

**Town of Franklin
Office of the First Selectman
Franklin Town Hall
7 Meeting House Hill Road
Franklin, Connecticut 06254**

TELEPHONE: 860-642-6055 EXT: 16

WEBSITE: www.franklinct.com

FAX: 860-642-6606

EMAIL: franklin@99main.com

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FRANKLIN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Held at the Franklin Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, the 30th day of October 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Charles Grant called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Selectman Russell Beisiegel and Selectman Thomas Craney.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: First Selectman Charles Grant introduced Matt Maynard from Towne Engineering

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Selectman Russell Beisiegel made a request to add a discussion on winter snow and ice removal under Update on Public Works Trucks.

New Business:

a. Presentation of Murphy Road Project by Matt Maynard from Towne Engineering.

Matt Maynard from Towne Engineering made a presentation to the Board of Selectman on the proposal for the Murphy Road Widening Project. He brought a site plan of Murphy Road beginning at Route 87 through to Route 32. Murphy Road is currently being used as a cut-through by traffic due to the water and sewer project taking place on Route 32 between Murphy Road and Interstate 395. In May 2019, First Selectman Charles Grant asked Towne Engineering to submit a proposal to address the widening of Murphy Road.

The proposal from Towne Engineering recommends widening Murphy Road from its current width of 18 feet to 24 feet. There will be no intrusions on the north side of Murphy Road and no easements involved. The initial proposal in May 2019 projected the cost at approximately \$215,000. Currently, the projected cost of the proposal has increased to approximately \$360,000. Mr. Maynard explained that the initial proposal made a “guesstimate” on what the costs would be for the widening of Murphy Road but since then, Towne Engineering completed their survey and the site plan now has the exact figures and lengths which changed the total cost of the project.

The Board of Selectman discussed Towne Engineering's proposal to widen Murphy Road with Matt Maynard. The proposed Murphy Road Project would not be affected by the current Water and Sewer Project taking place on Route 32. Selectman Thomas Craney asked Matt Maynard what the anticipated timeline would be if the Board of Selectman voted to approve the proposal from Towne Engineering. Mr. Maynard said that it would take 3-5 months to notify DOT and go through all the required permitting processes before the project could go out for bid. First Selectman Charles Grant said that the town currently has money in the budget to proceed with the project.

MOTION #1: Selectman Thomas Craney made a motion to approve the Towne Engineering Proposal to widen Murphy Road as presented. Selectman Russell Beisiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. October 16, 2019

MOTION #2: Selectman Thomas Craney made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 16, 2019 as presented but with one minor grammatical edit under the Financial Reports section, second sentence. Selectman Russell Beisiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF REPORTS:

- a. Department of Public Works:** Selectman Russell Beisiegel said that he often speaks with other Public Works Departments in surrounding towns and recently had the opportunity to discuss their snow and ice removal procedures. Additionally, Selectman Russell Beisiegel said he also attended a presentation by Innovative Surface Solutions, a company that produces additives on top of current compounds found in popular snow and ice melters. Innovative Surface Solutions is producing snow and ice melters containing molasses and corn products, which are currently being used by a large number of states. The Board of Selectman discussed the town's current snow and ice removal products and the possibility of considering other options.

First Selectman Charles Grant said that the town of Sprague has been using the molasses and corn mixture the past two winters and they swear by it. First Selectman Charles Grant will look into having Innovative Surface Solutions make a future presentation to Franklin's Board of Selectman and Department of Public Works.

b. Financial Report:

First Selectman Charles Grant reported that the current rigging expense for Public Works was coded incorrectly with the Miscellaneous Account Code causing that budget line item to go over budget but the expense will be recoded and moved out of that line item. First Selectman Charles Grant gave an update on the current eviction process with the tenant of the town's warehouse. The tenant owes several months of rent from fiscal year 2017-2018 in addition to unpaid rent for the current fiscal year. First Selectman Charles Grant will be following up with the town's legal firm tomorrow on the next steps of the eviction process. First Selectman Charles Grant will provide another update to the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Update on FES UST:** First Selectman Charles Grant stated that the FES UST (Franklin Elementary School Underground Storage Tank) has finally been replaced and the old one removed. The school's boilers are running at the school; the only thing left is to put up a fence around the access area to the new fuel storage tank.
- b. **Update on the Woodward Museum Exterior Painting:** First Selectman Charles Grant updated the Board of Selectman on the status of the Woodward Museum painting. He said that the primer and first coat are done and the painting on the house will be completed next week. The painting on the barn will be done in the spring.
- c. **Update on the M42 Duster:** First Selectman Charles Grant stated that the M42 Duster (Self-Propelled Anti-Aircraft Tank – Gun) arrived and was placed on the DOD required pad. The only thing left is to put up a chain link fence around the tank. The agreement with DOD requires a 4-Foot fence around the perimeter of the tank. First Selectman Charles Grant said that part of the agreement requires the town to provide DOD with a photographic record of the pad that the tank is required to sit on, which has been done. Once the fence has been installed, he will send DOD a photograph of that as well. First Selectman Charles Grant is checking to see if the town can use a 4-foot high ornamental fence around the tank instead of a chain link fence. Mr. Seymour Adelman of Adelman Sand & Gravel, Inc. provided the equipment to move the tank onto the pad free of charge. The Board of Selectman unanimously agreed to send a thank you letter to Mr. Adelman. First Selectman Charles Grant will update the Board of Selectmen at the next meeting on the fencing.
- d. **Update on Public Works Trucks:** First Selectman Charles Grant reported that the Public Works new Read Truck Body came in yesterday and the new Mason Dump Truck will be arriving tomorrow. A new Power Dump Truck should be ready by mid-December. First Selectman Charles Grant also stated that the Public Works staff attended a Flagger Certification Class today and attended a Snow Pro Safe Training Seminar a few weeks ago.
- e. **Update on Widening Murphy Road:** See update under New Business – Presentation by Matt Maynard from Towne Engineering.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Discussion on DOT Bridge Inspection Report:** First Selectman Charles Grant gave copies of the DOT Bridge Inspection Report to the Board of Selectman. The Board of Selectman discussed DOT's recommendations which include repairs to the Susquetonscut Brook Bridge on Murphy Road and the Susquetonscut Brook Bridge on Meetinghouse Hill Road. First Selectman Charles Grant will contact Towne Engineering to request a quote for the recommended repairs from the DOT Bridge Inspection Report.
- b. **Discussion on Franklin Roads Tree Assessment:** First Selectman Charles Grant reported on his recent survey of the trees on Franklin town roads with Dave Gustafson, Franklin's Tree Warden. There are a lot of hazardous trees that need to be addressed. First Selectman Charles Grant stated that he did not have an exact number but would get the total number of trees tomorrow. First Selectman Charles Grant said he would submit a proposal to the Board of Finance to prioritize which trees were the most dangerous and needed to be

removed right away with a multi-year plan to address the others. He will also ask for an appropriation of \$20,000 for a tree line budget item.

- c. **Discussion on the Town Christmas Party:** First Selectman Charles Grant said that the date for the town Christmas party this year will be Saturday, December 14 at the Franklin Firehouse.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Franklin Board of Selectman will be Wednesday, November 13, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION #3: First Selectman Charles Grant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Russell Beisiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at **8:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann D'Ambrosio
Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman