

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
BOARD OF FINANCE (BOF)
FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, Connecticut
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Handfield called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Nate Boyden, Vice Chairman Veronica Calvert, Calli Carboni, Susan Dombrowski, Chairman Richard Handfield, Richard Weingart (arrived after meeting began *).

Alternate Members Present: Roland Mihok. **Alternate Members Absent:** Jeremy Beisiegel, Wesley Crawford.

Also Present: First Selectman Charlie Grant, Selectmen Russ Beisiegel & Tom Craney, Town Clerk Lynda Craney, Tax Collector Kelsey Allard, Treasurer Patty Osten, Superintendent Larry Fenn, & Board of Education Chairman Peter Calvert.

Chairman Handfield seated Roland Mihok for Richard Weingart.

2. Recognition of Visitors: Pamela & Lyle Flaherty, Carl Girasoli, & Melissa Savigny.
3. Public Hearing: Chairman Handfield opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

- a. Proposed Board of Selectmen Municipal & Board of Education Budgets FY 2020-2021:

Board of Education FY 20-21 Budget: Larry Fenn and Peter Calvert provided a brief overview of the current proposed budget as submitted and presented. Larry Fenn talked about areas within the budget that were reduced in order to propose a 0% increase. This budget proposal is based on a "normal" school opening and operations for the next school year and does not take into account possible COVID-19 guidelines that may be imposed by the State of Connecticut.

- **Current proposed budget amount is \$4,000,675,00 – with a 0% increase**

*Richard Weingart entered meeting at this point.

The Board of Education could experience significant increased costs due to social distancing guidelines at an estimated 13% to 20%. However, there could be a reduction in budget costs if the option of distance learning is used at an estimated 13% to 15%. Administrative Staff and the Board of Education continue to review various re-opening scenarios associated to COVID-19.

*Richard Weingart was seated and Roland Mihok was returned to an alternate members.

Pamela Flaherty noted the budget process is very complicated for residents and tax payers due to COVID-19. She is concerned that the foreign language programs have been eliminated due to budget reductions. In addition, the Art/Music programs were also eliminated. It should be noted many people have worked hard to get these programs running and students greatly benefit from foreign language studies both at the elementary and secondary educational level.

Board of Selectmen FY 20-21 Budget (Municipal): Charlie Grant provided a brief overview of the current proposed budget as submitted and presented. The Board of Selectmen approved various reductions throughout the municipal budget to allow for a proposed 0% increase.

- **Current proposed budget amount is \$2,763,675 – with a 0% increase**

Richard Handfield closed the Public Hearing at 7:58 p.m.

3. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. May 12, 2020:

MOTION #1 (06.09.20): made by Calli Carboni SECONDED BY Susan Dombrowski that the Board of Finance approve meeting minutes of May 12, 2020 Regular Meeting – as presented
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

b. May 26, 2020:

MOTION #2 (06.09.20): made by Susan Dombrowski SECONDED BY Calli Carboni that the Board of Finance approve meeting minutes of May 26, 2020 Special Meeting – as amended:

1. Visitors to be referenced under “Recognition of Visitors”

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

4. Review of Reports:

a. **Monthly Tax Collection Report:** Kelsey Allard presented the Tax Collectors Report:

- 96.54% 2018 Grand List taxes collected
- \$55,818.48 prior year taxes collected
- \$29,369.06 interest and lien fees collected

b. **Monthly Board of Selectmen Income Report:** Mr. Grant reviewed the report as submitted for FY19-20. Mr. Grant indicated any remaining income will supplement the undesignated fund balance.

c. **Monthly Board of Selectmen Expense Report:** Mr. Grant reviewed the report submitted for FY19-20.

d. **Monthly Board of Education (BOE) Report:** no report

e. **Monthly Selectman’s Report:** Mr. Grant noted roadside mowing activities are on-going and the transfer station has been opening periodically for Town residents. Franklin Town Hall Staff are regularly discussing options for working with social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19 while assuring all town services are being provided as efficiently as possible.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Old Business:

a. Discussion & Action Board of Selectmen & Board of Education Budgets - Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

MOTION #3 (06.09.20): made by Calli Carboni SECONDED BY Susan Dombrowski that the Board of Finance approve the FY 20-21 Town Municipal & Board of Education Budgets as presented
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

7. New Business:

a. Set Mil Rate FY 2020-2021:

There was discussion on various options for mil rate reductions and/or increases and resulting effects on the FY 20-21 budget with regard to resident’s taxes, town operations, Franklin Elementary School operations, and the undesignated fund balance. The current FY19-20 mil rate is 23.72 and a proposed reduction of ½ mil would result in a FY 20-21 mil rate of 23.22.

MOTION #4 (06.09.20): made by Veronica Calvert SECONDED BY Richard Weingart that the Board of Finance approve to set the FY 20-21 Mil Rate at 23.22.
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

9. Public Comments: N/A

10. Adjournment

MOTION #5 (06.09.20): made by Susan Dombrowski SECONDED BY Richard Weingart that the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted, *Sherry Pollard* Board Secretary