Padula stated he had talked to Brutus Cantoreggi about keeping up the Recycling Center and doing some more

things there. Currently, there are four containers at the Recycling Center. People have donated paint and Mr. Cantoreggi and the DPW crews are going to paint the containers to make it look even better. This will be done before snow. ► Chairman Vallee stated he has been lobbying for new granite curbing. He is concerned about East and West Central Streets. The granite is mauled and dented from the big shovel and cannot let that happen. ► Mr. Nutting said if the granite were to be replaced, the Town would have to pay for it. He said a meeting with the State is scheduled for next Tuesday.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Kelly stated he is hearing from citizens that they cannot get from St. Mary's Church to Town Hall in less than 35 minutes because there is so much road construction and asked if there was a way to organize this better. ► Mr. Nutting said everything north of Emmons Street should be done in the next couple of weeks except for moving some telephone poles. So, there will be less chaos soon. ► Mr. Kelly stated Dean College purchased East Central Street building downtown. As Dean College does not pay taxes, this is a concern. ► Mr. Nutting stated a few years ago the Town worked with Dean College in which Dean signed document indicating that if they were to ever own the property they would pay property taxes as a regular owner. Therefore, there is no loss of property taxes. ► Ms. Pfeffer asked for an update on the Parmenter School issues. ► Mr. Nutting stated there are three sump pumps in the basement of Parmenter School. Sometimes if there is too much water the pumps cannot keep up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Mercer. SECOND by Kelly. VOTE: Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary