

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 5, 2012**

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Councilor Dzujna led in the Salute to the Flag.

In Attendance

Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Sharon, Council Cournoyer, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Feener, Councilor Trudel, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Clarenbach, City Manager Dragon and Mayor Merrifield.

Public Hearings

Resolution #09-12 – this resolution concerns the increasing of appropriations for expenditures and revenue from \$50,000 to \$86,000 for the contingent grant account FY12. Mayor Merrifield explained this is an in and out account that is used for expenditures and grant funds and has no impact on tax dollars but gives the City Manager authority to spend grant funds up to a certain level.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

Resolution #10-12 – this resolution concerns the use of remaining Water Main Replacement Project funds on Memorial Street non-lapsing appropriations to offset unanticipated expenses for emergency water main replacements for Pemigewasset and Gerrish Streets. Mayor Merrifield requested Director Sullivan give additional information.

Director Sullivan stated the Memorial Street Water Main Project was completed in conjunction with the Downtown Project. Antiquated water main was replaced and the project came in under budget in an amount of \$40,995 and the funds were appropriated out of capital reserves in the Water Department. There was an unanticipated water main break on North Main Street and in the process discovered sections of Pemigewasset and Gerrish Streets could not be shut off.

City Council Meeting

March 5, 2012

Page 2

Consequently the water main was replaced on Pemigewasset and Gerrish Streets completing a loop and putting all new curb stops, lead services were found so the system was antiquated and had to be done. The money came out of the Municipal Services Water Department operating budget so it is hoped the operating budget could be replenished by using the balance of the funds that were saved on the Memorial Street Project.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

Resolution #13-12 – this resolution concerns the transfer of existing Water Department Funds into the current Fiscal Year 2012 Water Department Operating Budget.

Director Sullivan stated this is a request to transfer \$45,000 from the capital reserve account in the Water Department which is monies that have already been set aside for capital projects. \$75,000 was appropriated by the Council for the purpose of completing a capital efficiency plan for the Water Department. That plan looks at the capital assets that are in the ground and above ground for the water system; system failures are looked at and try to come up with a long-term program of capital replacement and this would be used to look at short-term and long-term projects. It would also be used for the capital improvements plan that is currently being put together. Of the \$75,000 appropriation, approximately \$44,000 has been expended on mapping in conjunction with the assessing maps; data collection was done on the sewer system, the water system and the storm water system. The request now is to continue the process forward instead of waiting until July 1st.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

Resolution #11-12 – this resolution concerns the return of funds reimbursed by FEMA and other recuperated insurance funds to the Franklin Fire Department.

Acting Fire Chief LaChapelle stated this resolution is for the recuperation of funds during Hurricane Irene when the department's swift water team responded in Andover, where there were two young girls around 9 pm that were stranded on an island and our team performed the rescue of the girls and the funds expended were recuperated through FEMA. A radio was lost and the heavy rescue truck also responded. Another event the department responded to was in Danbury where a utility van had struck a tractor trailer and rolled over in the Smith River and heavy rescue and personnel were requested to the site. Chief Smith billed that out and within two weeks a check was received from Hanover Insurance. So what is being requested is to be able to receive these funds to help replenish and replace some of the equipment and pay for the labor.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

Resolution #12-12 – this resolution outlines the proposed appropriations and expenditures of funds associated with the 2012 Conservation License Plate Grant for certain work associated with the Webster Lake Water Quality Improvement Projects.

Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak, and the public hearing was closed.

Comments from the Public

School Board Chair Ray Yonaitis commented that he is a little bit confused and doesn't understand why a particular resolution is on the agenda this evening. That would be Resolution #14-12. Chair Yonaitis stated a motion was made to put this to rest at the School Board and to transfer some funds over to the City and then after that a meeting was held between the City and the School Board and Administration and he stated it appeared an agreement was made and the Superintendent sent over an agreement to be signed so funds could be

City Council Meeting

March 5, 2012

Page 4

transferred. Looking at this resolution, it appears the School and the City do not have an agreement. He requested that the Council not go forward with the resolution and go forward with the motion the School Board made and the transfer of the agreed upon funds can be transferred.

Mr. Marty Russo addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the CDBG grant application submitted for Headstart. Mr. Russo stated he has been a resident for 6 years and is an active member of St. Paul's Catholic Church and sits on the Church's Finance Committee but is speaking as a resident of Franklin. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

Choose Franklin

Mrs. Annette Andreozzi, Co-Chair of Choose Franklin extended an invitation to their next meeting scheduled April 5 which is their annual meeting where new board members will be voted on and addressing finances. Choose Franklin is a non-profit organization and their mission is to promote Franklin. She advised January 1st, First Day was very successful. May 12th is Community Day. They have also been working on a summer release that would be held on a specific day.

Legislative Comments

None

City Council Acknowledgement

Councilor Dzujna thanked Mayor Merrifield, Manager Dragon and Director Sullivan for the hard work concerning the funds the City has gotten back. He commented that he was aware the day the news came in that the funds would be sent to the City; Director Sullivan had been up at 2 am trying to write a rebuttal in the event the City was not going to receive the funds.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Merrifield commented that he too wanted to thank Director Sullivan, Manager Dragon, City Attorney Fitzgerald, Engineers Janet Levy and Paul Cote all who did a great job and enabled the City to preserve \$1,000,000 in grant funds to assist with the water systems.

Mayor Merrifield also announced that a long-term Councilor Pauline Colby's husband Charles Colby passed away and Mayor Merrifield called for a moment of silent reflection in Mr. Colby's honor.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Dzujna that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the February 6, 2012 City Council Meeting, motion seconded by Councilor Sharon.

Councilor Feener made an amendment to the motion stating those in attendance be included in the minutes, amendment seconded by Councilor Dzujna. All in favor.

All in favor; minutes approved as amended.

Franklin School Board Report

Mr. Lohmann, School Board Member advised that his presentation concerns Resolution #14-12 and he respectfully requested he be allowed to defer comments until that item is brought up in the meeting. Mayor Merrifield responded that he could go ahead with his comments now and the Councilors will remember them.

Mr. Lohmann stated he is mystified as to why he is standing here making a statement. He stated there was a request by the City Council in November that

City Council Meeting

March 5, 2012

Page 6

the School Board act with all deliberate speed to transfer the funds which is \$6,512 associated with the closing of Bessie Rowell from the School District to the City. That was accomplished in December with a motion made by Mr. Lohmann at the regular school board meeting. In January the Mayor requested and Mr. Lohmann agreed to bring the message back that the Manager and Superintendent work out the details of the transfer due to the Manager's concern over the predicate for the transfer, he presumes; although that has not been stated. On February 3 the City and the School group met, came to an agreement we thought and the result was the written agreement that has been given to you. Another of the promises that he stated he made a couple of months ago was agreements between the two bodies would be in writing for a period of time to minimize the possibility of miscommunication. But he stated, here we are again. Now with a request by the Manager for a public hearing on a resolution to take money out of the school budget that has already been offered. A proceeding that will stretch this process to transfer funds to the City even longer, the same funds back in November the City requested Mr. Lohmann expedite. The school understands that the City wants the money and the quickest way to make that happen is to direct the City Manager to sign the agreement and then there will be no reason for a public hearing or a resolution. Mr. Lohmann stated again, why are we here and then commented more disturbing and not only him but other members of the school board that he has heard from since he was notified of this proposal Friday night is the message that this action carries with it. He stated if the Manager had consulted with us she would have learned that this resolution and the resulting presumed motion to take the monies from the school does nothing to bring us together, a goal he commented he had thought both aspired to. Taking the money sends the wrong message, the school believes they were holding up their end of the bargain in this latest incident and doing what was requested after due deliberation and consideration. He respectfully offered a suggestion, if you believe for some reason the school is not holding up their end of the bargain, then allow the Joint Liaison Committee to do its job and work things out. He advised that he and Councilor Trudel have communicated several times since last month and seemed to be off to a good start to open the lines of communication, however; a joint meeting is yet to be scheduled. The joint

Committee is the proper venue to work out the difference between the school and city rather than take an action to take funds from the school. Even the suggestion of a public hearing is a demonstration of how things used to be done and reflects as an example of why the rift came to be in the first place. If the City's goal is to transfer the monies, then the most expeditious way to do that is to have the Manager sign the agreement and it can be accomplished tomorrow; not sometime in April after a public hearing, the purpose for which he stated he does not know. He implored the City to accept the agreement, the funds can be transferred and we all can move forward with the important work that needs to be done as the Manager also suggested in her memo to the Council. This is what the school would like to do and this is what the City has said they want to do. The proposed public hearing and resolution will be nothing more than another wedge between the school and the City. He stated he is not suggesting that the Manager did this with the purpose of putting a wedge between the school and city; I do think it reflects an outdated reaction to a perceived problem. He stated he still believe that the school and the City want the same thing, to move the City and its School forward and he stated he believes that is starting to happen. Test scores are up and the curriculum is being updated. He stated he is working at the direction of the school board to move this cooperative relationship forward, he asked that these efforts not be skulled. He stated he has heard from citizens loud and clear that working together is one of their top priorities.

Councilor Desrochers commented that as a resident he has been listening to this matter and now as a councilor he continues to hear it. He stated that at the last council meeting one of the members of the school board stated that there were never any funds budgeted for the school closing, never any \$15,000 but yet he stated I have an email that states school closing \$15,000. Mr. Lohmann stated the \$15,000 was the amount that was set aside out of the maintenance budget that it was anticipated that it would cost the school to close the school but there was never a specific line item for that. Councilor Desrochers asked at what point in time the chairs became the property of the school after vacating the building. After you vacate a property, anything that is left behind after a specified amount of time becomes the property of the landlord. Also there is a storage fee listed

City Council Meeting

March 5, 2012

Page 8

for the chairs in the amount of \$6,512.00. Mr. Lohmann responded no that is what we are going to turn over to the City in return for storage of the chairs and tables. Councilor Desrochers stated his question is why aren't the tables and chairs just turned over to the City and the chairs become the property of the City for use by either department.

Councilor Feener commented the school is willing to give the City the money but we haven't seen the money yet. Mr. Lohmann stated that is correct, an agreement was put together in writing for the City to sign and it has not been signed. Sign the document and the money will be forthcoming. Councilor Feener responded the Council is the ultimate legislative authority in the City and a condition was put in the school motion that the City is to store the tables and the chairs and the City is not in the storage business and all the discussions that took place no one ever said anything about storage of tables and chairs for the school. Councilor Feener further stated he is willing to make a motion that we direct the City Manager to authorize the Director of Municipal Services to move those tables and chairs down to the front lawn of the high school by 8 pm tomorrow night.

Mayor Merrifield commented that we are talking about funds that were identified in the school budget for the button up and winterizing of Bessie Rowell School and some of those funds were actually used to move equipment etc. out of the building so there is only about \$6,500 left of the \$15,000 that was identified. What does the \$6,500 have to do with chairs? Mr. Lohmann responded that was made part of the motion because he was advised that we needed a predicate to be able to transfer money to the City. Under an audit there has to be some rationale for moving money from one place to another and it was suggested that would be a good way doing it. Mayor Merrifield responded so you have a legal problem with just cutting a check and if that is the case this resolution solves that problem. Mr. Lohmann responded it may solve the problem but it sends a terrible message.

Mr. Yonaitis commented this money is coming out of the maintenance line and when the school came before the Council concerning budget, the school needed

an additional \$129,000 over the previous year and were granted \$60,000 so right then and there the school was short \$69,000 for what was needed for the operating year. To make up for the \$69,000 since we knew the building was coming back to the City, the school cut the \$15,000. The school had to cut a position of a crisis counselor from the high school and had to remove one of the janitorial staff members from full time to half time. He stated the school does not need to be giving an additional \$6,500 back but the school felt this would be a good way to show that we are trying to cooperate with the City, neither the school or the city has extra monies. He advised to replace all those chairs would cost \$15,000 - \$18,000. Mr. Yonaitis stated the board felt it was a good idea that the City could use the chairs when they needed them and the school the same.

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the chairs in question be moved down to the high school removing them from Rowell School by noon tomorrow morning (Tuesday, March 6). Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

Councilor Clarenbach stated if the City is going to turn Rowell School into a Community Center it would have plays and other things, the chairs are stored underneath the stage, and where would the City come up with \$15,000 to \$18,000 to put chairs when there is something that is going on at the stage or there is a rainy day for the summer camp. It makes no sense to take chairs and pile them up on the lawn at the high school. He stated the chairs can stay there, the City will own them, they are on City property, when the school needs to use them, they can request them and he stated he would have no problem with that. Graduation every year needs hundreds of chairs.

