

**Town of Franklin
Office of the First Selectman
Franklin Town Hall
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**THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HELD AT THE
TOWN HALL AT 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, THE 2nd DAY OF MAY, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Charles Grant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Selectman Russell Beisiegel and Selectman Thomas Craney.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Sam Giavara and Stephan Nousiopoulos

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **NONE**

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: First Selectman Charles Grant made a request to add the following under New business:

- b. **Discussion on the Changes to the Conservation Easement for Franklin Hills Project:**

MOTION #1: First Selectman Charles Grant made a motion to approve the additions to the agenda as presented. Selectman Russell Beisiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. April 25, 2018

MOTION #2: First Selectman Charles Grant made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 25, 2018 as presented with the minor changes of "50 sq. yards to 50 thousand sq. yards of chip seal." Selectman Thomas Craney seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF REPORTS:

a. Department of Public Works:

First Selectman Charles Grant gave an update on the department of public works. The public works crew are still mowing and getting the mowers ready. The public works crew chipped up a tree that had fallen down and they have been cleaning up the roads. First Selectman Charles Grant sent Overhead Doors to quote the public works garage, the First Selectman was distressed that there were no safety features on the garage doors. First Selectman Charles Grant also had them check the garage doors at the fire department. D.B. Lunt might be able to do it for a quarter of the cost for the fire department garage. First Selectman Charles Grant will come with an update on the town's garage doors for the next meeting.

b. Financial Report:

First Selectman Charles Grant gave an update on the financial reports and explained that he now has access to QuickBooks to help give the Board of Selectmen a better update on the town's budget. First Selectman Charles Grant stated that everything on the budget appears to be correct. The department of public works budget line items looks good, the town has two thousand left for sand and salt. Tyler Drive property is only budgeted for ten thousand when last year it was budgeted seventeen thousand, I will take a look at that again. Tax refund request is over budget due to the amount of request the town got this year. Kelsey Allard (town's tax collector) gave the Board of Selectmen a report of delinquent tax payments. Selectman Russel Beisiegel asked about the water sewer project loan money and what the status was. First Selectman Charles Grant stated that Patricia Osten has a meeting with a bank this coming Friday at 10:30am regarding the water and sewer loan. First Selectman Charles Grant will update the Board of Selectmen on any changes with the loan.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Discussion on 2018/2019 Budget:

First Selectman Charles Grant gave an update on the 2018/2019 town's budget. First Selectman Charles Grant went over the budget by each line item. First Selectman Charles Grant stated that some line items will have an increase and some will have a decrease due to the demand of the town. Some of the line items are budgeted for a certain amount, but that amount was never actually used, such as Bulky Waste fees. Selectman Russel Beisiegel stated that it would be beneficial to have the actual budget from previous years to help with the town's budget. Selectman Thomas Craney asked if there's going to be any activity in the near future regarding the property at Tyler drive. First Selectman Charles Grant stated that he would like to post the Tyler drive property on Craigslist to get that office rented. If the town of Franklin rents this property, that would be another income that will be helping the town out. First Selectman Charles Grant asked Selectman Russel Beisiegel a question regarding the grand list and taxes for the budget. First Selectman Charles Grant is starting to figure out next fiscal year taxes for the town of Franklin. The Board of Selectmen thoroughly went over the town's budget to make changes and corrections. First Selectman Charles Grant updated the Board of Selectmen

