

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM I



**CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

July 8, 2013 City Council Meeting

Subject: Approval of Minutes

Motion: *"I move that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the May 14, and May 21, 2013 City Council Budget Workshops and the June 3, 2013 City Council Meeting."*

Mayor calls for a second, discussion and the vote.

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MAY 14, 2013

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 let by Councilor Trudel.

In Attendance

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

Absent

Councilor Boyd and Councilor Feener

Mayor Merrifield advised that Councilor Feener is not here tonight as his Mother has passed away. The meeting was turned over to City Manager Dragon who advised that the Parks & Rec Department are listed on the agenda tonight but Director Alpers can't be here this evening as her husband had a death in the family. The Parks/Recreation budget presentation will be rescheduled. Manager Dragon advised tonight we have the overview of revenues/fines/fees and the Municipal Service Department proposed budget.

Manager Dragon stated we will do the overview and if there are specific questions to keep them in mind and we can let the Department Head know and when it is there department's turn to present they will cover that.

Section 4 – General Fund Revenues, Summary & Detail

Page 1 – Land Use Change Tax had a sizable jump in the current budget but the number has been brought down to a reasonable number of \$4,000. The PILOT for Riverside Housing is up slightly which is a formula as well as the PILOT for Franklin Hospital. The PILOT for the Masonic Lodge is new this year. The line for Interest on Property Taxes has been held steady. Councilor Clarenbach stated his only

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questions would be on the interest on property taxes as the interest rates are pretty low right now. Manager Dragon commented it is an 18% penalty for property tax payments that are late. Councilor Clarenbach commented that as of April 30th it is \$83,072 which is about half of what is budgeted. Finance Director Milner explained that most of this revenue is received when the tax liens go out and is not recorded as of April 30th.

Page 2 – A 1% increase is shown in the Motor Vehicle Fees. Vital Statistics was reduced by \$500 and we are collecting the fees for OHRVs, snowmobiles and dirt bikes which has increased a little.

Page 3 – Flood Control Reimbursement – State had to be adjusted for the money the City was not receiving. Some funds are coming through the grant lines, the COPS Grant went away. Councilor Starkweather inquiring concerning the Brownsfield Grant asking if that is for 601 South Main and when will they begin work. Manager Dragon advised it is for 601 South Main and they have been working but not on the physical cleaning up, they had to do some additional engineering that EPA required them to do and that has now been concluded and physical work will begin this summer. The \$185,000 is because we didn't collect it so we didn't spend it. Councilor Clarenbach inquired concerning the Transfer Station Recycling Program and the revenue generated, does that include curbside? Director Sullivan advised it does not include curbside collection.

Page 4 – A different breakout was done between the Summer Program and the Before and After School Programs for Recreation-Sports Fee so the numbers look different. In the Recreation Budget a Before School Program is being included and that revenue is in the budget. Councilor Starkweather questioned Pistol Permits as \$200 was budgeted and revenue so far collected is \$1,190 and the permits are good for 5 years so in 5 years we could possibly that amount of funds again.

Page 5 – We show 0% increase on bank account funds. The Lease City Land – Cell Tower will probably have an adjustment, it was adjusted down for Sprint and

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Nextel are merging and Sprint is going to be doing some work on our water tank and originally we felt the Nextel money would go away completely but there is a possibility that the City will still receive that money. We have also been looking to pursue a relationship with Verizon because many complain we have not Verizon service here. It will also depend on how much room we have on the tank; if Sprint decides they will be keeping some of the space Nextel had, we may not have the capacity to add Verizon.

Director Milner commented on the Ambulance Fees stating she and Chief LaChapelle did some research on the fees that the City bills for ambulance services and noted one of the things that the City bills 20% above the Medicare allowed rate. Most places in the City's immediate area charge at least 50% above that rate; there are areas in Massachusetts that charge 200% above the Medicare rate. She stated it is being recommended that Franklin charge 50% above the Medicare rate which will a little bit of change in revenue but in addition to that because of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) ComStar is recommending that we switch to a bundle billing because of the changes in this Act we could lose a lot of revenue if we don't switch to a bundle billing system. With those two changes there is a small increase in revenue and ComStar who does the City's billing went back 3 years and projected what it would have been if the City were charging 50% over the Medicare rate. It looks like the City will receive an additional \$25,000 in revenue which is offset about \$5,000 on the expenditure side for the ComStar fees.

Misc Revenues increase is the \$60,755 one time contribution holiday from the Local Government Center. Mayor Merrifield asked why the LGC Holiday wouldn't be shown as a reduced expense, are they actually going to write a check. Director Milner commented they will not write a check, they are going to reduce the August bill by the \$60,000; the holiday is for contributions that were given by us on other years so the City's bill will be reduced. So, the bill will be recorded as gross and then record the revenue by the amount they are reducing off of the bill. Councilor Clarenbach asked with regard to the Cable Tax Franchise Fee, this is one of those that people that have cable TV are paying a tax and people with satellite

dishes, etc. aren't and it is to the benefit of all tax payers that we are paying tax if you have MetroCast, if you don't then you don't pay the tax. He stated the City is clearly only taxing one segment of the population. Manager Dragon commented MetroCast is passing that on to the cable subscribers but the City is entitled to revenue because they are using the right-of-way so the franchise revenue is one piece of that which is allowed. It is being passed through and Manager Dragon stated that during the MetroCast negotiations when things like technology grants were being looked at we were saying that could not be a pass through, MetroCast is writing us a check. Councilor Clarenbach stated MetroCast does not own the poles, they are paying Public Service for the use of the poles; they are in our right-of-way but Public Service is already paying us for the poles. We are taxing the lessee and then the sub-lessee taxes on both pieces of property and there's really own one piece of property. Manager Dragon stated the City is taxing the poles separately. She stated the law changed on this about one year ago and we now tax for the wires going across the right-of-way so it is the poles and the use of the right-of-way and MetroCast is paying a property tax. Councilor Clarenbach commented this is a separate tax and Mayor Merrifield commented it is a tax on your cable bill.

Councilor Clarenbach questioned was it last year that the dispatch fees were increased and Manager Dragon responded that is correct.

Page 6 – The City did not get the Hazard Mitigation Grant and has been adjusted in both the expense and revenue. Councilor Starkweather asked if any of the \$2,900 shown for the Odell Park Trust can be used on the cottage. Manager Dragon stated she believes that portion is interest that is used as the revenue to offset the maintenance of the Park itself and the cottage and there is a separate one for the Arch. Director Milner advised that the departments' proposed changing the bounce check fee from \$25.00 to \$35.00. Manager Dragon commented concerning the Summer Program that we will be taking a look at the program so we can be ready for next year. She stated she is recommending that the number of weeks be cut from 8 weeks to 7 weeks and look at increasing the Summer Program Pay structure. We are aware that we are subsidizing the

program for the Franklin residents because the fee was raised a couple years ago for those who live outside of Franklin. We have looked at separating out the expensive trips and making them an add on so families would not have to go if they did not want to pay for it. Director Alpers did up a spreadsheet to bring the program up to the cost that it would need to be but it is over a number of years and Manager Dragon stated she is not comfortable with that. Manager Dragon commented the problem with the Summer Program is if too much of an adjustment is made many of the kids will not be able to afford it. Councilor Desrochers inquired what is the current subsidy for the summer program. Manager Dragon advised the City is subsidizing a net loss of \$26,000 for the Summer Program.

Municipal Services Section 5

Director Sullivan stated the overall just as last year they have looked at trying to hold the bottom line, cut where we can cut, and reallocate where we can reallocate. He stated they are hoping to get the costs for the landfill reduced and other things they will be going after with the Basin Program. They are actively pursuing getting rid of some of the mandates that are not necessary every year.

Page 9 – Buildings /City Hall - 2% reduction on the bottom line.

Proulx Center/Parks/Beaches – 6% reduction.

Bessie Rowell – 3% increase most due to the increase in heating, oil and natural gas.

Odell Cottage – Level funded. Very little maintenance is done to the cottage, what is taken in from interest is used for heating.

Page 13 – Police Building – Director Sullivan stated in the Police budget there is an increase of 14% which mainly because of the request by the Police Chief to put in carpeting for the building and other types of flooring. The current carpet and

flooring are from when the building was built. Most everything else is level funded. Councilor Starkweather inquired about the \$800 for the Police Chief's window. Director Sullivan advised the window has a bullet hole in it and has been that way for about 10 years.

Page 18 – Fire Station – 28% overall increase. Director Sullivan commented there is an increase in the Water/Sewer and a large increase in Building Maintenance and it was increased for work on the front foyer, getting security measures done as they are in need of improved security. Councilor Clarenbach inquired if they have ever separated the apparatus water from the sewer and put in a second meter. Director Sullivan stated he does not believe that has been done. Councilor Clarenbach commented what happens is the piping that fills all the trucks at a 1,000 gallons a truck when it goes through the meter you are paying sewer and water on that even though that water will not end up in the sewer system.

Municipal Services - Director Sullivan stated his total budget is down 6%. One thing that was done and it is reflected throughout these different functions a full-time position was eliminated in the Highway Division which accounts for a savings in wages, retirement, etc. throughout. He stated when you go through all of these divisions regarding the New Hampshire Retirement caused the increase, as well as health and dental and not the operations/management of the departments.

Page 25 – Administration – 2% increase.

MSD Building – 11% increase attributed to heating/oil to heat both buildings.

Page 26 – MSD Roadway Maintenance – the bottom line is down 13% and can be contributed to the cutting of the full-time position and shows a 20% decrease in the wage line due to the retirement of an employee and not filling that position and is reflected throughout some of the other line items. He stated most of the block grant monies are allocated to maintenance of public ways. Councilor

Clarenbach commented his concern with losing of one employee; we are expected to get the same amount of work done with less employees. Councilor Desrochers stated he is going to say something that to the citizens of Franklin will be very unpopular as he has been in favor of a sales tax in New Hampshire for many years. Councilor Desrochers also commented that there are rumors going around City hall that he is running for Mayor and he advised that is untrue, he will not be running for Mayor.

Page 26 – Snow/Ice Removal – Director Sullivan advised the City did not go over in Snow/Ice this year but did go over in Sand and Salt but under in vehicle maintenance. Director Sullivan stated he feels the \$85,000 is a good number to start from. Director Sullivan stated he has not heard from FEMA and is looking for about a \$50,000 reimbursement for overtime, use of equipment and materials. Councilor Clarenbach commented that if the City were to receive a reimbursement of that amount, it almost would be worth putting it into an account and holding it for the year when we do have a bad winter. Councilor Starkweather inquired if it is known what the price of salt is going to be. Director Sullivan stated it is going to probably stay pretty much the same. The State bid has not come in yet but will probably be about the same. Director Sullivan advised that the cost of salt has gone up 130% since 2003. The City has a salt shed that hold approximately 350 tons of salt, if we were able to buy 2,000 tons of salt it could be purchased right now at \$40/ton because of surplus.

Drainage & Vegetation – There is a drop in the engineering line because the work out at the lake is not being done. Director Sullivan advised that he hopes to cut back on roadside mowing this year.

Traffic and Street Lights – Director Sullivan stated they just completed the traffic striping on Central Street and a contractor is brought in for that. A new company was hired this year and it was cost effective. The application rate on the paint was increased to see if the center lines can last a little bit longer. This group is up 3% and some of it is due to the electricity to run the signals. A traffic light was added a couple years ago at CVS which definitely increased the cost, then the one

at West Bow and the one at Kendal which all increases the line items. It cost \$10,000 per year to run a traffic light. We were able to acquire a new signal box from CVS which is about \$125,000.

Page 28 – Mechanical Garage – Director Sullivan stated this is one of the ones that really concerns him because the aging equipment. Things have not been replaced, the big trucks are getting older, the condition of the roads is such that it is hard to keep equipment from breaking down in the winter, a lot is structural that comes in. Typically in a snowstorm we will be down a truck off and on. There is an increase in the bottom line of 11% which is mainly due to the vehicle parts line. Ten years ago we had a budget of \$35,000 and we are already at \$75,000. Director Milner stated it is \$81,000. Director Sullivan stated easily \$100,000 could be spent on parts. Mayor Merrifield inquired if we have a percentage of the City's budget that is going to Personnel costs versus materials. Director Milner responded 70+%. Director Sullivan stated in the Mechanical Garage the bottom line there is an increase and is mainly due to outside repair and vehicle parts but in the overall bottom line we have made up for that.

Page 29 – MSD Buildings and Grounds – this is a portion of the Parks budget. 1% decrease.

Page 30/ Sanitation-Solid Waste

Curbside Collection – Director Sullivan advised the City is in the 3rd year of the program and year three report is out which will be posted on the website. He stated the City did 936 tons of recycling in this past year and are up from 25% to 27% and we are currently paying \$20/ton to get rid of it which is much better than \$68/ton, that's reflective of the market that is going on right now. With paying that \$20/ton the City has saved \$90,796 in avoided costs between recycling and the demolition for year three. We are averaging about \$90,000/year savings and that is after the hauling costs, etc. are paid. Councilor Clarenbach asked what the bonding was. Director Milner stated \$152,000 and two years left. Mayor Merrifield stated he wants to be clear so in the current

budget, \$152,000 for the lease/purchase, and in the FY14 proposed budget and then FY15 and FY16 and then the City will really begin to make money. Director Sullivan commented the whole dynamic of the Co-Op is going to change. Director Sullivan stated they have a meeting with the Co-Op later and will know more than as Concord is talking about dropping out. Wheelabrator needs an answer on their contract soon. The negotiation Wheelabrator is to keep the tipping fees at \$62.00/ton and a \$2.00 Admin. Fee to the Co-Op and that has been cut off completely, the ash fill is closing so no revenue from the ash, the bottom line is it will be a tipping fee of \$64.00/ton if the City stays with the Co-Op and go down to Wheelabrator which is \$2.80 less plus they are talking about using some of the reserves, talking about giving Franklin back \$110,000 as there is a healthy reserve of about \$11 million which they will begin to whittle away at by reducing the tipping costs and also at the end of 2014 they will give money back to the cities and towns. Bottom line there is an increase of 1% in curbside collection which can be attributed to the State Retirement System and workers comp.

Recycling – Director Sullivan stated one thing they have noticed there is less demolition coming in and less solid waste coming in. He stated they have dropped from gross annual tonnage of 6,500 gross annual tons per year to 4,100 tons which is a huge drop. Some of the drop can be attributed to recycling (936 tons) and some of it is just people aren't buying as much, also foreclosures. Director Sullivan stated sooner or later the City will be hit with a 1,000 ton increase and will probably be when we have 100% occupancy again and the economy kicks back in. Mayor Merrifield asked what the 4,100 tons represents and Director Sullivan stated about 1,500 of commercial tonnage that is picked up by Best Way and Waste Management that goes to the incinerator under Franklin and then we charge for the commercial that goes in and the balance is residential curbside and transfer station and the City hauls that to Wheelabrator. He stated we do recover for the commercial end of the tonnage. Director Sullivan also stated he hopes that recycling will start paying again as we had 936 tons and if the City was getting \$10/ton and he stated he feels that will happen.

Total Solid Waste Collection is down 3%.

Page 31 – Sanitation/Solid Waste

Transfer Station – Director Sullivan stated the Tipping Fees line has been broken down showing the costs. He stated they have held the line except for the increase in State Retirement and Workers Comp. Director Sullivan commented he feels that the City needs to start charging for replacement barrels. A fee needs to be implemented. He stated he wants to get to a point that the City buys 100 barrels and Aubuchon would stock them and people could purchase them and the City would get the money back. Councilor Clarenbach asked why they couldn't be sold at the Transfer Station and Director Sullivan stated the Transfer Station is only open 3 days a week so he would prefer Aubuchon have them. Councilor Starkweather commented two families or more in a building should have a dumpster. Director Sullivan commented some of these places have limited space for a dumpster and also another problem is those that have a dumpster others come over and use it. He stated he really doesn't know what the perfect solution is. Another battle is the multi-families, the compliance problems are with the multi-families. Councilor Dzujna inquired as to how many barrels we have replaced. Director Sullivan stated we have about 6,000 barrels out there that went with the program and since we bought we have purchased 200 additional barrels. The ones we would sell would have a different logo so we would know that is a purchased barrel.

Page 32 – Transfer Station- total is -1%. There is an increase in electricity. Director Sullivan advised they moved 22 tons of tires and 18 tons of electronics.

Councilor Starkweather asked about the Health and Dental being down 38% under Buildings and Grounds on Page 29. Director Milner explained that there was a marriage between two employees and the employee in Parks and Grounds will go on his wife's policy.

Section 9 – Water Fund, Revenues, Expenses and Rate

Director Sullivan stated since October, 2007 there has not been an increase in water and there is no increase proposed this year nor is it needed this year. The Water Fund is healthy; we are changing out meters which is the key. Every day in the Water Department something is uncovered. The ones that have not been changed are the ones the City has been unable to get to because people will not let the worker in the house. Currently about 2/3 of the meters have been replaced. The revenue is all in the meters. Revenues are up a little bit, consumption is up a little bit; with new industry coming in and other things we will experience high consumption. An audit was done on a building in the Industrial Park and it was learned they were only paying for only a quarter of the amount of waste water that was going into the system and Director Sullivan it is this type of thing that the City needs to go out and audit. In the Water Department it is being proposed/requested for an additional person not only to assist in water with auditing and other important issues but to assist in the sewer department as well.

Expenditures for the Water, the bottom line the increase is being offset by retained earnings. The idea is to draw some of the retained earnings down that we have and use that on capital projects so what is reflected throughout this budget and mainly in engineering and capital outlay is to perform long needed repairs to the system. The big one this year is the Cross Street Tank. There is a \$425,000 item in this budget to sand blast and repair the inside and the outside of the Tank which has not been done for 25 years. A structural analysis was just done on the tank, we thought someone shot a hole through it but we don't believe that is the case. The west side of the tank the corrosion from the sun is failing. The stud welds from the antennas were not repaired properly. An evaluation was done on the tank, the tank overall is in pretty good shape considering the age, but work needs to be done now before it gets worse. This fall or early next spring the tank will be taken off line and getting all the repairs on the inside and outside done and we will try to coordinate that with the cell companies.

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Director Sullivan advised under Administration Expenditures bottom line there is a decrease of 1%. There is a 173% increase which is attributed to the capital items; one being the water tank, another one is the resurfacing of Chance Pond Road as the City will have to kick in funds once the water main is put in because the State will not pay for the entire thing under the SRF Program. Director Sullivan commented they are attempting to clean up the system and dealt with Nelson Street last year and gave those people new water and sewer connections but there is still a lot of that that has to continue. Director Sullivan stated funds cannot be encumbered in the water and sewer so it is necessary to reallocate. Director Milner commented that is part of the retained earnings in the revenue piece. It was discussed at the MSD meeting that when you take the proposed capital items out what is left for retained earnings. Director Milner responded as of the end of 2012 the working capital which is the more liquid piece of the retained earnings is about and on the conservative side 1.4 million dollars as we have not been audited. It is proposed in this budget to take out the Cross Street tank which is \$425,000 and the Chance Pond Road overlay which is \$65,000 for a total of \$490,000 and Director Milner stated again she feels this is conservative and commented she feels it will still be up over 1 million dollars. The other pieces that are coming out of retained earnings will drop to the working capital and retained earnings this year at the end of FY13 because there has not been the time to do the projects.

Director Sullivan stated at no increase this proposed budget adds another person into the Water Department. By adding this person, not only does the City have the plant to operate which is about 40% of one person's time per week, plus meter replacements, auditing that needs to be done, and embarking on a capital efficiency plan where mapping is underway. Director Sullivan stated the age of the system and the amount of repairs that have been done and the deferred maintenance are all reasons for the added person.

Councilor Clarenbach questioned if the City might be better off in this rate environment to bond \$480,000 rather than spend it and have more retained earnings for other projects.

Director Sullivan stated he would like to get the tank done this year, however we are doing this capital efficiency plan and this plan will change the whole direction of the Water Department for the capital projects and that will be done this time next year. He stated the department will have 1 million plus dollars and he stated he would like to go back to USDA because they seem to be the best in terms of forgiveness and he stated he has talked to them and they have mentioned that the department could still get 35%.

Section 10/Sewer

Director Sullivan stated concerning revenues, they have looked at a couple of things and struggling as to whether you raise the rate or try to hold the line. It was also looked at why the costs continue to go up because DES down on River Street, a 30 year plant and a 30 year collection system that was over built, 90% funded by the Federal Government and there is 15,000 connections on the system throughout the Lakes Region. Director Sullivan stated they are looking at flow metering and other ways to reduce costs and they are not filling positions down at the plant, he further stated if the plant could go with a public utility authority versus the State running the facility and reducing more personnel would reduce costs. The increase in the sewer budget is an increase of 7% in the State's cost which can be attributed to the UV Plant going on line and other capital projects. Director Sullivan stated he is concerned about the flow metering and infiltration and if the City doesn't stay ahead of the program and reduces the amount of flow going through the system the City could potentially be paying instead of 22% the City could pay 40% if it is based on flow. He stated it is possible this time next year there will be another increase because the UV Plant will be on line 100%. Director Sullivan stated if we don't do a rate increase, we go to retained earnings or we suck up the rate increase to the City's portion of the cost. In the sewer budget a lot of it is the capital costs which is covered but the State allocation that is hammering at the City and it is a 7% increase. He advised they have taken 2% off of that and the City has absorbed that 2% so the request is for a 5% increase.

Councilor Clarenbach advised this was discussed at the MSD Committee Meeting and originally the proposal was to actually cut the City side of the increases so the State side could be covered and the Committee felt that was not prudent. If the City continues to cut back on the capital side of the City's budget we will never get to an I & I Project or take care of some of these long lasting issues. It is just like the retirement or health care costs, we have no control over what the Winnepesaukee River Basin does. Councilor Clarenbach continued yes 5% is a lot of an increase but it is only on the sewer side, there is no water increase so when the bill is split it would be fairly close to 54% - 46% so it is only a 2 ½% increase over the entire water/sewer bill. The Committee agreed completed with Director Sullivan that if I&I is not done and begin early there could be potentially a far worse outcome and would still have to do the I&I afterwards. Councilor Starkweather commented that there has been a lot of work done in-house working on the I&I problem, and he asked if progress is being made and are we getting the information we need so work can begin on the flow meters. Director Sullivan responded there was no flow last year, last spring was a very dry spring, we have identified the control structures and are waiting for heavy rain. We do have a very good knowledge of where the problem areas are. Four projects were done last year and there is one project underway right now to eliminate stormwater that has been going into the system (open pipes). Director Sullivan advised that the sewer system is in very bad shape. Many of the lines are 4 inches and you can't even get a camera up through them. When you go up on Prospect Street the joints are so settled you can't get cameras up through them. There needs to be a complete rebuild on portions of the system. The I&I could possibly be reduced by 20% if we went around and removed all the sump pumps and all the roof drains. Councilor Clarenbach suggested the City begin an educational program advising residents about the water from their sump pumps and/or roof drains that wind up being deposited into the sewer. Everyone felt there should be an educational program. It was also suggested by Council Clarenbach that realtors should be notified as well as home inspection people.

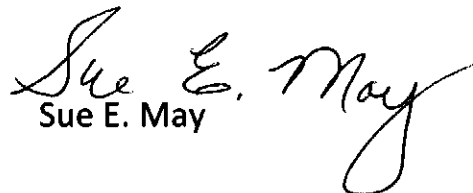
Capital

Councilor Clarenbach commented we will go through another year without any roads being paved. He stated we are losing our infrastructure in roads. Posting of roads was discussed but unique to Franklin you have Mountain Ridge and Golden Crest that would not be able to receive deliveries. The turning over to the State of Lake Shore Drive was discussed at the MSD meeting and all agreed, the plowing would be a total of 7 miles, 3 ½ miles one way and then back 3 ½ miles. The cost to resurface a road today is \$400,000/mile. Director Sullivan stated the budget is strictly a maintenance budget. Councilor Trudel commented one of the problems concerning some of the roads is people drive on them and they have a new car and after a couple years the car is a shaking bolts vehicle. Director Sullivan stated if you look at capital, we are not on a road program at all; there is 62 miles of paved road, if we pave one mile per year at \$400,000/mile do the math we are on a 62 mile program; if we do four miles per year which Director Sullivan stated he would propose it would come to 1.2 million dollars.

Manager Dragon advised the next meeting is Tuesday, May 21st and the first item on the agenda is the school board scholarship and second is the budget for Police, Fire and Planning & Zoning. She also advised she has been given a copy of a presentation the school is making to different organization such as Rotary that has some errors in it in terms of comparisons regarding property tax values and the school's portion. Manager Dragon had Finance Director Milner take a look at the report and correct certain things to give a more accurate comparison and she has been invited to speak at Rotary in June.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Clarenbach and seconded by Councilor Trudel. All in favor, meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May

**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 21, 2013**

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall.

In Attendance

Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Sharon, Councilor Cournoyer, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Trudel, Councilor Clarenbach, Mayor Merrifield and City Manager Dragon.

Absent

Councilor Boyd and Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Desrochers was recognized by Mayor Merrifield and he stated this has nothing to do with the budget but is something he learned about last evening and if the School Department isn't going to deal with it, then the City side needs to find a way rapidly. There are three girls at Franklin High School who have been threatened to be raped, and murdered by a student at Franklin High School. This has been going on since last January with the parents fighting with the School Board about this issue. According to parents of one of these girls, this young man is going to march in at graduation with the rest of the class. He stated as a City representative, he does not feel this should be tolerated. This young man has a restraining order against him to stay away 300 feet, why is he even allowed on school property at any time. Something needs to be done, the School Board seems to ignore it and the Superintendent seems to ignore it. He stated he does not know what the Council can do but this young man should not be permitted to be on the school grounds at all. Councilor Cournoyer commented the young man should be terminated and not allowed to attend school. Mayor Merrifield commented that the Council has no premise to decide who goes to school and who does not. Chief Goldstein commented he is familiar with the situation and it was ruled by the Court system that he can attend school but must adhere to the

300 feet restraining order. Councilor Dzujna advised that the family attended the school board meeting and waited for 4 hours and still were not heard.

Manager Dragon advised the first thing on the agenda for tonight was to be the school's request to form a scholarship but she received a message from the Superintendent that the School Board talked about the scholarship and that they decided not to involve the Council and Manager Dragon stated she is not sure what that means as they do not have the legal authority to create a scholarship.

Planning and Zoning Department Section 5

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Planning & Zoning Director stated once again this budget is about as straight forward as it can be. He stated the other Cont. Services which relates to the tax map update project and we are working in cooperation with MSD on that project and the mapping work that Cartographic Associates out of Littleton will update the Assessing Maps but at the same time they are doing work that will coordinate with Water, Sewer, storm drainage work, utilities that MSD is concerned with for both their internal operational needs and State permitting for water/sewer improvements, etc. There is an increase in the membership dues as a result of lower membership fees for the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Postage went over the estimated budget and is always a bit of a moving target in that the vast majority of the postage that is dealt with that starts to add up is that associated with the Planning and Zoning applications and the public hearings for those application so it is never known just how many applications will be coming in. Reimbursement is received for the registered certified/return receipt mail so postage is mostly a wash.

Director Lewis stated we are involved with the Brownfield cleanup for which we received a \$200,000 grant from EPA and a summary of the project is we are a little bit behind schedule because of some of the hazardous waste components on the site. EPA required that some additional testing be done and material

characterization; the testing has been completed and a report has been generated and submitted to EPA and they have accepted the report. The consulting firm is moving ahead with the next important phase which is the development of the alternative Brownfield cleanup analysis. They will look at what is out there; prepare a document that outlines the different types of cleanup work or activities that could be taken place to solve the problems that are on the property. That report then goes to DES and to EPA for internal review and come to Planning & Zoning and once there is a final signoff a public hearing is scheduled, there is a 30-day public comment period and once the public hearing process is completed the final cleanup can be established and we should be on track for late summer or fall cleanup/site preparation.

