

**FRANKLIN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 18, 2015**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at the Franklin Municipal Building, 355 East Central Street, Franklin, Massachusetts. Councilors present: Andrew Bissanti, Robert Dellorco, Matthew Kelly, Thomas Mercer (by Remote Participation), Peter Padula, Judith Pond Pfeffer, Robert Vallee. Councilors not in attendance: Glenn Jones, Deborah Pellegri. Administrative personnel in attendance: Jeffrey Nutting, Town Administrator; Mark Cerel, Town Attorney.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Kelly 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: ► *Finance Community Cable Access, Inc. – Board of Directors.* ■Mr. Nutting stated this had been voted on last week by the Council, but instead of Committee they were supposed to be called Directors of the Corporation, so there needs to be a new vote to make it official. ■Ms. Pfeffer read the appointments for Franklin Community Cable Access, Inc., two Directors of the Corporation, each for a three (3) year term, of William K. (Ken) Norman and Rose M. Turco. **Motion to Ratify** the appointments of Kenneth Norman and Rose Turco to serve as two Directors of the Corporation, each for a three (3) year term by **Padula. SECOND by Dellorco. No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

► *Liaisons – SAFE Board, Communications.* ■Chairman Kelly stated he would like to appoint Mr. Dellorco to the SAFE Community Coalition as the liaison for the Council. Mr. Dellorco should coordinate with the police, fire and schools and let Council and Town know what can be done to contribute to the issues that go along with this coalition. ■Chairman Kelly stated he would like to appoint Glenn Jones as a communications liaison for the Town Council working one-on-one with the Town Administrator and staff to discover more ways Council can have better communication with the public which was an important item suggested by people in the last Town election. Mr. Jones should report back to the Council often on this.

HEARINGS: None.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS: *OPEB, Dan Sherman.* ►Mr. Nutting stated Mr. Sherman has been the Town actuarial consultant since 2007 regarding OPEB obligations. The Town contracts with him every few years for an update. He thought it would be good for this update to be given to the Council and community to provide an overview of the OPEB obligation, available options, and information about what is going on across the Commonwealth on this issue. ►Mr. Sherman addressed the Town Council with an explanation and review of OPEB. He stated page three is the most important page of the entire

document that the councilors received. He explained the reason for OPEB. Up until recently towns were paying their benefits when they came due. Town would pay the premiums and retirees paid their portion of the premium. Budget only had the pay-as-you-go costs for post-retirement medical benefits which is the dominant cost. Life insurance and dental are also included. Government Accounting Standards Board said that towns do not really know how much they had promised based on the obligation. Accountants said a town needed to measure liability and include it on their financial statements so readers of the financial statements would know how big of a promise was made. Mr. Sherman explained the various rules and various ways to calculate that obligation. He explained how the Trust works to pay the benefits. Need to put money away today to pay for this. If town is not putting money away, how is the town going pay. If paying from General Account the interest must be determined. Town of Franklin is in middle column, the partial prefunding (see page three), which is at 4.5 percent. This is a blended rate, for accounting. Have to put this information on financial statements. The Town of Franklin's unfunded liability is \$92.5 million which becomes an entry on the financial statements and will become an entry on the balance sheet in two years. After calculations, Town is 1.5 percent funded. Some money has been put aside, not a lot, but it has been started. This will keep Town rating good if can show putting money aside. This liability is 161 percent of the payroll. This percent can be used to compare against other communities. This unfunded liability is lower than most peer communities. It is a good place to be. Right now the Town is paying about \$2 million for retiree life insurance and medical. In addition, Town is putting aside about \$600,000.00. Need about an additional \$1.9 million. Most communities are in the same position. Rating agencies say it is good when a town is putting some money aside. The fact that the Town is not getting all the way there is ok. He reviewed different strategies on how to deal with funding this obligation, and keep rating agencies happy with the Town. It takes years to close the gap. Keep putting more and more money aside. There is a big advantage to fully or partially prefunding. The investments are paying for some of the liabilities. Some towns are now fully prefunding. He suggested Town of Franklin just keep setting aside extra funds each year to build up funding. ► Council members participated in question and answer session. ► Mr. Nutting summarized that Town is approximately \$2 million deficit to fully fund obligation. So the gap between fully funding and partial funding is \$2 million. Town has started to add additional money each year. Mr. Nutting stated health insurance plans are reviewed and Town has very inexpensive plan. ► Mr. Padula wanted to make a motion that Council recommend to State Representative and State Senator to consider filing a bill to change legislation to allow that all towns are able to take advantage of a 50/50 type plan to allow change in benefits plan for new people versus current retirees. ► Chairman Kelly stated this would be put on a future agenda. ► Mr. Sherman explained highlights of the forecast going forward on page ten. This is a guide to show how much should be set aside to prefund. He noted the numbers shown were as the Town was on June 30, 2015. As of July 1, 2015 these predictions could be changed. That is why it is important this be measured every few years.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Chairman Kelly stated he is looking for members that are interested in the Council subcommittees—capital, budget, and economic development. If interested in being on any of these subcommittees, please let Chairman Kelly know before the December meeting so he can fill them in and get them going.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION:

