

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
BOARD OF FINANCE (BOF)
FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, Connecticut
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Handfield called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Calli Carboni, Vice Chairman Veronica Calvert, Chairman Richard Handfield, Melissa McGuire Alden Miner, Richard Weingart. **Alternate Members Present:** Roland Mihok. **Alternate Members Absent:** Jeremy Beisiegel.

Also Present: First Selectman Charlie Grant, Town Selectman Russ Beisiegel, Town Selectman Tom Craney, Town Clerk Lynda Craney, Town Treasurer Patty Osten, Franklin Elementary Interim Superintendent & Principal, Gregg Keith.

2. Recognition of Visitors: Chairman Handfield recognized visitors.

3. Election of Officers: Chairman Handfield opened the floor for nominations:

MOTION #1 (12.14.21) made by Richard Weingart **SECONDED BY** Melissa McGuire, that the Board of Finance nominate Richard Handfield for *Chairman*. Discussion: There were no other nominations.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION #2 (12.14.21): made by Chairman Handfield **SECONDED BY** Richard Weingart, that the Board of Finance close nominations *Chairman*

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION #3 (12.14.21) made by Richard Handfield **SECONDED BY** Melissa McGuire, that the Board of Finance nominate Richard Weingart for *Vice Chairman*. Discussion: There were no other nominations.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION #4 (12.14.21): made by Richard Handfield **SECONDED BY** Melissa McGuire, that the Board of Finance close nominations for *Vice Chairman*

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

4. Additions to the Agenda: None.

5. Approval of Minutes:

- a. November 9, 2021

MOTION # 5 (12.14.21): made by Richard Weingart **SECONDED BY** Melissa McGuire that the Board of Finance approve the November 9, 2021 meeting minutes – as amended

- Roland Mihok arrived after meeting began - he was present

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

New Business moved to this point in the meeting:

9. New Business:

- a. Draft Auditors Report FY 2020-2021:

Review Draft Auditors Report FY 2020-2021: Susan Jones, Partner, Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan LLC, Groton CT, was present. There was review of the Draft Town of Franklin Basic Financial Statements as of June 30, 2021 Together with Independent Auditors' Reports, Required Supplementary Information, & State Single Audit Reports. Auditors will file an extension request. BOS to begin developing end-of-year line-item transfers.

6. Review of Reports:

- a. **Monthly Tax Collection Report:** Kelsey Allard reported 4 properties were sent to Tax Sale for Collection.

October 21, 2021:

- 57.81% 2020 Grand List Taxes Collected
- 49,370.14 Prior Year Taxes Collected
- 19,790.47 Interest & Lien Fees Collected

November 30, 2021:

- 58.43% 2020 Grand List Collected
- 54,965.41 Prior Year Taxes: Collected
- 22,106.84 Interest & Lien Fees C collected

4 properties were sent to Tax Sale for Collection

b. Monthly Board of Selectmen Income & Expense Report: Charlie Grant reports provided.

INCOME: State Education Support (ECS) & State Municipal Aide has not been received. Miscellaneous grants have been received. As of December 9, 2021 the Budget is 56.5% of total income.

EXPENSE: Reviewed annual billing/membership expenses for 911, NECCOG Dog Pound, and Uncas Health.

- American Recovery Act: Franklin received approximately \$284,000. Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments (SECCOG) is hiring a professional for 4 years to assist and direct Franklin on how to properly expend these monies. There are *significant* Federal Treasury restrictions on how this money can and cannot be spent. Estimated cost for these services is 1% of the monies.

c. Monthly Board of Education (BOE) Report: Gregg Keith, Principal and Interim Superintendent of FES was present. He indicated Scott Tracy is the new Board of Education Chairman and there are a few new members.

- Covid Relief Funds: Received approximately \$349,271.00 in COVID Relief Funds.
- Improving Budget Operations and Audit Process: Mr. Keith and Mr. Tracy have indicated they are looking forward to working with the Town on future budget operations. BOE intends to use the same budget/audit format that the Town uses in order to make the reports easier to read and work with. There may be development of a sub-committee involving the bookkeepers and business managers from both Town & Board of Education.
- Special Education Increased Costs: Recent Special Education outpatients has created increased costs as well as related transportation increases.
- Legal Line-Item Increased Costs: Unexpected legal costs partly related to outplacements and school personnel matters.
- Cost Savings: 2 students choosing to attend Griswold High school (less cost than NFA), Project O is virtual due to COVID resulting in a savings, and considerable retirement savings.

There was general BOF consensus that the Legal Fees Line Item is consistently over budget. Line Item was budgeted for \$10,000 and is currently on track to expend \$40,000. This is not a fiscally responsible situation.

d. Monthly Selectman's Report:

WINTER PREPARATIONS: The Town has reached an agreement with a road salt supplier for a savings. All snow equipment is set-up and ready.

GREEN VALLEY SCHOOL: The Town is working with Green Valley School on resolving Franklin Elementary School Air Quality. Town is working to continue to provide Franklin Elementary as a lease option.

BOF VACANCY: Mr. Grant is in the process of reaching out to a possible candidate.

FORMER SUPERINTENDENT RETIREMENT: Package offered the former Superintendent \$10,000 per year for a three-year period. The reply came from the BOE attorney and not the BOE. This is a freedom of information request and the BOE should have been able to comply without asking the attorney and incurring a cost to the taxpayers for such services; once again maxing out legal consulting fees.

7. Correspondence: None
8. Unfinished Business: None
9. New Business: None
10. Public Comments: None
11. Adjournment:

MOTION #6 made by Calli Carboni SECONDED BY Melissa McGuire that the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pollard
Board Secretary