Director Lewis stated he has talked to the City Manager about is the City of Franklin for better or worse owns a lot of property that we don't need to own, small properties, individual houses that have been taken over the years for back taxes and one of the project he stated he would like to start working on over the next year is to do an analysis of those properties, determine what properties would be good to sell, are their specific conditions that could be applied to individual properties that would make it so it protects the integrity of the neighborhood and the abutters and start marketing these and getting them back on the tax rolls. He stated the most recent property the City dealt with is the Elkins Street property on the corner of Elkins and Winnepesaukee. He stated it is an odd piece of property that it is on a corner but there is only one abutter who is located down the hill on Winnepesaukee and his property loops all around this City owned piece. The abutter seems to be interested in the city owned piece and hopefully the City will receive an offer from that abutter. Councilor Desrochers inquired if these properties the City owned single family or multi-family. Director Lewis responded it is a range, a couple pieces he recently looked at on Colby Avenue, one is a very small old camp and probably doesn't even have water, and across the street there is another piece that has a well on it, house with a garage on it and one other small out building and all in rough shape. There are other scattered parcels. There may be a couple of multi-family parcels but more a range of single family and some vacant property. Councilor Desrochers

commented there may be some advantage to knocking the multi-family parcels down. Director Lewis commented that is something that the Council should look at. Manager Dragon stated there are people that would buy a couple of the City owned properties but we have not done so because they want to create sub-standard housing for which the City would have to deal with through Code Enforcement. She stated sometimes it is best to just clean it up and sell it for a vacant piece of property because it will save the City from dealing with potential code enforcement issues in the future. She stated again this year she has a line in the budget for demolition. Manager Dragon thanked Director Lewis for taking on this project. Director Lewis stated one thing the Council might want to consider is if we are able to identify a few parcels that would be marketable and if we are successful in selling those parcels to an abutter or an interested party, perhaps 25% or 50% of that went into the abatement fund; then parcels the City does not want to sell could be dealt with using those funds. Mayor Merrifield commented it would be a revolving fund and Director Lewis agreed.

Police Department Section 5

Chief Goldstein stated he wants to take a few minutes to make some introductory comments concerning the Franklin Police Department. He made note that the department continues to be extremely busy and involved in the law enforcement needs of the City. The relationship between any Police Department and the community it serves grows more and more complex. Laws undergo change, assisting agencies come and go due to budgetary issues and Police Officers like the rest of the City work force are often times asked to do more with less. It is recognized military axiom that no battle plan survives the first contact with the enemy and in our case the enemy is the criminal. Your Police Officers confront situations that few members of the public must face and this is accomplished with professionalism and flexibility. As Chief of the Franklin Police Department he stated he is proud to state publicly that our offices are some of the best in the State. A day does not pass in which we are not challenged, pushed, pulled and confronted. In turn, our offices exhibit restraint, maturity and understanding. Nationwide it is open season on police, a police officer in the United States is

killed in the line of duty every two days, one in 50,000 officers are assaulted each year and of these more than 10% have to leave police work due to injuries sustained. He stated the Franklin Police Department has experienced some of this as well. Sadly our society has reached a point when even members of other emergency services are threatened as evidence by the killing and wounding of firefighters in New York last December.

Chief Goldstein stated in 2011-2012 calls, walk-in, etc. were down in number slightly but still over 4,000. Arrests have increased, offences have increased and car accidents have decreased.

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Administration – Many items have been level funded. Staff Development has increased because ammunition costs have increased and the availability of ammunition has decreased to the point they are now looking at a drop ship date of any ammunition of 6 to 8 months. Equipment maintenance has increased. Advertising has increased and Chief Goldstein stated they are in the position of filling open positions and the problem they run into is many are called but very few are chosen and then we must go back and advertise again. Office supplies is typically overspent by the Police Department due to increased costs and the use of a lot of toner. Uniform costs have increased, today a basic uniform of just a shirt and a pair of trousers is a minimum of \$175.00 and that is work clothes so they don't last all that long. Cleaning of uniforms has increased in the cost for the cleaning.

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Police Building – Chief Goldstein commented they have been discussing for the last couple of years the flooring in the Police Department is as old as the building which is about 15 years and the carpets are wearing away and so they are hoping to replace the flooring. He stated maintenance for the building is up and Chief Goldstein commented they are a 24 hour, 7 days a week.

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Police Investigation/Prosecution – Chief Goldstein advised they have let the UNH School of Law Work Study interns go in the hopes of savings funds. A very large decrease in Professional Services as there is no much request for film anymore. Operating supplies has increased due to an increase in supplies, books and subscriptions.

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Patrol - Chief Goldstein stated they are leasing two vehicles with a 4-year lease. Equipment Maintenance is up 50% and Chief Goldstein stated while they get equipment as part of grants or whatever type of operations we might be involved in, it is the sustainability that gets in the way. He stated a lot of their equipment has reached its end of life status and repairs are more costly than buying new items. Under machines and equipment the tasers have reached their end of life and the company is moving on with technology and they will no longer support what the department currently has. Tasers are currently going for about \$1,300/each. That is the base price, and you have to buy related equipment. Currently the department is down from 11 tasers to 6 operating tasers. Councilor Trudel asked if they have enough tasers for the officers and Chief Goldstein stated they do but as they go down they will have to be replaced. Chief Goldstein commented that tasers are very good not only for the safety of the officers but the safety of the public as well.

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Dispatch – Chief Goldstein stated he is very concerned about the equipment in Dispatch. The radio systems are well beyond their end of life. Technology is probably the most fast-paced issue in police work today. The dispatch consoles are as old as the building which is 15 years and for radio speech that is ancient. The radio service used by the Police Department has advised them that they soon will be unable to service the consoles as they are running out of ways to get parts.

Franklin also serves five other Police Departments. Councilor Clarenbach inquired what is the cost of replacing one bay station and Chief Goldstein advised \$32,000 for everything. Lt. Clough advised there are actually 3 stations, the supervisor and two consoles.

Manager Dragon advised the last Cops Grant has expired so the City is now paying the full cost. She stated there is an opportunity to apply again but there is a match that the City would have to come up with if the City were successful in getting the grant and then you have that officer after the grant is over. The City has not applied for another grant and there is not money in the budget right now for a 25% match for another Cops Grant. She stated she has been thinking that the department has a part SOR Officer at the school and as we know school safety has been a bid topic of discussion and if the City were to apply for a Cops Grant that could be allocated to have an officer at the school on a full time basis. She stated many times we apply for a grant and then come to the Council, however, she stated she did not want the department to spend a lot of time applying for the grant if the Council were not in favor of doing so. Mayor Merrifield inquired as to what would be the time frame. Chief Goldstein commented it is a three-year grant and the department is required to guarantee one year beyond that. Councilor Cournoyer asked why the school could not pay for half for the SOR and Manager Dragon commented it use to be that way but then there was a question as to who the officer worked for. Councilor Desrochers stated he feels if the school were to get a full-time SOR out of the grant, then they should be the \$15,000 and there is no question who a police officer works whether he is in the school or down the street in a patrol car. Councilor Feener suggested that another COPS Grant could be looked into, get some numbers and then see if it is feasible.

Fire Department Section 5

Fire Chief LaChapelle stated when the Fire Committee met and there was a slide presentation and the Chief stated he wants to share some of that with everyone tonight. The mission of the Fire Department is preserve life and property while

insuring our members safety and providing the highest level of service to their customers. Chief LaChapelle stated Chief Smith wrote the mission and he stated he truly believes that is a strong mission statement for the Franklin Fire Department. He advised they changed things up a little bit this year in the budget and gave out a few more responsibilities to the members. The equipment that is used and the training that is done in the Fire Department, the end user of that is the folks that do the work on the street. With calibration of all members the budget was pulled together as a team and it was found that not a whole lot of things changed other than a couple of lines came down and some of equipment was prioritized. He advised morale is running very high at the Fire Department and they are at full staff. There are 41 members total of which 17 are full time employees and 24 on-call firefighters. The attendance at drills and incidents proves the morale is very high. Chief LaChapelle stated a test that was given to him a couple weeks ago by the Fire Chief in Laconia and were talking about the grant that was received by all the fire departments in the State and Chief LaChapelle asked him how many hours they had for training this year and the Chief in Laconia stated they had \$34,000 that was spent with all their members and they have 32 full-time members. Chief LaChapelle responded that Franklin spent \$65,000 in grant funds for training and it was known across the State that the Franklin Fire Department showed their presence in all the training and Chief LaChapelle stated that grant has made a lot of things possible.

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Public Safety – Chief LaChapelle called attention to the large decrease in staff development at the Administration level. Office supplies are down as well as uniforms.

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Fire Station – Building Maintenance has increased 100%. An evaluation was done on the sprinkler system and it was learned that the system needs a 30% disassembly test. They will disassemble the sprinkler system and do an inspection which is required every 10 years and that has not been done in the history of the building. It is expected there will be some issues with the system. Other Contracted Services is up and Chief stated he shared last year that one of his main concerns is fire station safety and the front entry way needs to be addressed. To

provide good customer service during the daytime the door is left unlocked, it does have a buzzer but anyone can freely walk in and out of the building. Some people it would be better if they were escorted into the building. Chief stated he would like to address this as soon as possible and that is why that line has increased 109%. Councilor Clarenbach commented the water/sewer is up \$1,000 and he asked if the water has been separated it onto a separate meter. Chief LaChapelle said they have not but it is true the water needs to be separated because the trucks are filled up in the station and it comes off the same meter. Cleaning supplies has decreased as the new station house supply guy has done a great job on pinching pennies.

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Fire Suppression – Staff Development is down 38% and grants have been plentiful and many are able to take advantage of.

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Fire Suppression continued – No significant changes.

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Code Enforcement/Health/Fire Prevention – Chief LaChapelle commented this is the most humbling problem that he has had in the last year. The overtime wages for the inspector have doubled. His participation has doubled. Through some different leadership trainings with Captain Bodien he is looking at things a little bit differently but his participation after hours has been extremely helpful with all the fires the department has experienced this year. He stepped up to the plate with fire investigations and his code enforcement duties enough so the guys recognize the fact that he is at almost all the trainings required.