that Thomas Tangonali (the towns IT expert) was able to create a confidential network that the First Selectman and the First Selectman towns assistant can access to update the budget. This will make creating and updating the budget easier and efficient for the town. First Selectman Charles Grant also went over the towns employee salaries, he stated that the Board of Selectmen decided to go with the same salary rate increase as the public works crew which will be a 2.8% increase. First Selectman Charles Grant will update the budget with the new salary figures for the next meeting. First Selectman Charles Grant is still waiting for CIRMA to give him exact figures for medical insurance. There will be a 3% increase on medical insurance cost, once First Selectman Charles Grant receives the correct figures it will be updated on the budget. The Board of Selectmen went over the line items for highway materials and road repairs for the town of Franklin. Patricia Osten and the First Selectman Charles Grant will go over the financial obligation and figure out what principal and interest payments the town owes for next year. First Selectman Charles Grant also informed the Board of Selectmen that Willimantic Waste stop by the town hall and stated that they will be going up 7% for next year's waste disposal cost. First Selectman Charles Grant will update the budget with new figures and bring it to the next meeting for the Board of Selectmen to go over.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Approval of Tax Refunds:** There were no Tax refunds presented this day for the meeting. First Selectman Charles Grant tabled this topic for the next Board of Selectmen meeting.
- b. **Discussion on the Changes to the Conservation Easement for Franklin Hills Project:**

First Selectman Charles Grant updated the Board of Selectmen on changes to the conservation easement for the Franklin hills estate and country club project. Sam Giavara updated everyone on the franklin hills project. He stated that he ran into an issue with the 2004 applications for construction on the golf course, club house, and lodge, expired. However, the wet lands application has not expired yet not until April, 2019. Sam Giavara and Stephan Nousiopoulos thought that we come in with what was approve in 2015. In 2015 Sam Giavara got the club house and lodge approve, he was wondering to get a 5-year application approve and then start construction this July 2018 to try to get in a growing season in. Sam Giavara stated that the dilemma is that in Dec 2013 when the engineers approved the application and gave him the permit, they required any unused land to be named conservation land and required Sam Giavara to provide a conservation map with meets and bounds of the deed. Selectman Russel Beisiegel asked how do they defined what is unused land. Sam Giavara responded by showing the franklin hills project map to the Board of Selectmen that even though the residential application was not approved, Sam Giavara still put it in the map to show that this is the life of the project. This does not include wetlands or mitigation land, which added up 95.7 acres. Sam Giavara was dealing with Barbara Newman who is the project manager for Corps Engineer at that time and that also was one of their conditions for their approval that the deed gets filed. Sam Giavara showed Barbara Newman the Corps Engineer statement, the permittee will execute and record a copy of the conservation and closed plan with at least 97 acres. For the golf course Sam Giavara is

planning to encroach the acres. Sam Giavara filed that map and everything was fine however the gas company stated that he cannot put tee boxes on hole number 4. Sam Giavara had to change the configurations of the plans. When both Sam Giavara and Stephan Nousiopoulos went to file last night, the inland and wetland commission told them that Sam Giavara change the conservation planning without notifying the town. There was a little encroachment with this new layout the Franklin Hills Project gain 10 more acres, but with the new town planner this is not allowed. Sam Giavara also stated if everything goes as planned the golf course project should be opened for fall 2020 which will have a spa, pool, and restaurant. Selectman Russel Beisiegel asked Sam Giavara what he planned on doing with his water and sewer. Sam stated that he is going with NPU, which will run up to 32 and loop it. The sewer come from murphy road and is currently waiting for their approval. However, because Sam Giavara did not notified the town of the encroachment changes the inland and wetlands commission could not accept their easement application. The First Selectman Charles Grant stated that he it going to mail the new maps out to the town's council, Matt Willis to review the changes. First Selectman Charles Grant also asked the Board of Selectmen for approval to sign the conservation easement and send it to Matt Willis (town council) to revise. First Selectman Charles Grant will update the Board of Selectmen with any new information from the town's attorney.

MOTION # 3: Selectman Thomas Craney made a motion to approve First selectman Charles Grant to sign and approve the conservation easement pending approval of town council (Matt Willis). Selectman Russell Beisiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 7, 2018.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION # 4: First Selectman Charles Grant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Thomas Craney seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at **9:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted
Cindy Machi- Rodriguez
First Selectmen Administrative Assistant