

**Town of Franklin
Office of the First Selectman
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FRANKLIN BOARD OF SELECTMAN**

**Held at the Franklin Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, the 11th day of December 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Charles Grant called the meeting to order at 8:18 p.m.

PRESENT: Selectman Russell Beisiegel and Selectman Thomas Craney

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Patty Osten, Franklin Treasurer

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Under New Business -- Review of Employment Applications for the Driver/Laborer 2 Position in Public Works.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Minutes of the November 13, 2019 Meeting

MOTION #1: First Selectman Charles Grant asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2019 meeting. Selectman Russell Beisiegel requested to make a change to the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting. The changes were agreed upon; under Review of Reports, Section A, first paragraph, 5th sentence, change "rail mower" to "over the rail mower" and under New Business, Section B, Motion 3, "Burdon" should be corrected to read "Bourdon." Selectman Thomas Craney made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting with the changes. Selectman Beisiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF REPORTS:

- a. **Department of Public Works:** First Selectman Charles Grant reported that the new Mason Dump Truck arrived with the plow and sander fixed and attached. He noticed that Tommy Curran's truck had an innerwell blade attached underneath the truck which keeps the salt and sand from flying up into the bed of the truck. Selectman Grant said he has gone ahead and ordered additional innerwell's for the Mason Dump Truck and one other truck. Additionally, he has ordered the Town of Franklin's insignia to be placed on the side of the new Mason Dump Truck and on the other new truck when it comes in. The other two trucks in the fleet will be done next year. Selectman Grant also noted that the radio has been mounted in Tommy's truck. He said he contacted Jim Uccell at Freightliner to find out the status on the other new dump truck. Selectman Grant announced that Mike Meadows the Driver/Laborer 1 resigned his position in the Public Works Department. His last day was Friday, December 6. He said that he contracted with Steve Boucher with SAB to help out with snow removal until a replacement has been hired in the public works department. He also talked to Brandon and George and they will help out if the town needs them. The public works department is down to only two drivers for plowing and snow removal.

Selectman Grant said that the repairs on Murphy Road have been completed. He hasn't heard back from Towne Engineering regarding estimates for the Murphy Road Project so they can go out to bid.

Selectman Beisiegel asked about the progress of removing the dead and dangerous trees noted in the Tree Warden's report last month. First Selectman Grant said there is no update on the tree removal. He also noted that the Asplundh Company is currently removing trees under Mountain Road. Selectman Beisiegel said that there are some other dangerous trees in town that should be looked at, especially on Pleasure Hill Road. Some of them are a real hazard with large dead limbs hanging very close to the power lines over on Meetinghouse Hill Road. First Selectman Grant said that he will go out with David Gustafson, the Tree Warden again after the first of the year to review the trees noted for removal in last month's report

- b. **Financial Report:** First Selectman Charles Grant reported that the Tax Collector has collected 56% of the taxes through the year. He said that he is still waiting for the ECS and State Municipal Support from the State that should have been received a long time ago. First Selectman Grant said that the auditors have finished the audit and that he and the Treasurer reviewed a preliminary draft. The auditor will make a presentation in January of the town's completed audit.

First Selectman Grant said that the Board of Finance met last night and approved a line item transfer of funds for the Board of Education. The Board of Selectman will need to call a special town meeting in order for the line item transfer to be approved. This is to cover a deficit in the school's budget of \$32,304.97.

MOTION #2: Selectman Russell Beisiegel made a motion for the Board of Selectman to call a special meeting of the Board of Selectman next week to set a date for the special town meeting to approve the line item transfer for the Board of Education. Selectman Tom Craney seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Update on Warehouse Tenant:** First Selectman Charles Grant gave an update to the Selectman on the warehouse tenant. The town's legal representative emailed the Selectman's approved conditions from last month's meeting to the warehouse tenant that had to be met in order for the town to cancel the current eviction process. The warehouse tenant declined the conditions and instead offered to pay half of the back rent owed instead of 100%, agreed to the new one-year lease and said no to paying a 6 month's security deposit. The Board of Selectman agreed that there would be no counter offer to the warehouse tenant. Therefore, the eviction process would continue.
- b. Update on Franklin Elementary School Oil Tank:** First Selectman Grant reported that replacement of the underground oil tank at the Franklin Elementary School has been completed. Everything is above ground now and much safer. A safety fence has been installed around the tank.
- c. Update on the M42 Duster:** First Selectman Grant said that the M42 Duster fencing is done and looks great. The tank will be pressure washed in the spring and will have the plaque current on the back of the tank moved to the front. He may also purchase additional plaques to recognize the town's veterans. A dedication ceremony will take place on Memorial Day.
- d. Discussion of Crime Report:** First Selectman Grant reviewed the October Crime Report from the State Police Troop K. Traffic citations were lower than the previous month.
- e. Discussion on the Town's Christmas Party:** First Selectman Grant reported that everything is ready for the Christmas party on Saturday. The lights will be lit on the tree, the Franklin Elementary School choir will be singing Christmas carols followed by the arrival of Santa. The program begins at 5:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review of Employment Applications for the Driver/Laborer 2 in Public Works:** The Board of Selectman reviewed the applications received for the Driver/Laborer 2 position recently advertised in the New London Day, the Norwich Bulletin and Willimantic Chronicle newspapers. The Selectman agreed that interviews should be scheduled next week with the top three candidates. The Board of Selectman and the Public Works Foreman will interview the candidates.

Selectman Grant will talk with the Town Clerk tomorrow on the legal requirements for posting the announcement of the special town meeting. He would like to schedule the special town meeting on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: The next scheduled meeting of the Franklin Board of Selectman is Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION #3: First Selectman Charles Grant requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Thomas Craney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Russell Beisiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann D'Ambrosio
Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman