

TOWN OF FRANKLIN

BOARD OF FINANCE (BOF)

FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, Connecticut

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2020
7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Richard Handfield called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Members Present: Nate Boyden, Vice Chairman Veronica Calvert, Calli Carboni, Susan Dombrowski, Chairman Richard Handfield, Richard Weingart.

Alternate Members Present: Roland Mihok

Alternate Members Absent: Jeremy Beisiegel, Wesley Crawford.

Also Present: First Selectman Charlie Grant, Selectmen Russ Beisiegel & Tom Craney, Treasurer Patty Osten, Superintendent Larry Fenn, Franklin Elementary School Principal Gregg Keith, Board of Education Chairman Peter Calvert, & Pamela Lyle Flaherty.

2. Recognition of Visitors: Chairman Richard Handfield recognized visitors.

3. Additions to the Agenda: None.

4. Approval of Minutes:

- a. March 10, 2020:

MOTION #1 (05.12.20): made by Susan Dombrowski **SECONDED BY** Veronica Calvert that the Board of Finance approve meeting minutes of March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting – as presented
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

5. Review of Reports:

- a. **Monthly Tax Collection Report:** Kelsey Allard presented the Tax Collectors Report as included in meeting packet.

- b. **Monthly Board of Selectmen Income Report:** Mr. Grant reviewed the report as submitted for FY19-20. Education Cost Sharing State Aid received is about 98.8%% while Municipal Aid is 82%.

- c. **Monthly Board of Selectmen Expense Report:** Mr. Grant reviewed the report as submitted for FY19-20. He reviewed line items experiencing overages; items included, but were not limited to, information technology/computer needs, library re-organization, and public safety equipment.

- d. **Monthly Board of Education (BOE) Report:** Superintendent Fenn provided an update on BOE FY19-20 Budget. Items reviewed included, but were not limited to, associated COVID-19 expenses and CARES Act income, considerable attorney fees, teacher and superintendent contract negotiation fees, and special education costs. Currently, BOE is experiencing an estimated \$10,000 overage.

- e. **Monthly Selectman's Report:** Charlie Grant gave a brief update on town activities. Public Works is running transfer station on limited hours, sweeping roads on a regular basis, and removing fallen trees.

6. Correspondence: N/A

7. Old Business: N/A

8. New Business:

- a. Presentation: Board of Selectmen Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021:
- b. Presentation: Board of Education Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

The Board of Selectman & Board of Education presented their Proposed FY 2020-2021 Budgets as submitted. Discussion ensued. BOS proposed increase is 4.2% and BOE proposed increase is 3.44%.

There is great concern the State of Connecticut will experience a considerable deficit due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this short-fall will impact all Towns. Franklin resident are, and will continue to, experience financial challenges during this time. In response, there was discussion on how Franklin could approach their FY 2020-2021 Municipal & Board of Education Operational Budgets while assisting residents in this time of financial difficulty. There was discussion on reducing proposed budgets, tax deferment programs, utilizing undesignated fund balance, and adjusting the Mil rate.

After review and discussion, BOF recommended BOS and BOE revisit their proposals and come back with a 0% increase.

MOTION #2 (05.12.20): made by Veronica Calvert **SECONDED BY** Nate Boyden that the Board of Finance schedule a special meeting May 26, 2020, 7:30 p.m. to discuss FY 2020-2021 Budget Proposals and set a Public Hearing Date

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

9. Public Comments: N/A

10. Adjournment

MOTION #3 (05.12.20): made by Susan Dombrowski **SECONDED BY** Veronica Calvert that the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pollard
Board Secretary