Manager Dragon responded that she has tried that, she stated that was her proposal when she attended the meeting with the school; that was exactly what was proposed. She stated she proposed that the chairs be shared, they stated they needed two tables and she agreed they could take them, they also stated they had forgot something on the wall that was dedicated to the teachers and the Manager told them to certainly take it down. They stated they needed the chairs for graduation and she agreed and stated she has no issue with that, it makes

perfect sense. Manager Dragon advised the issue came when they wanted the agreement signed that stated the chairs belong to the school and that the City was being paid for storage, it changed the whole meaning of the arrangement and it became they could gift the City the tables but they could not gift us the chairs and now we would have to tie the storage of the chairs to the payment for Bessie Rowell and they have nothing to do with one another. She stated she was trying to help them by separating the two issues which should have never been tied together to begin with by creating the resolution to deal with the legal problem and move the money legally. And, now we are dealing with this table and chair issue once again. Manager Dragon stated she is very disappointed.

Councilor Trudel commented he is in agreement with most everyone; this has definitely gone on way too long. He stated from his standpoint if the chairs were purchased by the school, they belong to the school, it doesn't matter if they are stored at the Rowell School, Director Sullivan's Office or stored at City Hall, where the chairs are kept should not be an issue. Councilor Feener commented these tables and chairs were purchased with tax payer monies, not school money but tax payer money. The most logical place to keep them would be under the stage at Rowell School and the School Board does not need to make any terms or conditions on what is to be done with the chairs. What the School Board should have done when this all came up about the \$6,500, a check should have been cut.

Councilor Feener stated he is going to withdraw his second on the motion as the right place to store the chairs is under the stage at Bessie Rowell. Councilor Desrochers withdrew his motion.

Councilor Feener requested that Article IX. on the agenda be taken up now. Mayor Merrifield inquired if anyone on the Council had an objection to that. No one objected.

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

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council schedules a public hearing on Resolution #14-12 for Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Motion seconded by Councilor Boyd.

Councilor Clarenbach stated if we are to approve this public hearing setting then we give no direction to the City Manager as she has requested unless another motion is brought up subsequent. He stated he has no interest in taking the money from the school. They have offered it to the City and we may not like the conditions of their offer but they had to have a reason for writing the check so when they are audited it just didn't say wrote a check. He further stated it would be ridiculous to have those chairs moved anywhere; the best place for them is under the stage, and the use as Councilor Desrochers stated should be utilized by whoever needs them, the City or the School. Mayor Merrifield asked Councilor Clarenbach would the setting of this public hearing preclude the sharing of the chairs. No, it is a \$6,500 demand is setting us up for more issues going down the road.

Councilor Starkweather stated the chairs belong to the people of the City of Franklin and they are at a good place for storage right now. He stated the thing that bothers him is having to dream up something to pacify auditors. The City and the School both have the same auditor and should be able to figure that out. If you have to dream up some kind of story to fool auditors, is this the only thing, what else is going on.

Councilor Sharon stated he agrees, leave the chairs where they are and share them. The \$6,500 we are making a mountain out of an ant hill, the school has \$6,500 that the City needs to help button up the building and keep it going. All that was needed was to write a check out to the City for that amount for the reason the money was set aside for this purpose, to help close the school.

Councilor Feener stated he recommends the Council pass the motion for the public hearing and then he stated he will make another motion that the tables

and the chairs will be stored without signing any agreement. There is no need for an agreement and we will see if the school sends the check for \$6,500.

Vote on the setting of a public hearing for Resolution #14-12: 7 yes votes, 2 no votes, public hearing will be scheduled.

Mayor Merrifield read the resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION #14-12

A Resolution Relating to a Transfer of 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 Council appropriated local school district appropriations in the amount of \$3,072,718, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council understood that the school district appropriated \$15,000 specifically for the Bessie Rowell school winterizing and closure, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the Bessie Rowell School has been closed and the City has taken possession of the building, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council understands that \$6,512.42 remains unexpended from the \$15,000 school district Bessie Rowell appropriation, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to expend the remaining Bessie Rowell school closure appropriation, Now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, April 2, 2012, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby transfer the remaining unexpended Bessie Rowell appropriation of \$6,512.42 from the local school district assessment and applicable school district budget lines to the City Assessment and budget line 01-1-944-40410 Bessie Rowell electricity.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the City Manager continue to store the chairs at the Bessie Rowell School Facility to be used by the School and the City whenever needed. The School District will provide a week's notice when chairs are needed. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna. All in favor, motion passes.

Councilor Feener asked the members of the School Board in attendance where they post their agendas for School Board and committee meetings. Mr. Yonaitis, School Board Chair responded the postings are at both schools, the post office and on the web site.

Lakes Region General Hospital Presentation concerning Homeland Security Grant Application

Mr. John Cricket, the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for LRG Healthcare which is Franklin and Laconia advised the Council the State of New Hampshire, the Department of Health and Human Services has put together a Homeland Security Grant to build up capacity and capability in the area of ventilators. To do this, Homeland Security monies is being used to provide ventilators for healthcare. The issue comes down to Homeland Security money can only be given to municipalities and cannot be given directly to hospitals. What is being done around the state with the 26 acute care hospitals in New Hampshire is asking the municipality to accept the Homeland Security Grant and then turn the equipment over to local hospitals. These ventilators cost about \$7,000 each and there is no money that exchanges hands, it is all being paid for by the Department of Health and Human Services through the Homeland Security Grant program. He

stated what he does require is the municipality has to agree to give the ventilators to the hospital and then also the municipality has to agree to have someone be able to sign a contract. He stated he is therefore asking for a contract so the hospital can accept these ventilators. Councilor Dzujna inquired as to what is required by the City in the contract. He advised all the contract is the City is being allowed to enter into a contract so the hospital can take the equipment and the hospital assumes the responsibility for maintaining it, inventorying it, reporting back to the State on its usage. After this is approved there is no responsibility from the City, no money from the City to maintain the equipment and no further paper work. Councilor Feener stated he feels this is a good program.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council agree that the portable ventilators, provided by the State of New Hampshire, acting through its Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services for the benefit of the City of Franklin in emergency situations, be granted to LRGH to be stored, maintained and deployed as necessary and furthermore to authorize the City Manager to execute any documents necessary to complete the transaction. Motion seconded by Councilor Boyd. All in favor, motion passes.

Resolution #09-12 – this resolution will increase the contingent grant FY12 line from \$50,000 to \$86,000 for expenditures and revenues.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council adopts Resolution #09-12 by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Clarenbach.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Resolution #09-12 passes

Resolution #10-12 and Resolution #13-12 – these resolutions concern the approval/authorization to transfer existing Water Department Capital Reserve Funds into the current FY12 Water Department Operating Budget.

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council approves Resolution #10-12 by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Resolution #10-12 passes

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council approves Resolution #13-12 by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Councilor Clarenbach advised the \$45,000 that will be transferred now will be put back next budget year.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Trudel – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Resolution #13-12 passes

Resolution #11-12 – this resolution concerns the return of funds reimbursed by FEMA and other insurance funds to the Franklin Fire Department.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves Resolution #11-12, regarding the return of funds reimbursed by FEMA, and other recuperated insurance funds, to the Fire Department Budget by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution #11-12 passes

Resolution #12-12 – this resolution concerns the approval of appropriations and expenditures of State Conservation Committee Grant Funds.

Motion made by Councilor Trudel that the Franklin City Council approves Resolution #12-12 which outlines the proposed appropriations and expenditures of funds associated with the 2012 Conservation License Plate Grant for certain work associated with the Webster Lake Water Quality Improvement Projects. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution #12-12 passes

Other Business

Committee Reports

Chair of the Finance Committee, Councilor Feener scheduled a Finance Committee Meeting for Monday, March 12, 2012 at 6:00 pm at City Hall. Councilor Dzujna announced the Parks and Rec Committee will be holding a meeting at 4:30 p.m. at the Rec Center on Wednesday, March 7th. Councilor Sharon advised a CIP Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st at 6:00 pm and another meeting is scheduled for May 15th.