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Fire Alarms Dispatch – Chief LaChapelle stated dispatch is up 4% with Lakes Region Mutual aid. One community did drop out of the mutual aid system so it has gone from 36 communities down to 35 and that cost had to be absorbed.

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Public Safety/Ambulance/EMS Rescue (Ambulance expenditures offset by Revenue) – Staff development is down due to the new relationship the Fire Department has with LRG Healthcare and is a really good thing for the City and the Fire Department. Medical Supplies has gone up 31% and the Chief commented that every year continues to increase even though they have tried to streamline the supplies they are using and buy cheaper equipment on some of the things and the guys have worked it out themselves that the cheaper equipment is not good (patient supplies, IV lines). Machines and Equipment is up 190%. Chief LaChapelle stated they have two defibrillators, one on each ambulance. The difference between the defibrillators and the AEDs, the two defibrillators have all the bells and whistles in laymen terms. One of the defibrillators is 10 years old and they are reaching the point this year where the support for that particular unit is becoming more difficult. They have learned that after 2015 there will be no support for that unit. Both of the units come off the ambulance for every single call. After discussions with the Manager, Finance Director and Fire Committee it was agreed the best way to do this because of pricing was to go for two units. If one unit is purchased the cost is \$32,000. Chief LaChapelle talked with the salesman and learned if you do a lease and you spend more than \$60,000 they would give the City 0% financing so if both units are replaced (the other being 5 years old also will have no support after 2015) so the decision was made to enter into a lease/purchase for around \$18,000 total for two units for three years with 0% financing. They will also do a private sale of the old units.

Councilor Dzujna commented that going back to the overtime the Code Enforcement Officer puts in and the goal to enforce the codes; it would seem that

the Fire Department may need another part-time for possible full-time Code Enforcement Officer at some point.

Councilor Desrochers asked profit wise on the ambulances, how much money is the City making after expenses? Chief LaChapelle stated he can tell you what the ambulances brought in as far as revenue and Manager Dragon commented we don't make money off the ambulances. The revenue number for both ambulances is \$242,225 and the City collects at 72%. Councilor Desrochers suggested maybe some of that money could be put into a fund for the Fire Department so the budget is not so tight.

Manager Dragon advised Code Enforcement overtime increased by \$500. Some of the code enforcement that we want to phase in, it is felt that that can be done with the current staff.

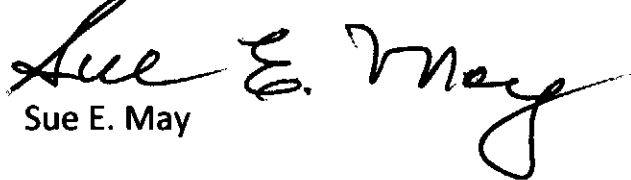
Section 11 Fuel Depot

Chief LaChapelle stated the maintenance on our vehicles has proven to be an issue based on some of the fuels being used. A company came in and has offered and we have purchased a fuel supplement. The quality of the fuel was not very good. One of the things that was recommended is there be a single source supplier. Fuel had been purchased from different suppliers. Chief LaChapelle stated he checked with the Winnisquam School District and their Co-Operative and they have a collaborative group with the Fire Department, Police Department, Highway Departments in the district and send out an RFP every year and they buy from a single source. In the RFP they awarded to the same company that was awarded to the State. Chief stated in working with the Manager and Finance Director we entered onto the same RFP with the Winnisquam School District and it was awarded last week and because Franklin and the 86,000 gallons needed by Franklin was part of the RFP and doubled the RFP, fuel will be .11 cents cheaper per gallon and have a single source. He advised that after 2015 the fuel island is going to need some serious work. Originally it was thought it would have to be completely replaced, however after extensive research it appears that

some of the piping, the dispensers, the canopy and the concrete will need work. The estimate for this work is between \$150,000 - \$250,000. He stated some of his contacts with the other items he talked to the State of New Hampshire Director of Fuel Management and it just so happens that in 2015 they have to replace their fuel island located on Route 127 at the State Garage. Chief asked them if they would be interested in entertaining Franklin buying fuel from them providing a computer was installed so we could talk to that computer to the equipment maintenance. Chief stated he should have an answer soon as it appears they are very interested in Franklin buying fuel from them. It will be cheaper than what the City has been buying fuel in the past. Currently there is \$43,000 in the Internal Services Fund for the fuel island. Councilor Desrochers asked if it is known how long the tanks in the ground will last. Chief LaChapelle stated that is unknown, they are doubled-walled tanks and they have been in the ground for just over 20 years.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Clarenbach and seconded by Councilor Trudel. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 3, 2013**

Call to Order

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall.

In Attendance

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

Presentation by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Mr. David Nelson gave some background on the organization stating they are similar to the Grand Army of the Republic and their organization was founded in 1882; and they are the legal heir to and representative of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Nelson introduced Mr. Stevens who would make the presentation of the flag to the City.

Mr. Dick Stevens, Secretary for the organization presented the City with a flag of the United States. He advised that Mr. Roger Iliff, member of the Union and a resident in Franklin is the one that made some of the arrangements to present the flag. They had noticed the flag in the GAR Hall where they would sometimes meet was not in very good shape and is quite old and probably ready to be burned. Mr. Stevens advised the organization voted to present this flag to the City of Franklin on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Salute to the Flag was said led by City Employee Sue May.

Mayor Merrifield thanked members of the public for their patience in waiting for the meeting to begin. He explained the Council was meeting with legal counsel and went a little bit past the 6:00 p.m. starting time.

Mayor Merrifield called for a moment of silence in recognition of Mr. John Alhman, long-time employee (25 years) of the City and Road Foreman for the

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Municipal Services Department never missed a snow storm and unfortunately passed away in April, 2013 from a serious illness and did not get to enjoy his retirement.

Public Hearings

Ordinance #10-13 – this ordinance is a proposed Amendment to Chapter 284, Vehicles and Traffic of the Franklin City Code. Part of this ordinance is for blinking yellow lights at Franklin High School and the School Zone Speed Limit of 20 miles an hour in front of the school. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing; no one came forth to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Resolution #10-13 – this resolution concerns revising the FY13 appropriations and matching revenue for the TRIP CDBG Grant. Mayor Merrifield opened the public hearing; no one came forth to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Stanley Weglarz, resident, South Main Street, stated he has come to the Council to complain about roadside litter in Franklin and the complete lack of the administration in dealing with the litter problem. He stated years ago he approached the people at the Transfer Station and asked if they could deny a truck to empty its garbage if load was not properly covered and secured and was told that is not in their job description. He stated over a period of years he went to Municipal Services and he commented apparently there is some problem with responsibility. Where does the City and State responsibility divide on South Main Street. He stated he is familiar with South Main Street and Route 127 concerning litter but not so much with other roads in Franklin. Trucks on their way to the Transfer Station pick up speed along South Main and if the garbage is not secured it blows off the truck and goes everywhere. He commented there is a volunteer by the name of Judith Kline and she goes around picking up litter on the roads. He stated the worst time is in the spring concerning Industrial Park Drive which is piled with litter and grading and landscaping are deplorable and why would any

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business wants to relocate in the park after seeing that. He stated this is the first time he has come before the Council but he will be coming to every meeting until something is done about the litter/garbage problem along the roadsides.

Mrs. Kathy Russo stated she has three items she wants to mention about the minutes. She stated in the spirit of fairness it is important that people have a right to know and last month a letter that was written to Mrs. Russo was submitted to this Council and then submitted to public record and she stated she did not give permission for that to take place. However, she stated in fairness she would provide the initial letter from the Attorney General of her complaint back in October and the Attorney General's letter was March 15th and she submitted a copy of that for the records. On Page 4 of the minutes, the presentation from the School Board Steve Barton presented and that is missing. There was only one page of the presentation that she gave so she provided both pages.

Ms. Melissa Rizzo addressed the Mayor and Council advising she is not only a resident of Franklin but also a community educator at Franklin Region Hospital and tonight she stated she is speaking as the Chair person for the Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force. She advised back in April the Franklin Police Department worked with the Tilton Police Department to host one of two yearly Drug Take Back Days in which they collect prescription and over-the-counter medications at the Tilton/Franklin border and it was very successful with the assistance from many community volunteers and Mayor Merrifield. At the recent Franklin Community Day event we had just under 100 community members complete a survey concerning drug use in Franklin and also to see what they know about the Mayor's Drug Task Force. They assisted with the Chem. Free after Prom Party and worked with the High School to hold an assembly that took place pre-prom that focused on the consequences of drinking and driving. This summer they will sponsor three Franklin teens to attend the New Hampshire Teen Institute Summer Leadership training. Both the Mayor Merrifield and Police Chief Goldstein are featured currently on a psa on MIX 94.1 through graduation talking about the social host laws in New Hampshire. They will be sponsoring the summer Fat Theatre Program that will take place in the Opera House. The next

Task Force Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2013 from 5 pm to 7 pm at Franklin Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Annette Andreozzi, resident commented on Item VII on the agenda concerning the closing of Stone Avenue and she stated there was no information as to why Stone Avenue would be closed. She stated if this is a private function you should consider you would be setting a precedent and that you should be willing to give all residents the same consideration to close the road in front of their house for a private function. If it is a public function, then how does the public function affect all the public, not just a small portion of the public.

Ms. Judy Kline and for the last two years she stated she has been picking up trash and debris along the sides of the roads and she stated she would like to be able to work with the prosecutor and have people who need to do volunteer hours start picking up trash along the roads. She gave Mayor Merrifield pictures showing the trash and debris along the sides of the roads.

Mr. Davidson addressed the Mayor and Council concerning an incident that took place on May 20, 2013 at the School Board meeting located at Paul Smith School where he stated he attempted to speak concerning a student safety issue involving some very violent and particularly confident thoughts documented in a police report. The thoughts were from an 18 year old student, now 19 years old who is a senior who evidently spoke his mind to a guidance counselor, mental health professionals and the Police. The report shows he wanted to rape, and then shoots some specific female high school students in the face. He was also confident that he could get away with it according to the Police report. He stated at the School Board meeting he was denied the right to speak and according to the chairman it was because he did not follow the proper chain of command. On May 14, Mr. Davidson and his wife personally delivered to the SAU and the Franklin High School Official Administration a 4th protective order against the student. We attended Court that morning and acting on his own accord a board member was present in the court room to see the actions taken. At the SAU we requested that Robin Keene place them on the non-public session of the next

Board meeting as after multiple attempts to discuss the matter with SAU Administration we were not satisfied by the responses. As working professionals with busy schedules we had been communicating through email with the Superintendent Ward and copied board members and FHS Administration accordingly. Prior to that they had met with FHS Administration regarding the call they had received from the Police alerting them that their daughter was mentioned in the student's thoughts and that is well documented in the Police report back in January. Mrs. Davidson has since communicated with the Chief of Police regarding the matter and they had a follow-up meeting with FHS Administration to work out details to hopefully assure student safety for the remaining event scheduled this year. Mr. Davidson email Chairman Yonaitis and requested his policy interpretation as to why he was not allowed to speak at the school board meeting requesting both non-public and public comment and to explain the chain of command that was supposedly not followed. He replied and pointed to board policies (Policies BEDH; KEB; and KE). According to Policy BEDH the Board, when appropriate, could have placed their request on the agenda and evidently some Board members chose not to even after seeing the emails and the attached Police report. They could have listed to us in non-public. Regarding Policy KE, our complaint did not involve instruction or discipline as we were told the parents remove the student from the school setting, not the school yet he still has access to the campus. It also did not include learning materials. Our complaint involved student safety at FHS due to a Police report they legally obtained. Also under Policy KE exceptions are possible for complaints related to board action. The board acted and refused their request for non-public discussion, they could have let them speak. Policy KEB deals with the Superintendent rightfully having time and reasonable opportunity to seek to resolve the complaint and this began back in January. They communicated with Superintendent Ward, copied administration and the board, met with the administration and were assured a plan was in place but just recently had to sit down with the guidance counselor, principal and assistant principal to discuss specific plans to assure student safety, class day parade, graduation, class night. After reviewing the Chairman's email and attached documentation he stated he

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still feels his rights as a tax payer and concerned citizen/parent were not properly handled. Councilor Feener asked Mr. Davidson at the school board meeting when told an arrangement would be made to meet with the Superintendent, did that ever take place. Mr. Davidson responded they had tried on a couple of occasions, one being on May 14th after the Court hearing and at the May 20th meeting we were told we could meet with the Superintendent the next day but as working professionals and a daycare situation and two kids to drop off at school and teaching in Henniker and his wife working in Concord they were not able to meet. He also advised that he called to see if they were on the agenda for non-public session and was told by Kathy in the SAU Office that we were not on the agenda. At that point the Superintendent requested to speak to his wife and he stated they had made numerous attempts and had thought they were on the non-public part of the agenda. Councilor Desrochers asked Mr. Davidson if this situation has been resolved as of this date to his satisfaction and Mr. Davidson responded he still has concerns as when he hears the plans for class day parade and graduation. One thing he wanted worked out is when he is going up to present a new scholarship in his Mother's memory which he stated his step daughter has every right to be present at, we get into some legal issues when there is a restraining order/protective order involved. Councilor Desrochers suggested that Mayor Merrifield sit down with the Police Chief and have a heart to heart talk sooner rather than later. Mr. Davidson stated he will compliment him as he has already reached out to Mrs. Davidson.

Mr. Derek Damour, a former Franklin High School student and Football player presented to the Mayor a Council two petitions requesting the Franklin City Council to remove from office School Board Member Ray Yonaitis and School Board Member Kathleen Russo for just cause. They request an immediate hearing on this removal and make this request within the City guidelines of the City Code of the City of Franklin as defined in Article Removal of Municipal Officials, Section 61-4, Petition for Removal.

Mr. Jason Grevior addressed the Mayor and Council stating he does not come out in public much and does not really like doing this and does not like getting

involved in politics. Unfortunately there comes a time when you need to speak. He stated his son was with him when the decision was finally made to speak up because it was told to him that he should not speak if he wanted to coach again and he stated he has coached football for the past 17 years and have dreams of at least coaching his son for the next three years of his high school career, it is very hurtful to be told something like that. He stated he may be giving up a dream of his but at the same time he feels he must show his son what is right and what is wrong. He stated there are many issues at the High School right now; the level of education is not good. To think that Spanish which is practically a requirement for a college education kids is going to be taught by a computer is crazy. There are other issues and he stated to him the Davidson's issue is the most heart wrenching story anybody could ever tell. He stated if that was his child we would not be sitting here. He stated he would be irate; it isn't fair to have to worry about your child's education and what could happen. Look what happened at Newtown, Ct. He stated he is very upset and stated he is usually this City's biggest cheerleader. He stated he loves this City, and he chose to come back to Franklin, his Grandfather and his Father are both here. He stated you have to change this school system. He stated there are many homes available in Franklin but people will not move into this City because of the School system. That you have to worry about your safety; that your child will be taught by a computer. And then there is the football program, the one thing that kept kids excited in this City and the truth as yet to come out. You will lose the program but you now don't have a Coach who is interactive with the kids and who is down there pushing for their grades every day. He said if you would want to talk with him please come to the store as he is there every day. He stated if there is anything the Council can do to help fix this school, please do so. He also stated when you Google Franklin, NH one of top things that comes up that Franklin is noted for its football program. One thing these kids have to be proud of, they are losing. They won a terrific championship this year and no one picked them one week to win a game. He stated his son is hearing impaired and how embarrassing in his senior year to have teammates and students having to tell the Spanish teacher that he is hearing impaired, the teacher did not know. State Law didn't know and we expect that school to

function if they can't handle State Law.

Resident Mr. Marti Russo stated he wanted to bring to the Council's attention concerning the petitions that were just submitted, Article 1, Section 61-4, petition for removal stipulates that only a verified petition may be acted upon by the Council. That means no action, no hearing, nothing can be set or pondered until the petition has been verified. There is no definition of verified in the City Charter. He requested that whatever verification procedures are going to be followed, that they be made public and a true accounting is accomplished for the petitions and that there are 100 signatures and that it is a verified petition.

Student Glen Ford stated last August he broke his neck and the amount of people that had my back surprised me. He stated he had just moved to Franklin the end of his sophomore year and he joined the football team. I was surprised how much the coaches were there for him, Coach Husband had been there from the second it happened and continued to be there. The team supported him even when they could not be there at Dartmouth. The football program is one of the major programs in the school.

Resident Wayne Ives stated reluctantly he steps up to speak because there is a need for a stronger school board and a stronger school system. He stated he came here when his daughter was one year old and it has been a struggle expecting things to improve and instead seeing them rise and fall. It seems that the school board has created this black hole of decision making process that's now locked away for 50 years and a hidden process and a process clothed in personnel issues that are suppose to protect the personnel, not designed to protect the people making the decision making. He stated he finds it incomprehensive that some of these actions have been taken and it should be addressed in more detail and he advised his name is on the petitions. He pointed out there are three rows here of young men and he stated he doubts they would be here tonight if they didn't feel strongly about Coach Husband.

Ms. Karen Domenech Hildreth stated she was one of the attendees and one of the speakers at the School Board meeting and two things remain in her thoughts, one she stated she advised the School Board that a decision had been won at the Federal level on behalf of her son which was for last year and they have another going for this year. They are not able to follow through or else they are not as qualified as we thought they were when it comes to the needs of our kids. She stated when she heard about the safety issue it perplexed her that the School Board didn't want to hear it because obviously there had been many actions to try to get people to hear it. She stated she is thankful that she does not have a daughter in high school and thankful that she does not have to be worried that someone might be harboring these thoughts. If you think something bad can't happen here, you are wrong, someone needs to stand up.

Student Eric Ives stated he is speaking on behalf of all the seniors and he stated it is crazy all the stuff that is happening. Winning a championship is something that is supposed to be happy and it has been taken away from them. We were not picked once, even by the seniors last year, it was said we would lose every single game, we came, we won, we pushed it and we won the State Championship. And with all this happening all our joy has been taken away, right now there is nothing to be happy about. Our head coach fired.

Resident Allan Davis commented he has been in Franklin for a number of years and began working in Franklin in 1994 and moved his family to Franklin in 1998. After working in the School District he went on to other endeavors but he stayed in Franklin. He said he stated in Franklin for a reason because the people that welcomed him to Franklin when he first arrived in Franklin was incredible whether he was an employee for the School District or just a member of the community and he stated that really touched his heart. He stated his 3 sons went through the Franklin School District and they all graduated. Has Franklin had its issues in the schools, yes they have and Franklin has had some great successes. This all goes way beyond one person, one coach; some of the people in charge of Franklin have gotten to the point where they are hiring people who come into this City with an agenda and they are only here for their own professional

advancement. Then they leave the City and leave Franklin to clean up the mess. He stated it is time for people in this City to start making an investment in this City again.

Resident Mr. Donald Gagnon stated they have a son that was virtually driven out of the middle school after two and half years because of bullying. Finally one of the kids that were harassing him was expelled for one year and then he was back in the school system in the same grade so basically back to square one. And in the year that this student was expelled he was having his friends harass his son. Ultimately they had to pull their son from the school as he was physically attacked in the bathroom. The kid that attacked him is still in school. He stated when he heard about the thoughts of some student he was very glad that he did not have a daughter as if he did he would be completely outraged that this young man would be allowed to come back to school. What can you do when you can't answers from the Superintendent, the Administration or the School Board. He stated they don't have the funds for a private school but they had to pull their son out so they now home school.

Resident Greg Husband advised he will not address his situation but he advised that he took in two children three years ago whose Mother had tragically and suddenly died and what has happened in this school district is a complete and utter disregard for that's child personal safety and his well being. When he was removed from coaching, they hauled all the kids into a room and they told the kids they had to hire that would worry about the personal safety of their kids and worry about sportsmanship. He stated a lot of people know that is two things that he stands for but they included his son who has lost his Mother, has lost his Grandfather, his Father is in prison and physically abused this child and they included him in that meeting with no regard for his personal well being. Mr. Husband advised this young man has a 504 that has not been followed. Mr. Husband stated he has approached the Principal, emailed the Superintendent, and emailed the Chair of the School Board without response. He stated today they respond to him today and tell me the Principal who is part of his complaint will conduct a complete investigation and that is a conflict of interest. He stated

City Council Meeting

June 3, 2013

Page 11

this Council has a severe problem with a lack of policy and follow through on policies from the educational system and somebody needs to take control of it. When somebody is in charge and a complaint is filed against them, they should not be involved in the investigation and is called a conflict of interest. He stated he reminded them of that today and they have not responded. He stated his son has a 504 and he calls him his son because he is his son and he stated he has gone after this teacher for a month with no response to his question. The school policy is 24 to 48 hours, he went last week and no response, he saw the Principal at a game and said something to him. The Superintendent stated he responded and Mr. Husband's response was he still does not have an answer. He stated he is going to a meeting tomorrow morning and he does not really expect an answer and no one that is a part of the complaint will be doing any investigation of my son. He advised the school today that it is going to the State Board of Education. 504 and kids with special needs should be taken seriously in this School District and my son's teachers were not even aware he had a 504 when the year started.

Resident Jason Grevior commented Mr. Finley is the only teacher here tonight, and he stated he feels very sorry for the teachers in the school district right now, many of them are afraid to speak, many of them are nervous to speak, sometime when you talk about what is going on, they simply cry because they are scared. They won't sign petitions. He stated there is a great group of teacher in the school and Mr. Finley is one of them. He gave a speech the other night in front of the School Board and he got my attention. The teachers have gone 4 years without a raise or a contract. What is the Superintendent doing about raises. We need to take care of our teachers. You need to take care of the students, you need happy students.

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council accepts the petitions and no further action is taken at this pending verification of the petitioners' names by the City Clerk's Office. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor, motion passes.

Mayor Merrifield commented the signatures will be verified under the regulations of the ordinance.

Choose Franklin

Mrs. Sarah Stanley, Co-Chair of Choose Franklin read the mission statement from Choose Franklin: "Choose Franklin is an inclusive group consisting of residents, businesses and interested parties focusing on promoting Franklin by building on past achievements to facilitate futures successes." She stated if there is anything that Choose Franklin can do to assist with communications between City Council and School Board or anything. She stated obviously we as a group are concerned about communication and concerned about the future of the Franklin community, we all believe in Franklin whole heartedly as many do here in this room.

The next Choose Franklin meeting is June 6th and Todd Workman present information on the Mountain Bike initiative. Choose Franklin does not meet in July so August 1st will be the next meeting and the guest speaker will be Ms. Melissa Rizzo present a public health forum. They are currently writing grants to hopefully replace their tents. Taste of Franklin has been organized by Leigh Webb. June 22nd and June 23rd will be warm water releases. September 23rd Choose Franklin will host Candidates Night here at City Hall.

Legislative Comments

Representative Leigh Webb stated they are into what is called the silly season because the bills have changed bodies and now being amending, concurring or not concurring. HB1 and HB2 will be subject to a Committee of Conference. There are some interesting things happening like an increase on the Senate side for the State Aid Grants. The most important thing that will be disputed is the Medicaid Enhancement Tax Revenues and the figure that is being thrown around is about 287 million dollars. Representative Webb advised that here in this building on July 4th there will be a special presentation from a representative of the New Hampshire Humanities Council on vanished veterans.

City Council Acknowledgement

Councilor Dzujna thanked the Senior Members of the High School Honor Society for their help in coordinating the colors for the flowers and the hanging of the flower baskets.

Mayor Merrifield advised he was invited to the Senior Banquet and made some presentations. The community as a whole was able to deliver \$78,000 to graduating seniors this year at the banquet.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council approves the minutes of the May 6, 2013 City Council Meeting; motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Councilor Feener advised that on Page 17 halfway down the page where a date of March 2013 is shown, the correct date should March 2012.

All in favor; minutes approved as corrected.

School Board Report

School Board Member Al Warner stated Brian Boynton was scheduled to speak tonight but he has resigned from the School Board. He stated he was very glad to see the involvement tonight with things concerning the school system and he would like to see that 52 weeks a year. He stated he supports raises for the teachers but the time comes and you have less money than the year before so it makes it hard. Councilor Feener asked after what you saw here tonight from the people that came and spoke, obviously there are some big issues the Board needs to address. Councilor Feener stated it is high time the Board decides to address these issues in public as they come about. There is a serious issue with safety and the Davidson's have yet to meet with the Superintendent. They have been

brushed off by the Board at the meeting held on May 20th. The School Board needs to have public participation on any item like the Council does. People don't come to the School Board meetings because they are only allowed to speak about what is on the agenda. He stated it is important to note that there are two sides to every story. He stated all members of the School Board appreciate that safety issues must be paid attention to. The kid had some bad thoughts, he went for help and it all got blown out of proportion and a police report with minors names, addresses and serial numbers was circulated publicly, that is something we also need to pay attention to. Councilor Feener commented it is time the School Board starts listening to the public and making opportunities for the public to be heard at the School Board meetings and open it up to all items, not just agenda items. Mr. Warner stated to Councilor Feener that his comments are duly noted and that he only has one vote but for everyone that feels that way should contact a School Board member in their Ward. Councilor Desrochers commented when he was at that School Board meeting a week ago and people were not allowed to speak for whatever reason but that seems to be happening at several School Board meetings that he has attended. If someone has a problem with the school system, they can't talk to the School Board because it is not on the agenda and if they start to speak on something that is not on the agenda, the School Board Chair holds his hand up and stops people from speaking. People have a right to speak and if they can't be heard at the School Board meetings, where do they go with their grievances. The meetings need to be opened up and let the public be heard. Mayor Merrifield commented that he too has seen the School Board at times seemingly restrict the public from speaking about certain subjects.

Ordinance #10-13 – this ordinance concerns amendment to Chapter 284, Vehicles and Traffic of the City Code.

Motion made by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council adopts Ordinance #10-13 by a roll call vote; motion seconded by Councilor Trudel.

Councilor Clarenbach inquired if the School has the funds for the purchase/installation of the blinking lights in front of the school. Manager Dragon

stated she believes they do as they had stated they have the funds in their budget and requested that the change be made in the ordinance.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor Sharon – Yes
Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Trudel – Yes
Councilor Cournoyer – Yes
Councilor Dzujna – Yes

All in favor; Ordinance #10-13 is adopted.

Resolution #10-13 – this resolution the CDBG Grant for the TRIP Center.

Motion made by Councilor Trudel that the Franklin City Council approves the adoption of Resolution #10-13 revising FY13 appropriations and matching revenue for the TRIP CDBG grant by a roll call vote; motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Clarenbach – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor Sharon – Yes
Councilor Desrochers – Yes

Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Trudel – Yes
Councilor Cournoyer – Yes
Councilor Dzujna – Yes

All in favor; Resolution #10-13 is adopted.

Rescheduling of July City Council Meeting

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council reschedules the July City Council Meeting from July 1 to July 8, 2013; motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor, motion passes.

Adoption of Tax Deeded Properties

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council accepts the tax deeds on the following parcels:

***526 Salisbury Road
Map 044 Lot 002-00
Mobile Home & Land***

***Munroe Street – Lot 3
Map 134 Lot 270-00
Land***

***705 South Main Street
Map 102 Lot 006-00
Land & Building***

***Hill Road (3 Properties)
Map 090 Lot 006-00
Lot 007-00 & Lot 008-00
Land***

***Hill Road
Map 095 Lot 047-00
Land***

***Gile Pond Road (3 Properties)
Map 128 Lot 044-00, Lot 055-00,
Lot 61-00 Land***

***Thunder Road (2 Properties)
Map 099 Lot 001-00, Lot 029-00
Land***

***161 Lake Shore Drive
Map 015 Lot 010-00
Land & Building***

***50 Range Road
Map 096 Lot 082-00
Land & Building***

Motion seconded by Councilor Sharon. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach that the Franklin City Council considers the matter of accepting tax deeds on the following parcel:

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June 3, 2013
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**13 Trail Street
Map 078 Lot 006-07
Mobile Home**

**6 Ring Street
Map 078 Lot 006-02
Mobile Home**

**8 Rose Lane
Map 096 Lot 062-52
Mobile Home**

Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Motion made by Councilor Clarenbach to table consideration of the Mobile Homes. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers. All in favor, motion passes.

