

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 2, 2012**

Presentation of the Colors

Firefighters with the Franklin Fire Department presented the colors and Pledge Allegiance to The Flag was said by all.

Swearing In of the Fire Chief

Manager Dragon gave the following comments concerning the promotion of Kevin LaChapelle to Fire Chief.

Manager Dragon requested Chief LaChapelle come forward and she stated it is her pleasure to hold an official swearing in ceremony for the City's new Fire Chief, Kevin LaChapelle. She commented as with many in the Fire Service, the career runs in Kevin's family. His Father and Grandfather were both in the Fire Service and has had a tremendous influence on Kevin growing up. Both are here with Kevin this evening and she asked that they stand for a moment and be recognized and thank them for sending Kevin down this career path. Manager Dragon stated Kevin started as an Explorer with the Franklin Fire Department at the age of 14, he later joined the U.S. Coastguard but returned and joined the Franklin Fire Department full-time in 1996. He was promoted to Captain in 2002 and to Deputy Chief a little over 2 years ago. His involvement and love for the Department began 23 years ago and remains strong today. He has worked diligently to reach the position of chief and she stated she had no hesitation in promoting Kevin. He is a nationally registered EMTI and is currently enrolled in the certified manager's program with the State of New Hampshire. Chief LaChapelle has an Associate's Degree in Applied Fire Science. Kevin is well liked and is respected by his fellow employees and the community. Over the past month Manager Dragon stated she has received numerous letters of recommendation as well as a general out-pouring from the community of support for Kevin. In the end, Kevin earned this promotion through years of hard work and dedication to the Franklin Fire Department and the community. He is bright, always professional and he is forward thinking while still honoring the rich history of the department. He is very prepared to lead the department into the

City Council Meeting

April 2, 2012

Page 2

future. She stated we are very fortunate that Kevin's love for Franklin and the Fire Service and the community has kept him here in Franklin all these years.

City Clerk Holly Burbank gave Chief LaChapelle the oath of office and Mrs. LaChapelle and Kevin's Grandfather assisted in placing the badge on Chief LaChapelle.

Chief LaChapelle stated he is very flattered by the amount of support he has received through this process and through the last 16 years as a full-time fire fighter. Chief LaChapelle thanked his family; he thanked the people in Franklin, the tax payers and citizens, Chief Clarenbach for believing in him and hiring him as a firefighter and promoting me to Captain, Chief Smith for believing in me and promoting him to Deputy Fire Chief and to Manager Dragon and the City for promoting me to Fire Chief. He stated it has always been his dream to be the Coach of a championship team and the team he works with is what motivates him to do the job. He also stated the support his wife Tara, and his two sons give him and how they have always supported him 100%. Chief LaChapelle stated he looks forward to leading this championship team because they are the best.

Mayor Merrifield honored the following students:

Franklin High School student, Mike McClain was honored with a Proclamation proclaiming April 2, 2012 as Mike McCain Day to honor his accomplishment of the NHIAA Division 3 State Wrestling Champ.

Ms. Lacy Boudreau was recognized with a Certificate of Recognition whereas she moved from the lowest chair in reading to the highest chair and improved by one whole grade level in half a year as a leader in the classroom and has advanced a full level on the NECAP testing.

Mr. Jamie Torest, a sixth grader at the Franklin Middle School and has been a student in the District since kindergarten and has been very active in sports and is one of 66 students that has been recognized for demonstrating improvement on

the Common Assessment Testing Program and increased his reading score by 31 points in a single year showing the largest improvement at the Middle School in reading. Jamie was presented the Mayor's Certificate of Recognition.

Ms. Anna Sylvester, 7th grader at the Middle School, a student since kindergarten, active in sports, was presented the Certificate of Recognition wherein she has increased her score in mathematics by 28 points in a single year showing the largest in improvement in math at the Middle School.

Mr. Ray Ward, 11th grader at Franklin High School was awarded the Mayor's Certificate of Appreciation. Ray has improved his academic performance through diligent effort and hard work in the face of very unique challenges and has been enrolled in the workforce investment act program since the 9th grade and seeks a successful career in industry and has increased his overall score by 25 points since taking the NECAP test in the 8th grade showing the largest improvement in the high school.

Mayor Merrifield thanked Superintendent Ward for pointing out the achievements of these students. A recess was called by the Mayor and the regular Council Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

Resolution #14-12 – this resolution concerns the transfer of funds from the School District to the City for purposes related to the Bessie Rowell School.

Mayor Merrifield Opened the public hearing. Mr. Keith Lohmann, School Board Member advised the Mayor and Council stating he is here to offer an apology. At the last School Board meeting they did pass another motion authorizing the transfer of the funds upon being presented with an invoice. He stated he was suppose to let Councilor Trudel know of this motion and he stated he failed to advise Councilor Trudel so Manager Dragon did not know there was to be an invoice and he offered his apology.

Coach/Resident Greg Husband asked if the City agenda is posted on the website and he stated he is late because it was not on the website and he did not know the meeting started at 6:30 p.m. He asked if Bessie Rowell was heated all winter and Manger Dragon advised yes the building was heated on low heat all winter. Mr. Husband asked how much did that cost the City as we are talking about \$6,500 and the Mayor commented there are other related expenses. Mr. Husband commented the questions about the chairs, the chairs are owned by the citizens of Franklin. Mayor Merrifield commented there is no dispute on this with the Council about that fact. Mr. Husband stated he hoped this would be done in a more peaceful manner and stay out of the press. He also requested that in the future agendas be posted on the website.

Resident Leigh Webb stated he has been watching this \$6,500 saga unfold over the last few months and he stated he hopes tonight brings an end to that saga and the beginning of a new one that would be more positive and productive. Mr. Webb stated it was his understanding that a resolution and public hearing would give the school a mechanism by which this money could be transferred to the City but some did not look at it this way so it is hoped in the future for the sake of the citizens of Franklin that the School Board and Council will work well together.

No one else came forth to speak; the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Comments from the Public – None

Legislative Comments – None

City Council Acknowledgement

Councilor Dzujna recognized Rob Sargent and his crew at the Library commenting that the Library took a sizable cut in their budget last year and they all had to change their lifestyles somewhat to work on Saturdays and to make up for the loss of one position, all in order to accommodate the public. He stated they have

done a great job without any complaints; they just picked up and did what they had to do.

Councilor Dzujna advised that Community Day is May 12th and he invited all the Councilors to participate in the parade on May 12 as well as any Department Heads that will like to join in. If you can't march, cars will be available. The parade begins at 10 am.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Merrifield announced a new intern in the Office of Mayor Candice Tucker who is a Franklin High School student taking of the duties of Director of Special Events in the Office of the Mayor and is currently planning a roast of the Mayor, \$40 per person, at the Franklin Elks Lodge on April 27 at 6:00 p.m. All proceeds go to a worthy high school senior headed for college.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Feener to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2012 City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Sharon.

Councilor Trudel advised that on Page 7 third sentence from the top the word use should be used and on the same page second paragraph, second sentence the word has should be as.

Minutes approved as corrected.

School Board Report

Mr. Keith Lohmann advised that the NECAP score reports from the three schools held many bright spots there is still a lot of work to be done especially in math and especially at the high school level. The Musical Festival was held March 9 at the Middle School with students throughout the Lakes Region participating and

students from the Middle School also assisted and it was a great success. The District is redoubling its efforts to minimize incidents of school bullying. Incidents seem to be on the decline after several incidents early on. The school is in the process of applying for a grant that would replace the services provided KC Family Services called 21st Century Community Learning Centers which would include school services, homework assistance, etc. Mr. Lohmann thanked all the members of the Joint Liaison Committee for sense of cooperation and he hopes it is the beginning of a new era.

School Support Staff Contract Proposal

Chair of the School Board Ray Yonaitis advised in the packet is a cost breakdown of what it will cost the District to go forward accepting the contract. He stated he is excited about this contract because the key thing in the contract is that we have paid 100% of their medical insurance and this year they will pay 2 ½% and the following year another 2 ½% for 5%. The deductible amounts has been changed and the prescription amounts and in doing so even with the 2% increase, if it wasn't done the amount would have been \$391,540 to the District for insurance, with this negotiated contract the first year the cost will be \$347,157 and the second year \$338,478. He stated this is huge and he stated the pay scale for the support staff is one of the lowest. By doing those concessions, the District is able to give the support staff a small increase in pay so they would have more in their pocket and saving the District. The first year it will cost the District \$13,155 or .75% of operating budget for the support staff, the second year the increase costs will be \$7,811 which is only an increase of 0.44%.

Councilor Desrochers asked what the average pay is for support staff per hour. Chair Yonaitis responded it depends on experience and what their responsibilities are in the classroom as this one carries a lot of special ed. He did state it is about \$12.00/hour across the board. Councilor Dzujna commented he approves the idea of paying part of the insurance and you state it puts more into their pocket but technically more is coming out of their paycheck to pay for the insurance. Chair Yonaitis agreed but stated it does work in their favor.

Motion made by Councilor Boyd to approve the cost of the Support Staff Contract, motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, motion passes.

Renewal of Lease Agreement between the City and the Franklin Targeteers

Motion made by Councilor Trudel that the Franklin city Council approves the renewal of the Lease Agreement between the Franklin Targeteers and the City of Franklin for one year beginning January 1, 2012 and ending January 1, 2013 and authorize the City Manager to sign said agreement on behalf of the City. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Clarenbach suggested extending the contract date to March or April, 2013. Mayor Merrifield wondered if the contract needs to be annual, perhaps a 5-year agreement could be considered. Manager Dragon commented she does not really have a preference but at some point it probably should be looked at again by the City Attorney and the Local Government Center to determine if there is any language that should be changed or if insurance should be changed as it has not been reviewed since 2008. She suggested that next year it be reviewed prior to coming up for renewal.

Councilor Desrochers advised the address should be changed to P. O. Box 352, Franklin, NH 03235. He also commented on all the work the Targeteers do at the range, he questioned if the Police Department maintains it anymore. He also suggested a 5-year lease. Councilor Boyd commented in the beginning that range was nothing but a field; the Police Department and help from the Prison assisted in the building of the range and the range belongs to the City. It was built for one purpose for the Police Department to be able to go to the range and have firearms training and to accommodate other police departments that wished to do the same. Targeteers is another great group that uses the range and they have certainly helped out in the caring of the range. Councilor Boyd also commented that if the agreement is to be extended long term that in the agreement it should

be made clear that the City of Franklin has the option to void the agreement at anytime.

Amendment made by Councilor Sharon that the current contract be extended to a 16 month agreement to April, 2013. Motion seconded by Councilor Clarenbach. All in favor.

Councilor Feener commented he has no problem with a 5-year agreement, however, this was discussed a few years ago and at that time it was recommended keeping it on an annual basis. If we have Attorney Fitzgerald look at this between now and next April and if he approves the City extending the agreement to 5 years that could be considered. Mayor Merrifield commented he offered 5 years as a suggestion but it could be, two, etc.

All in favor of the motion as amended.

Ordinance #10-12 – this ordinance offers under a special use permit the ability to have a bed and breakfast in the Lake Protection Zone.

Motion made by Councilor Boyd that the Franklin City Council adopts Ordinance #10-12 approving the proposed amendment to allow Bed and Breakfasts in the Lake Protection District through a Special Use Permit. The proposed amendment was the subject of a public hearing conducted by the Franklin Planning Board on March 14, 2012. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Boyd commented that the Planning Board did a very good job going over the specific details and he stated he is in favor of the ordinance. Councilor Starkweather commented he agrees with Councilor Boyd and that there is a long list of conditions on this. Councilor Desrochers commented that he does not feel it should be the Council's position to second guess the Planning and they have done a thorough investigation into the matter and have approved it.

City Council Meeting

April 2, 2012

Page 9

Roll Call:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

All in favor, Ordinance #10-12 is approved

Resolution #14-12 – this resolution authorizes the transfer of funds from the School District to the City for purposes related to the Bessie Rowell School.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City adopts Resolution #14-12 by a roll call vote, motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Councilor Feener stated he gathers that the City never received a check and Manager Dragon responded that is correct. Councilor Feener commented it should just be ended tonight with a positive vote.

Councilor Desrochers commented it is way past time, this issue should be put to bed, it should end now.

Councilor Clarenbach commented obviously this has gone on way too long, the problem he stated for him is the City Council to actually take the money from the school. Mr. Lohmann came forth and stated he failed to contact Councilor Trudel so it appears there was a breakdown in communications and he stated he is not sure this action is the right answer for that breakdown.

Councilor Feener called the question, seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor, the question is called.

City Council Meeting
April 2, 2012
Page 10

Roll Call:

Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Clarenbach – No
Councilor Cournoyer – Yes
Councilor Desrochers – Yes
Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Sharon – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor Trudel – No

7 Yes Votes and 2 No Votes Resolution #14-12 passes.

Ordinance #09-12 – this ordinance concerns amendments to Chapter 284, Vehicle and Traffic of the Franklin City Code.

Motion made by Councilor Feener set a public hearing on Ordinance #09-12 concerning changes to the Traffic Codes for Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Motion seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Councilor Trudel inquired who he should address questions to concerning changes to the ordinance and was informed he should contact Director Sullivan. Councilor Dzujna commented that a couple people have approached him about signage at their street that looked like the sign was on their driveway.

All in favor of scheduling the public hearing.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Ordinance #09-12 be read in title only, motion seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor, motion passes.

Mayor Merrifield read into the record: Ordinance #09-12

Acceptance of Scholarship Funds - \$1,000 has been donated and is to be awarded to a female high school senior who has participated in 1 varsity sport and has a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Motion made by Councilor Dzujna that the Franklin City Council accepts \$1,000 annual "We Made It, You Can Too" scholarship money from Pamela Carter Kelly and Kristen Carter Drozdowski to be awarded to a high school female senior who has participated in at least 1 varsity sport and has a GPA of 3.0 or higher beginning in May 2012. Motion seconded by Councilor Cournoyer. All in favor, motion passes.

City Council to consider a Change in Start Time for Council Meetings (Section 50-2 of the City Code

Councilor Cournoyer and Councilor Boyd both commented they prefer 6:00 p.m., however, Councilor Boyd commented for some the time might be better at 6:30 p.m. Councilor Feener stated he would support 6:00 p.m. as long as special meetings don't start taking place at 5:30 p.m. Councilor Desrochers recommended that if the time is changed to 6:00 p.m. that the change not take place for a couple of months so the public can make the change as they are so used to coming to the meetings at 7:00 p.m. Councilor Starkweather commented it would be good to put the new time on the City Website. Manager Dragon advised it is almost time for the new website to go live. It will happen in April and it is hoped the date will be April 10th. Council packets will be on the website and with the exception of the Mayor and Council there will be no more copying of packets; if someone wants a copy of the packet they can copy it from the website.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council schedules a public hearing concerning Section 50-2 of the City Code changing the City Council Meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Monday May 7, 2012 at 7:07 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Motion seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor, motion passes to schedule the public hearing.

Resolution #15-12 – a resolution concerning the appropriation and expenditures of Municipal Transportation Funds.

Motion made by Councilor Trudel that the Franklin City Council set a public hearing to be held on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:05 p.m. on Resolution #15-12 which outlines the proposed appropriations and expenditures of Municipal Transportation Improvement Funds to be associated with ongoing transportation improvement project in the downtown area. Motion seconded by Councilor Cournoyer.

Councilor Dzujna questioned what is the fund balance left from the grant and Councilor Cournoyer commented it should be \$101,000. Mayor Merrifield commented this resolution addresses the additional \$5,000 that would be taken from the Transportation Fund. Planner Dick Lewis advised the amount of money left over from the federal funds is in the range of \$70,000 to \$80,000.

Mayor Merrifield read Resolution #15-12 into the record:

RESOLUTION #15-12

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twelve,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin has adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2012 which began July 1, 2011, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin was awarded \$784,000 in federal funds for the construction of transportation improvements in the downtown area, and;

WHEREAS, the construction work on these improvements began in the summer of 2011 and work will continue into 2012, and;

WHEREAS, the City has been advised by the consulting engineer for the project that the best way to ensure that all, or as much as possible, of the federal funds are expended is to slightly go over budget for the project, and;

City Council Meeting

April 2, 2012

Page 13

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to ensure that that the City gets the best value out of the federal funds, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Franklin has approximately \$106,570 in the Municipal Transportation Funds account authorized, in accordance with RSA 261:153, by the City Council on July 6, 2009 and the funds in this account can be used for the construction of transportation improvements consistent with the work being carried out under the federal funding, Now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, May 7, 2012, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby authorize the following appropriations,

An increase in revenues:

Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund -Municipal Transportation Improvement, Acct# 04-0-000-39150-401 – an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00),

And an increase in expenditures:

Downtown Transportation Project, Account # 04-0-000-40719-401, an amount not to exceed Five Thousand (\$5,000.00),

By a roll call vote.

All in favor, motion passes to schedule a public hearing.

Other Business

Committee Reports

City Council Meeting

April 2, 2012

Page 14

Councilor Trudel announced that the School Liaison Committee held their first meeting on March 15, 2012, all members were in attendance. Some of the topics discussed was the current relationship between the School Board and the City Council; whether there was a need for Supt. Ward to attend the City Council meetings; potential challenges for both the School Board and the City Council whether it be funding (Bessie Rowell School, chairs, etc.); additional questions and answers during the monthly School Board presentations and one of the things discussed was perhaps it would be more efficient and be able to communicate better and get more concise information back to the Council if we not address questions at the end of the monthly School Board presentation but this has not been resolved. There was a discussion on a fixed schedule for the School Liaison Committee and it was proposed that be held between the City Council and the School Board meetings. Lastly, Councilor Trudel stated they talked about being able to assist the Joint Finance Committee with any problems that might arise. The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, April 12th.

Councilor Dzujna announced the next Parks and Rec Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at the Rec Center, 4:30 p.m.

City Manager's Update

Manager Dragon advised the City received for the contingency grant line \$200 from Hexa Interactive for the summer concert series. The Elks will be holding a soapbox derby race on June 23, 2012 beginning at 9:00 a.m., location Sky Meadow Lane. Youth Government is planned for May 29th, 30th and 31st. Manager Dragon provided the schedule of events. A mock City Council will be held on the final day at the Elks and a banquet and award will be presented. All Councilors and the Mayor are invited to attend. Webster Valve/Watts Water Technologies held a ground breaking ceremony on March 26th as they are building a new foundry. They are building a 30,000 square foot expansion and they are saying they will not only preserve 100 jobs but will also bring in some new jobs.

Therefore, the date was changed to Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 6:00 pm and all councilors felt they could make that date. Manager Dragon advised that there will be someone from Congressman Bass's office at City Hall on April 24th between noon and 1 pm.

Manager Dragon advised that the rest of the Manager's Update is in your packet and she stated she is not going to go over that as the Council and Mayor have had an opportunity to read it and it will go along with the minutes for the record.

Late Item

Bessie Rowell Community Center – Head Start CDBG Grant Application

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter addressed to CDFA agreeing that the City will move forward with a lease for \$1 per year rent for 20 years with Head Start if awarded CDBG funds to make the necessary renovations to the Bessie Rowell School to accommodate Head Start. Head Start will be responsible for utilities and other shared operating expenses as agreed. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Manager Dagon stated basically this is what we have been talking about all along, this does not approve the lease language but it is the language Attorney Fitzgerald had drafted back in December, 2011. Now that Head Start is moving through the CDBG process, they are asking for a letter to come from the Mayor, authorized by the City Council, before the scoring is done.

Councilor Clarenbach stated he voted no for this previously as far as the building is concerned. He stated really what is being done here is the City is agreeing to be a landlord for 20 years. He stated you have to keep the occupancy up in order to share the bills and be able to afford the building. In a period of 20 years if any of the tenants would no longer exist the City would be picking up the remainder portions of the operation. He stated he does not see where there is a lot of plus

for the City in this position. And, what happens if the federal funds dry up. Councilor Desrochers asked if there could be a clause in the lease that it could be renegotiated should circumstances change.

Manager Dragon commented if you recall when these grants were done, they required a 20 year commitment to the building. The lease even though it says \$1, they are not paying \$1 to be in the building, they would be paying a prorated share of the expenses, the \$1 rent is just the \$1 rent, they are paying a prorated share of the expenses of the building. They are paying the same amount that was calculated back in December, 2011 and they are paying by square footage their share of operating and utility expenses, it is not any different than what was discussed before. This simply states that we will move forward as we have already agreed to do. Councilor Clarenbach commented the problem is as long as all parties are there, then there is the right amount of money, it would be when there are vacancies, then you would have to change the amount that everyone pays and if they are fixed into their costs the City would have to pick up the remainder. Councilor Clarenbach asked if there would be only two tenants would the cost be split between them, Manager Dragon responded it would be prorated by square foot. He asked if someone vacates, who picks up that square footage cost. Manager Dragon responded this agreement is not saying how much the City is charging, those are not decisions that are being made today by making this motion. How the formula is designed is up to the City Council. If we are awarded the CDBG grant the funds will be used to do the building and commit to a 20 year agreement to do that.

Mr. Russo came forth stating he had a question and Mayor Merrifield informed him that he is not allowed to speak at this time and informed him that this is not a time in the meeting when he would be allowed to speak.

Mayor Merrifield commented that it seems that there is concern about losing tenants in the future and the solution to that would be to deny having a tenant now. Councilor Feener commented he would hope if it came to light that a

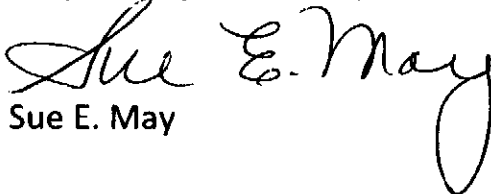
tenant was leaving that we would have enough ambition to find a tenant to replace the one leaving and are we losing if these are the people that leave when you have \$350,000 in improvements to the building. Manager Dragon commented that she realizes Councilor Clarenbach did not vote for this project initially and his comment when he did not vote for it was not because of these agreements but because the Rec Center was part of it. Manager Dragon stated this is a little different government project, however, it is a very good project and two of the tenants are 20 year agreements and the third one is the City of Franklin so three out of four are long term and the fourth tenant is the TRIP Center, which is a long term tenant. So it is not like the tenants are some unknown Joe Blow that would be here today and go tomorrow, these are long term commitments. Councilor Sharon expressed his support for the project.

Councilor Sharon invited everyone to a fund raising dinner at the TRIP Center, May 12th from 4 pm to 6 pm. You can donate any amount for a spaghetti dinner.

Vote on the motion for Mayor Merrifield to sign a letter to CDBG. 8 Yes votes; 1 no. Motion passes.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May

Marty Russo's claims of fraud at the March council meeting: In the past, when my report is lengthy I have asked Sue to attach the manager's report to the official minutes instead of retyping a summary and this time I ask the council that this section along with my attachments regarding this matter also be included with the meeting minutes for future reference.

Mr. Russo's speech that he made in public session at the March council meeting and a letter written by the church that he references (as a member of the church finance committee) has been included with the March council meeting minutes per his request. I ask that you take the time to review this information and the information I am including.

The majority of Mr. Russo's speech accuses me and others of misrepresenting the current situation with Head Start to be an "emergency" so that the CDBG application submitted by the city on behalf of Head Start could qualify as an "emergency grant". That is in fact false! The Head Start CDBG grant application was not an application for emergency funding it was an application for funding under the category of Housing and Public Facilities-an entirely different category of funding. Mr. Russo went so far as to go on record in public to say that the grant writer- Donna Lane, Julie Sackett (CAP Head Start), and I failed in our "personal" and "professional" responsibilities through lack of due diligence and **deliberate** misrepresentation of the circumstances surrounding the Franklin Head Start program. Further, he stated that we collaborated to "portray an emergency relocation situation where none exists". Those are very strong accusations that were based on misinformation. It is unfortunate because those types of public accusations cannot be undone. Obviously, as organizations and as individuals, people have a right to be concerned about their reputation when public comments and unfounded allegations such as these are being made. They also have a right to protect their reputation however they see fit.

Next, I have already addressed Mr. Russo's comments in regards to the amendment to the community development plan goals. When a community is seeking CDBG funds they amend their goals to make sure it is in line with the grant application process. It is not unique to Franklin or even this grant. The minutes are submitted to CDBG, they know that every community does this as part of the application process. It is part of their checklist. There is no mystery involved.

The debate between the St Paul's church and what Head Start wrote in the narrative that was ultimately included in the CDBG grant created some hard feelings. Mr. Russo talks about this on the second page of his speech. To be clear, the narrative in question was in fact written by Head Start not the city. It was given to the grant writer to be included in the grant. Head Start can not apply for CDBG funds alone. The City must apply for the funds on their behalf which is why the city held the public hearing and approved the application. Second, after the grant had been submitted CDBG representatives did tour the current head start facilities at the church (viewed the playground, the kitchen, and ADA issues within the building) and they toured the Bessie Rowell building. Lastly, because I do not want there to be hard feelings between the St Paul's parish and the City-after the last council meeting I reached out to Father Gagnon and offered to go on record with the grant writer to address anything that was written in the grant application that gave the impression that the church is a bad landlord or that head start couldn't likely renew their lease this summer. Head Start's lease with the church is something clearly beyond our control. The church is an organization that has worked hard to be a good host to the Head Start organization for many years. (Attached is the letter I submitted to Donna Lane/ Grant writer-you should also know this letter was reviewed & approved by Father Raymond Gagnon for accuracy before it was submitted)

