

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND INAUGURAL  
JANUARY 6, 2014**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Salute to the Flag was said led by Councilor Starkweather.

**In Attendance**

Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Giunta, Councilor Cournoyer, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Feener, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Clarenbach, Councilor Trudel, Councilor-Elect Barton, City Manager Dragon and Mayor Merrifield.

The Serendipity Singers sang God Bless America and the National Anthem. Presentation of the Color Guard was done by the Franklin Fire Department.

**Approval of Minutes**

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the December 2, 2013 City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Trudel.***

Councilor Feener stated concerning the roll call to come out of non-public his name on the roll call should be eliminated as he was not at the meeting at that time.

***All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.***

***Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Desrochers; all in favor, meeting for 2013 business adjourned.***

**2014 INAUGURAL**

Invocation was given by Reverend Glen Carter. City Attorney Paul Fitzgerald gave the oath of office to Mayor Merrifield (2 years) as well as the following councilors and school board members.

**City Council**

Term of Office Three Years: Councilor Starkweather, Ward I  
Councilor Boyd, Ward II  
Councilor Barton, Ward III

Term of Office Two Years: Councilor Giunta, Ward I

**School Board**

Term of Office Three Years: Greg Husband, Ward I  
Timothy Dow, Ward III

Term of Office Two Years: Charles "Chad" Carey

**Inaugural Address**

A copy of Mayor Merrifield's inaugural address is attached to these minutes.

**Citizen of the Year 2013**

Mayor Merrifield chose Mrs. Linda Davison as Citizen of the Year and her plaque presented to her family by Mayor Merrifield read: "Franklin's Greatest Educator" Awarded in memory of her many years of dedicated service to the school children of Franklin who will never forget her. A copy of the Mayor presentation is attached. Ms. Jess Jalbert, a student of Mrs. Davidson and now a teacher herself spoke of her former teacher Mrs. Davidson.

**Presentation to Councilor Paul Trudel**

Mayor Merrifield recognized Councilor Trudel stating that Councilor Trudel has done a magnificent job for his constituents in Ward III. He has been very dedicated to the task and has done anything that has been asked of him, not only has he been a terrific councilor but also a fantastic friend. Councilor Trudel stated he is honored to have served on the Franklin City Council the last three years and working with the Mayor and Council has been a genuine pleasure. He expressed best wishes for everyone and continued success for the City of Franklin. May God Bless all of you and the City of Franklin.

Battle Hymn of the Republic was sung by the Serendipity Singers. Group photograph was taken of all Councilors, School Board Members, the City Manager and the Mayor. Recess was taken for reception and refreshments.

**2014 City Council Meeting**

Mayor Merrifield called the January, 2014 City Council Meeting to order.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Annette Andreozzi, Co-Chair for Choose Franklin advised the next Choose Franklin meeting will be February 6, 2014, 8:00 a.m. at City Hall and there will be a discussion of the Franklin Master Plan and Director Lewis will give everyone information concerning the Plan.

Representative Webb advised the Mayor and Council that he is always available if there are any issues that they wish to discuss on the State level.

**Resolution #06-14** – this resolution concerns the acceptance and appropriation of the \$10,000 Drug Task Force Grant awarded to the Franklin Police Department.

***Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council schedules a public hearing on Resolution #06-14 for Monday, February 3, 2014 at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall regarding a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$10,000. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor, motion passes to schedule the public hearing.***

Mayor Merrifield read Resolution #06-14 into the record:

**RESOLUTION #06-14**

**A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2014.**

**In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fourteen,**

**WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin has adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2014 which began July 1, 2013, and;**

**WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire has already committed to the efforts of alcohol and drug education and prevention through the Mayor's Drug Task Force, and;**

**WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire recognizes the Police department has been awarded a Drug Task Force grant through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program in the amount of \$30,000 through June 30, 2015 for the purpose of covering back fill for an officer so that s/he may be more available for drug and alcohol related prevention and education activities, and;**

**WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin wishes to accept and appropriate the aforementioned Drug Task Force grant, Now**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, February 3, 2014 the City Council of the City of Franklin, New**

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**Hampshire does hereby accept the Drug Task Force grant through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program and approve resolution 06-14 authorizing an increase in FY14 revenues:**

**Federal Grants – Police Department Acct No. 01-2-103-33111-000 – Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000),**

**And an increase in expenditure accounts,**

**Patrol Overtime Account No. 01-2-103-40140-000 in the amount of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$7,890),**

**Patrol Medicare Account No. 01-2-103-40225-000 in the amount of One Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$114) and,**

**Patrol Retirement Account No. 01-2-103-40230-000 in the amount of One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$1,996),**

**City Council to consider a Ten Year Lease Agreement with Granite State Animal League**

***Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute the proposed ten year lease with the Granite State Animal League. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener.***

Manager Dragon commented that the City has been working with the Franklin Animal Shelter and they have been doing a great job working with volunteers to raise funds and they would like to begin to invest in the building/property but before they do that they would like a more secure relationship with the City. This ten year lease has been worked out with the Animal League and the assistance of the City Attorney which allows them to move forward and allows the people who are donating their time to the organization to feel more confident that they are

investing in something that is going to be there. Councilor Cournoyer asked if anything would transpire wherein the City would want to terminate the lease; is that possible. Manager Dragon advised on Page 2 there is a termination clause.

She further advised that the City has reserved the right if in the future the space is needed for the Transfer Station operations; we have the right to give the Animal Shelter a year's notice. Manager Dragon stated she feels the Animal Shelter is on the right path and she feels very comfortable with this lease agreement and will give them some security to move forward.

***All in favor, motion passes to approve the ten year lease with the Animal Shelter.***

**Resolution #07-14** – this resolution concerns authorization to enter into a lease/purchase agreement through Municipal Leasing Consultants to fund the Energy Performance Contract.

***Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council schedules a public hearing for Monday, February 3, 2014 at 6:06 p.m. regarding the adoption of Resolution #07-14 approving the Energy Performance Contract with Energy Efficient Investments, Inc. and authorizing the City of Franklin to enter into a lease purchase agreement with Municipal Leasing Consultants. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.***

Councilor Giunta commented when he first joined the Council he had several questions concerning this project including payback period and useful life of the equipment. He stated he had understood the Council was supposed to get together and go over this again to set up a priority. He stated he has talked with the City Manager about doing that and we will be doing that sometime in January. When it comes to moving something to public comment he stated he values public comment and Councilor Giunta stated if he were to ask anyone in the audience tonight what these projects are or have comments they probably would

not have any comments. He stated at this time if we move this to a public comment there will be no comment as we don't have a document.

***Motion made by Councilor Giunta and seconded by Councilor Feener to table the motion to schedule a public hearing. All in favor, motion passes to table.***

### **Other Business**

**City Manager's Update** – Manager Dragon stated the City has received the following for the contingency grant line: \$2,516.50 from Hurd Construction for the Webster Lake Project; \$319.97 from the State of New Hampshire for Operation Safe Commute; \$100 from Health Trust; \$29.21 from Santa letters; \$200 from Rotary for the book club; \$5,000 from charitable foundation for the Odell Cottage Plan; \$2,000 IPAD raffle for Police K9 fundraiser for a total of \$6,139 raised to-date. The IPAD raffle which finished Christmas Eve raised \$2,000 for the K-9 program.

During the month of January, the Task Force is hosting Dover Youth to Youth assemblies at the High School and Middle School and will be focused on strengthening youth empowerment. The February Task Force meeting will be held February 13 at 5 pm in the Council Chambers and a yearend review presentation will be held to discuss the efforts of the task force over the past year.

Manager Dragon advised that she has again arranged for Stuart Tracey to help with the monitoring of legislation concerning the Northern pass project.

### **Appointments**

#### **Planning Board**

Mr. Timothy Stangroom reappointed by the Mayor as a regular voting member; term of service to January, 2017.

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Mrs. Jo Brown appointed by the Mayor from her Alternate position to a regular voting member; term of service to January, 2017.

Mr. Timothy Flaherty was appointed by the Mayor as an Alternate member to the Planning Board; term of service to January, 2016.

**Heritage Commission**

Mayor Merrifield reappointed Jeff Whitney to the Heritage Commission; term of service to January, 2017.

**City Council Appointment**

**Conservation Commission** – Dennis Swett, Term of Service September, 2017.

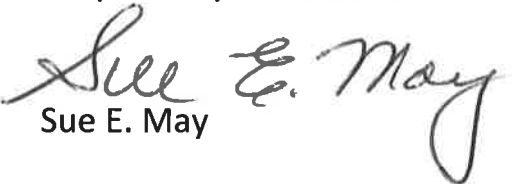
**Zoning Board** – Donna Tully reappointed, Term of Service to January, 2017.

**Library Board of Trustees** – Reappointed Judith Merriam, Term of Service to January, 2017.

Appointed Tiffany Preston, Term of Service to January, 2017

***Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Feener, seconded by Councilor Desrochers.  
All in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sue E. May

Attachments





## CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

316 Central Street  
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235  
Telephone (603) 934-3900  
Fax (603) 934-7413

-January 6, 2014-

Pastor Carter, members of the City Council for 2013 and 2014, City Manager Dragon and Department Directors, honored School Board members, friends, and fellow citizens of Franklin NH:

I am humbled. This is the fourth occasion that I have been honored to take the oath of office as mayor. I have been part of the city government in one role or another since 1992. I have met and worked with some tremendous people over these two decades. You have my deepest thanks for your confidence. I will try to earn it every day over the next two years.

General Colin Powell tells us that "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier," and I think he has been proven right more than once. I am here tonight to preach optimism about the near and distant future of Franklin. And I have evidence!

One year ago, the unemployment rate in Franklin was 7.2%. The latest figures from the State show us at 4.9%. And the State of NH as a whole stands at 5.1%.

This alone would suggest that our local economy is indeed improving, but consider that we have already witnessed the aggressive expansion of our largest employer, Webster Valve, during 2013. We've also enjoyed grand openings for Federated Auto Parts, Central Gold Key Realty, Pizza Chef, and Sustainable Refining in the Industrial Park. The Lakes Chamber of Commerce awarded recognition to Harvest Barn and Long Range Trap Release Systems early in 2013. Performance Chemicals is a new member of the Franklin business community. Many of our other businesses continue to thrive and grow and may it always be so.

And I suspect it will. Because early in 2014, several national and local business organizations will be before the Planning Board to discuss major financial investments in the various commercial corridors in our city.

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It may be difficult to remember now, but the City of Franklin was experiencing a similar, remarkable growth - in its value and marketability - prior to the recession. From 2000 to 2008, Franklin's property values rose at faster rate than the State of NH as a whole. Faster than Concord, Bow, Dover, Rochester, and Manchester - to name a few. We gave back some of those gains during the Great Recession, but I believe the trajectory of the early 2000's remains in place. All the signs I have cited tonight are proof of that.

And all this is without even mentioning the promise of the Northern Pass project, which we can now estimate will nearly double the value of our City. It is no wonder that the Franklin Planning Board wishes to anticipate the effects of the Northern Pass "boom" in our Master Plan update of 2014.

Apart from the private economy, the city government enjoyed many successes as well in the last year, not limited to improvements to our water delivery system and regional recognition of our new drinking water treatment plant. I'm honored to say that the Mayor's Drug Task Force has completed work on a number of projects and promises to bring a K9 Unit back to our police department. And recall that Captain Bruce Goldthwaite has honored us by being named the EMS Provider of the Year in NH.

Our school and municipal departments, educators and employees continue to do exceptional work with very limited resources. We look forward to more in 2014 from the best teachers, the best city manager, and the best municipal team in New Hampshire.

I am also very optimistic and excited about new leadership and the new relationship between the Franklin School Board and our City Council. I feel that we are on the verge of a cooperative era that will benefit our school children and everyone in Franklin.

So... with all this promise and hope for the future... What do we want to be? We will soon hold the power in our hands to create the Franklin of the next century.

Let's look at a tiny town in eastern Pennsylvania for one possibility.

Roseto was settled in the late 1800's almost exclusively by immigrants from Roseto Valfortore in Italy. Men worked in slate quarries and women in the

*Franklin - The Three Rivers City*

manufacture of clothing. The town became an insulated cultural island unto itself. In the late 1950's a physician named Stuart Wolfe from the University of Oklahoma had a chance meeting with a local doctor, who alerted Wolfe to the fact that people from Roseto were not dying.

They did die, of course. But only from extreme old age. Welcomed by the community, Wolfe brought a team of researchers to study the people of Roseto. And what he found was astounding. There was virtually no illness. Almost no heart disease, no cancer. There was no drug addiction, alcoholism, or suicide. There was no one on welfare and virtually no crime.

Wolfe had to rule out genetics or heredity. Rosetans who settled elsewhere had diseases just like other Americans. It was not diet and exercise. 40% of Rosetans' calories came from fat. Their diet was unhealthy. They were more prone to smoke and be obese than the norm. They drank much more wine than others. But neighboring towns did not share Roseto's health statistics at all, so it also wasn't the air, water, or region.

Wolfe did identify the cause. Virtually every home had three generations. Everyone attended the same church. After work, families would stroll the streets greeting their neighbors. There were always festivals and fairs. The wealthiest family lived in a house no better than the poorest. In a town with 2,000 residents, there were at least 22 different fraternal organizations.

The community itself had made its people healthy.

Do we want to be like Roseto? I see similarities! Whatever we will become, it will rest with all of us to decide, through the choices we make. One of my favorite quotes comes from Dickinson: "We never know how high we are, until we are called to rise..." So I hope that our community accepts this call to rise: To be the best neighbors we can be. To strive for excellence in everything we do, so that we can earn the blessing David received in the 1st Book of Samuel: "[He] had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him."

May the Lord be with Franklin and each of you in 2014. Thank you all so much.



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## **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2013**

One of the greatest honors I have as Mayor is to be the person to select our Citizen of the Year annually. A great honor, but a truly difficult one. There are so many people who are deserving of this recognition, and I always feel a bit troubled when I must choose one person over another.

So I am thankful to everyone who offered great suggestions, and please be assured I considered all of them.

For the second year in a row, I am turning to our educators for my selection. I am extremely fortunate that one of my children was a pupil of this Franklin teacher. It was the kind of experience that you do not forget as a parent.

And so, what better way to honor this professional than to have one of her own students - who has followed her into the profession of teaching - come forward to make this presentation for us tonight?

It is my honor to share this honor with educator Jess Jalbert.