- 1. Resolution 15-36R: (Revised) Salary Schedule Full-Time Elected Officials.** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION to Move** Resolution 15-36R (Revised) Salary Schedule Full-Time Elected Official by **Vallee**. **SECOND** by **Bissanti**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated this resolution was passed in the annual budget process assuming the incumbent Town Clerk would be finished seven days after the election. With the election recall, that is not happening. To continue to be able to pay the Town Clerk until the election is resolved, need to change the language and appropriate the money

for the extra time. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

2. ***Resolution 15-71: Acceptance of Deed of Land Off Daniels Street (parcels B and C in Tanglewood Estates Subdivision) for Conservation Purposes.*** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 15-71 for the acceptance of Deed of Land off Daniels Street (parcels B and C in Tanglewood Estates Subdivision) for conservation purposes by **Dellorco**. **SECOND** by **Padula**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated Tanglewood was an open space subdivision. Some of the land was left to the Town. It will become conservation land. Mr. Cerel stated the additional parcels were agreed to be given to the Town through negotiations with Conservation Commission during the course of the permitting process. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**
3. ***Resolution 15-73: Acceptance of Easement on Property at 0 Greystone Road.*** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 15-73 acceptance of easement on property at 0 Greystone Road by **Bissanti**. **SECOND** by **Vallee**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Cerel stated this is a single lot subdivision. Town has been plowing up to the property line. Through Planning Board negotiations with owner/developer, Town got an agreement for area to be dedicated to push the snow when they plow into Greystone road extension. This is the easement. It was noted the word “Franklin” was missing from the document. **MOTION** to **Amend** the document to indicate “Franklin” (Mr. Cerel stated word should be handwritten in before signing document) by **Pfeffer**. **SECOND** by **Bissanti**. ► **ROLL CALL VOTE for the amendment:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE for resolution as amended:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**
4. ***Resolution 15-74: Adoption of Town Council Procedures Manual.*** Ms. Pfeffer read the resolution. **MOTION** to **Move** Resolution 15-74 for the adoption of Town Council Procedures Manual by **Vallee**. **SECOND** by **Dellorco**. **Discussion:** ► Mr. Nutting stated it has been about the same for the past 15 years except that remote participation was added in 2012. **No Discussion.** ► **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: ► Mr. Nutting stated hoping weather hold to get Oak Street paved in the next few weeks. There are many raised castings and trying to push contractor to finish before winter. ► Downtown is wrapping up—one more meeting this year. Will get map on webpage regarding the circulation. It will begin sometime next summer, but want to give folks a heads up. ► Winter is coming. Please drive slower in snow as children are walking to schools. Schools have policy that if sidewalks are not plowed, bus will pick up students. ► Tree lighting is on Sunday, November 29th. ► Mr. Nutting stated he will defer remaining announcements to the Chairman. ► Chairman Kelly stated proposed Town Council meeting schedule for 2016 has been given to Council members—please review for vote next meeting. ► The Holiday Stroll is Thursday, December 3rd. ► Tax Hearing Meeting is now scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, at 5:30 PM in the Council chambers. ► January 6th meeting scheduled with the citizens’ group for discussion of the proposed pipeline with Access Northeast. ► Town Council Goal Workshop is on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 PM. ► Inviting all citizens that have concern about Pond Street to come for discussion with Town Council on January 20th. ► By end of week there will be a Downtown traffic pattern plan on the Town website for people to see which direction they will be driving in the future.

OLD BUSINESS: ► Mr. Bissanti asked about the insurance audit and if the person had called Mr. Nutting yet. ► Mr. Nutting said he had not received a call, but if he does, he would be happy to speak to the person. ► Mr. Bissanti stated he heard the lot was getting widened on Wachusett Street. ► Mr. Nutting confirmed. ► Mr. Dellorco said he drove by today and saw the lot was expanded. ► Mr. Nutting said by the next meeting the lot will be completed. ► Mr. Vallee asked for the time frame on the expansion of the power plant. ► Mr. Nutting stated he has reached out to environmental attorneys, but has not received information yet.

NEW BUSINESS: ► Mr. Bissanti stated he wanted to introduce the group STOP—Service Training On Premises—to speak to the Town Council. The program enlightens local establishments on what they are doing right and wrong regarding alcohol awareness behind the bar and in the barroom.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: ► Mr. Dellorco stated next Coalition meeting is December 8, at 7:00 PM. There was a meeting last night and things are moving along. Still have some problems, but getting there. He expressed condolences to the McDonald family reflecting that Timmy was a great supporter of the Town and Town sports. ► Mr. Bissanti sent condolences to the McDonald family. In addition, Mr. Bissanti stated the Coalition is saving lives in Franklin. He is proud of Council for initiating a response to the opiate problem, and would like to see Council take firmer stance about going after the drug dealers. Anything Council can do to support this effort would be great. He thanked Councilor Dellorco for his great work on the Coalition. ► Ms. Pfeffer asked about the drug dog discussed months ago. ► Mr. Nutting stated he will check if the dog has been trained and when the dog will be coming in. ► Chairman Kelly gave condolences to the McDonald family. ► Mr. Mercer expressed condolences to the McDonald family; Timmy will be sadly missed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: MOTION to Adjourn by Dellorco. SECOND by Vallee. ► ROLL CALL VOTE: Bissanti-YES; Dellorco-YES; Kelly-YES; Mercer-YES (by remote); Padula-YES; Pfeffer-YES; Vallee-YES. **VOTE: Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lizardi
Recording Secretary