City Manager's Update

Manager Dragon advised contingent grant line \$200 was received from Mango for the summer concert series and a \$500 Wellness Grant from LGC. Fire Chief interviews are scheduled for March 8th and as the Mayor had advised Deputy Kevin LaChapelle has been appointed the Acting Interim Chief. She reminded everyone that there is a No Numbers Budget Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 26th. Manager Dragon commented that last year there were discussions concerning Flood Control reimbursements and how we were going to be moving funding which is about \$37,741. Several communities are suing the State over it and she talked with Attorney Fitzgerald about demanding payment and so Franklin will also likely be demanding payment. Manager Dragon commented on some of the comments made earlier concerning the CDBG grant proposals, when you write a grant you tailor it towards the grant you are trying to get, there is nothing fraudulent. The grant writer that is being referred to is Donna Lane and has come before the Council for both Tiny Twisters and Head Start. Manager Dragon stated she does not know what was being referred to in regards to it has already been approved; she stated if it had she would be quite happy. The applications have not even been reviewed yet but are due to be reviewed in April and we won't hear until sometime in late April if in fact they scored high enough to get funding. We do have the Tiny Twisters Grant and so we are hoping to get the Head Start grant. There has been some controversy from the Church and she stated she believes that is what Mr. Russo is referring to. The Church is unhappy that Head Start is looking to move out. The Church receives about \$43,000 yearly

City Council Meeting

March 5, 2012

Page 18

from Head Start. There are some things that CAP in Concord wrote in their grant application that the church has been debating. CAP submitted parts of the grant that was included in the application, one piece in particular that they are debating is the boiler which was apparently replaced in 2004 and she stated she has documents that anyone is welcome to look at that were written by one of the representatives of CAP who submitted it to the grant writer Donna Lane and she submitted the package. They talk about the boiler in the application and other issues of the building but the major issue they talk about is their lease is a year to year lease and they would like a long term agreement and the Bessie Rowell Community Center would be long term home for the Head Start Program. The building is owned by the City and the building is valued at over million dollars and that can count as part of the match. In return we are only charging what is called their share of the utilities so even though they are only paying \$1.00 for rent, they will pay their share of the utilities and costs. The Housing and Community Development Plan is all standard language, if you look at any community those things are adopted every time a CDBG Grant is done, not just in Franklin but in every community. With reference to St. Paul, Manager Dragon advised that she did not actually contact Head Start directly to move them to Bessie Rowell. The night Tiny Twisters was at the Council Meeting for their grant, Stacey informed the Council that CDBG approached Head Start and they are the ones that approached Head Start to do the grant.

Councilor Feener commented that Manager Dragon has been with the City of Franklin for almost four years and in that period of time she has represented the City professionally and with the utmost concern for the City and the comments made tonight were unjustified and he stated that he regrets Manager Dragon had to go through this tonight. Councilor Dzujna stated he agrees with Councilor Feener concerning the City Manager. He also commented that he was in the audience at the Council meeting and heard about the people approaching Head

Start to make this move. Councilor Dzujna stated he has heard people say the City did all of this but first of all the City did not write the grant. Mayor Merrifield commented he is a member of St. Paul's and would like to see St. Mary's School reopen.

Councilor Boyd advised when the Highway Safety Committee meeting was held one of the issues discussed that is going to be very debatable is the closing of lower Victory Drive and he asked if that should be a public hearing. Manager Dragon responded that it will be and there are several items that will need to have a public hearing also and an ordinance is being prepared for the next Council meeting to schedule a public hearing.

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council enters into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II A, the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Roll Call Vote:

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, Mayor Merrifield call a recess (8:30 p.m.) prior to going into non-public. The Council entered into non-public at 8:45 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilor Starkweather that the Franklin City Council seals the minutes of the non-public session because releasing them would make the action taken ineffectual. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

City Council Meeting
March 5, 2012
Page 20

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes

Councilor Dzujna – Yes

Councilor Sharon – Yes

Councilor Cournoyer – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes

Councilor Desrochers – Yes

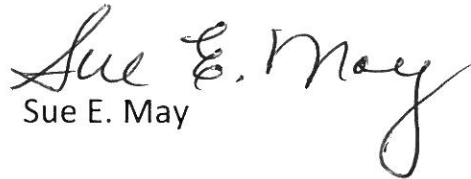
Councilor Trudel – Yes

Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Motion passes to seal the minutes.

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Starkweather. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May