Authorization for the Closing of Stone Avenue on July 4, 2013

Councilor Feener stated he moves for discussion purposes that the Franklin City Council approves the closing of Stone Avenue on July 4, 2013 from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Mayor Merrifield stated the closing of Stone Avenue does not land lock any homes. Councilor Dzujna asked if the street is closed, would the park be accessible. Yes, you could get to the park if you park on View Street. Councilor Feener commented this has been done and this is a one house street and he stated he does not believe anyone is being inconvenienced by doing this. Councilor Clarenbach commented that the City Council has authorized block parties before and closed off roads for neighborhood parties.

Motion passes, there was one no vote.

Other Business

Committee Reports

Councilor Clarenbach advised that an MSD Committee Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 12th at 9:00 am at Municipal Services. The topic on the agenda will be solid waste disposal. This will also be placed on the June 24th workshop agenda.

Councilor Desrochers commented that a couple of items were requested to be made part of the minutes and before that is done, he requested that all Councilors receive copies of the items for consideration.

City Manager's Update

Manager Dragon advised in the contingency grant line \$300 was received from Merrimack County for the Ride-a-Long grant, \$1,400.02 from the State of New Hampshire for fire training. She reminded the Council that Watts Water Technologies are getting ready for their ribbon cutting if you would be interested in taking part in that. The ribbon cutting will be on June 21st at 10 am. She advised she attended the annual NRA meeting where she accepted an award on behalf of the City for most tonnage recycled through NRA per capita in 2012.

Manager Dragon commented we try very hard to work with the Welfare Department in terms of putting people in the workfare program if the City is giving them assistance. We had an unfortunate incident where one of the workers has potentially removed some items from one of the offices. Thanks to the very fast and effective work of our Police Department they were able to address that matter; great job on the part of the Police Department.

If you haven't heard, last week a lot of time with a videographer working on the new video that will be on the front page of the Franklin website. She thanked all her department heads for their help and the School District for their help. She also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Finley for getting kids to the Opera House practicing the Wiz so they were in costume on stage. Many businesses up and down Central Street were very cooperative. She stated she is very much looking forward to the final product. She stated we even had Councilor Dzujna showing off his tennis

skills down at the park. With this project she complimented on how quickly the departments heads would come up with whatever was needed. She noted the night before the filming was to begin she mentioned to Brian Barry that the carpets out in front of City Hall looking pretty ratty and with the video person coming it would be nice to have new mats in City Hall and not only did he replace the mats but came in on the weekend and scrubbed the floors and pulled weeds in the gardens out front of City Hall.

Late Items

Crossing Agreement between the State of NH and the City of Franklin

Motion made by Councilor Feener and seconded by Councilor Desrochers that the Franklin City Council authorizes City Manager Dragon to sign the Crossing Agreement between the State of New Hampshire and the City of Franklin for an underground utility crossing on the NH DOT Railroad corridor between Kimball Street and Chance Pond Road in Franklin. All in favor, motion passes.

School Board Resignation

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council acknowledges the resignation of Brian Boynton from the School Board with regret. Seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

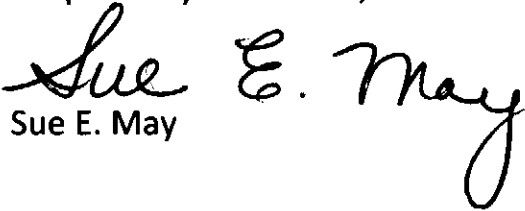
Councilor Clarenbach inquired if this vacancy would be placed in the newspaper or on the website. Mayor Merrifield commented we don't normally do that. Councilor Feener suggested that there is a meeting next Monday and make it part of the meeting that the Council make an appointment then. This gives anyone time that would be interested to come in and fill out a prospective appointee profile form. It will also be put on the website.

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All in favor of acknowledging the receipt of Brian Boynton's resignation from the School Board.

***Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Desrochers, seconded by Councilor Feener.
All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.***

Respectfully submitted,


Sue E. May

School Administrative Unit 18

119 Central Street
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235
(603) 934-3108 - FAX (603) 934-3462
www.sau18.org

Maureen J. Ward, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Michael O'Neill,
Business Administrator

Office of the Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

October 17, 2012

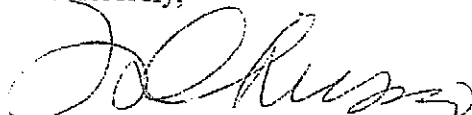
Dear Attorney General Delaney:

Pursuant to RSA 7:6-c, RSA 664:18 and RSA 666:8, I hereby file a complaint against the City of Franklin Moderator, Tamara Feener. Specifically, Ms. Feener was elected to both the office of Franklin City Moderator and Franklin School Board Member. Those offices are incompatible under RSA 671:18, in that the Franklin City Moderator is also the Franklin School District Moderator and oversees all Franklin School District elections.

This issue was brought to the attention of the Secretary of State by the School Administrative Unit's attorney. As a result, the Deputy Secretary of State issued the attached letter. Despite this matter (and the Secretary of State's letter) being brought the attention of Ms. Feener and the Attorney for the City of Franklin, Ms. Feener has not resigned from one of these two positions as required by law.

As Chair of the School Administrative Unit 18 School Board, I am concerned about Ms. Feener's continued involvement on the Board and the impact it might have on the validity of the Board votes and actions. Further, with an important election closely approaching, I do not want the results of that election placed in jeopardy if she has not taken action to correct the present incompatibility of offices. Your anticipated cooperation in resolving this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Russo,
Chair SAU 18 School Board

May 6, 2013 City Council Presentation-School Board Finance Committee

With the current Paul Smith budget, will only be able to purchase half (1/2) of the third and fourth grade, Science and Social Sciences, of the books needed. The consequence of this would be for teachers will have to only pick and choose topics. This will interfere with the good work and great progress the students are gaining.

As Mr. Warner has so graciously stated, this year the School Board asked the administration to prepare a needs-based budget for the April 2 workshop. At this workshop we found our budget up to \$16,506,957. To match anticipated revenues we needed to look at the impact on education, cutting \$1.5million would present in this budget. As you have heard this evening the impact on laying off educators, with \$460K in salary cuts, building improvements cut by \$783K, to include FEMA recommended security measures to protect our students and educators. Also the materials that educators need to educate. With the recognition this year from the Department of Education, Franklin having the highest improved tests scores on the Necap from 2010-2011 in the State. Let's not go backwards.

Now the budget is sitting at \$14,968,165 down 94K from last year. The Budget is still 105K over the anticipated revenues.

The remaining cuts that are the last resort:

Cutting Kindergarten to 1/2day, laying off two more educators. The impact on the community and the education of these students would severely delay our economic and educational growth.

Athletics will also have to be cut, either some teams or pay to play. Possibly offering clubs instead of athletic teams, this would not build the "esprit de corps for our community.
(Esprit de corps- the common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion and strong regard for the honor of the group)

As I have stated previous from this podium, Education for Franklin is the economic engine. I would ask that you keep this in mind, as a strategic and economic plan moving forward for Franklin

Commercial business and Industry will not come to Franklin if the Education is not seen as important and viable.

From a 2009 article in the Fosters Daily Democrat, by Jason Claffey;
~In Franklin's private sector employment declined 25 per cent from 1999-2007

~Growth in the commercial and industrial property tax base increased 47 per cent worse than many comparable communities including Somersworth 133 percent and Dover -115 percent

~Per capital spending on education, streets, roads, libraries, parks and recreation, and capital improvement projects was lower than the median of communities with a population of 8000 and above.

~The growth of 4.1percent from 1990-2007 was the fourth lowest of the state's 40 largest communities.

~The number of people aged 25 years old or older with a bachelor's degree or higher grew 1/5 percent from 1990 to 2000, compared to 7 percent for the average of the state's 30 largest communities.

"Overall these trends suggest that any benefits residents of the City of Franklin receive from their expenditure cap are mitigated by the fact that individuals, families and businesses appear to view the community as a less desirable place to locate than alternative communities. The end result is downward spiral, self-reinforcing cycle or "race to the bottom, where demographic groups and businesses that could place towns on more positive economic and demographic trends increasingly avoid cap towns in favor of towns that are more likely to provide the mix of services that individuals and businesses."

(PolyEcon Research)

We have also just finished negotiating with FEA and we have gone to impasse after mediation.
So at this time, pending Finding of Fact from the Fea there will be the fourth year without a contract.
This budget does not include any increases for teachers. Just the increase in health insurance costs, retirement and increases in FICA.....

In closing, I would like to read this letter.

Department of Education Commissioner Virginia Barry's letter dtd, April 23, 2013. (Enclosed)

Thank you for your time and attention.

Kathleen Russo

Finance Chairwoman; Franklin School Board



For the Board.

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144

Paul Leather
Deputy Commissioner of Education
Tel: 603-271-3801

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
TEL: 603-271-2299
FAX 603-271-4034
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900

RECEIVED

APR 25 2013

SAU 18

April 23, 2013

Dr. Maureen Ward
School-Administrative Unit #18
119 Central St.
Franklin, NH 03235

Dear Dr. Ward:

As the school year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the successes that the Franklin School District has achieved.

Franklin School District's achievements are many and can be seen not only in terms of increased student and teacher attendance, but also in the learning environment that has brought about a great success. Although funding and resources that were made available through the School Achievement Grant were instrumental and assistive in promoting student achievement, money can only do so much to bring about change; the rest is up to educational professionals dedicated to fostering a successful learning environment. This has been the situation at Franklin School District.

Franklin's commitment to improvement through a number of strategies and diligent effort on the part of committed staff focused the alignment of curriculum and instruction to the Common Core State Standards, research based teaching and assessment practices to improve instruction. This commitment has resulted in some of the greatest gains on the NECAP Indicators over a two year period; an achievement worthy of attention and accolades.

Again, please accept congratulations on Franklin School District's achievements. It is very satisfying to be able to recognize Franklin for making this major step forward.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education