I understand that Head Start has since met with the church and made it clear that even if they are not funded this time around they will continue to seek funding because it is their desire to relocate to a permanent home. I realize losing \$45,000 a year in revenue is a hardship for the

church but the City is not the enemy. Head Start is on a year to year lease and they have a right to apply for these funds, they have a right to move if it make sense for them to do so. Head Start has been looking for a new home for several years and this collaboration between organizations at the new Bessie Rowell Community Center makes a great deal of sense! It will create a one stop center for parents dropping off at Tiny Twisters, Head Start or at the Franklin Recreation programs. There will be collaboration between food service programs, activities, use of meetings space and volunteers from the very young to the very young at heart... This is a good project, a good re-use of a building that would have otherwise sat vacant, a building that had already begun to be vandalized and would have simply continued to deteriorate. This is a good project for the kids of the Franklin community and for the seniors. This is something we can get excited about and be proud of.



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

"The Three Rivers City"

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March 16, 2012

Donna Lane

CDBG Grant writer

Dear Donna,

Since submitting the CDBG-Housing & Public facilities grant on behalf of Head Start for the Bessie Rowell community center project there has been some concerns expressed by members of the St Paul's parish. Therefore, I would like to take a few minutes to go on record to clarify a few things.

First, the City considers St. Paul's Parish to be a community partner and does not want anything in the application to give the impression that the city believes the church is a bad landlord or that Head Start couldn't likely renew their lease this summer. Head Start's lease is something clearly beyond our control.

I don't believe that the narrative (written by Head Start) in their CDBG grant application, was meant to create any hard feelings. I do, however, want to go on record to make sure that the church feels that it is being treated fairly in this process. I, myself, at times have heard rumors of church consolidation and I have seen some of the consolidation between Franklin and Tilton's church over the last couple years. Last week, I spoke with Father Raymond Gagnon and any sale of church property would need to go through the diocese in Manchester and would likely take a year or two to complete. Therefore, it is likely not a quick process. Father Gagnon also indicated to me last week that is not something they are currently considering. The narrative written by Head Start in the grant application does not say the building is for sale- it talks about the church consolidation and "rumors" of sale. While the church building is currently not for sale, you can see why the Bessie Rowell space and a lease for 20years would be an attractive arrangement for Head Start because it provides for a more permanent space for the program.

As you know, the Head Start program has been looking for a new home for many years and so on occasion they have spoken to representatives at CDBG over the years. There are ADA issues within the building- the bathrooms are not handicap accessible within Head Start and you must use steps to navigate once inside the building to get to the various classrooms. I spoke with Father Ray Gagnon last week briefly about these items- to address these issues would require a lift or elevator and renovation to a bathroom to meet ADA regulations. In fairness to the church, he indicated to me these

improvements were not requested by Head Start and so he had not been aware this was an issue or concern to Head Start until recently.

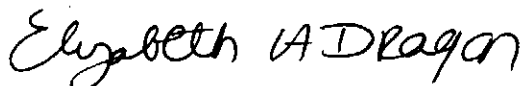
Lastly, I want to briefly to talk about the boiler. Head Start mentions in their grant narrative that the boiler is very old and that there have been instances in the last two years when it has broken down. In speaking with Father Raymond Gagnon, the boiler was replaced in 2004. I do know from speaking to other parishioners, the boiler has had issues on occasion but then again that would be the case no matter the age the boiler. My boiler at home was purchased in 2006 and we had the repair man visit us twice this year ourselves-it happens! I also know it's not uncommon for a church to rely on volunteers; in fact, a strong church has a very active group of volunteers. This should be seen as a positive thing. Franklin is a community rich with volunteerism.

The St. Paul's church is an organization that has worked hard to be a good host to the Head Start organization for many years. It is my desire that people will thank the church for all of the years of support of the program.

Head Start has made it clear that they desire to relocate to the Bessie Rowell building and it makes a great deal of sense! It's a very a long term commitment that brings stability, a cost savings in tough economic times and maybe even more important there is a great deal of collaboration between programs-a one stop shop for parents dropping off at Tiny Twisters, Head start or at a Franklin Recreation program. Collaboration between food service programs, activities, use of meeting space, volunteers from the TRIP center. Picnic areas, a fenced playground area accessed from inside the building and shared with Tiny Twisters... a stage for performances for the children.. the possibilities of partnerships are endless! There are so many positives to the project it's important that everyone feel that they are treated fairly- because here in Franklin its takes the entire community to make projects like this become a reality!

I hope I helped clarify some things.
If you have any questions please feel to contact me.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Dragon
City Manager
City of Franklin