



Approved as amended by City Council on January 7, 2019

City Council Budget Overview for Outside Agencies FY19
6:00PM - Council Chambers
June 11, 2018

Call to Order

Mayor Giunta called the meeting to order in Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall at 6:00PM.

Council members in attendance:

Mayor Giunta, Councilor Ribas, Councilor Clarenbach, Councilor Brown, Councilor Barton, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Trudel, Councilor Moquin, Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Zink

Others in attendance:

City Manager Judie Milner

Salute to the Flag was led by City Manager Milner.

Music by High School Band

The first of several Outside Agencies spoke at tonight's City Council meeting. Each Agency provided some of their current statistics along with their budget request to the City.

Community Action Program Agency

Gail Lyman, Area Director of the Community Action Program provided the Council with a handout containing a summary of their programs and projected costs. Fuel and Electric assistance remain the highest need. Services for the CAP office include outreach to homebound residents and direct assistance to low income and handicap residents. CAP also provides assistance to the elderly. Federal, State, and private funds are raised to help ease the strain on local residents and taxpayers.

Councilor Dzujna asked when they are moving into City Hall. Although Gail didn't have an exact date, they are looking forward to moving out of the old building and then eventually moving into their new building when it's complete. There were no further comments or questions for CAP office. Gail thanked the City for their partnership over the past many years and hopes it will continue for many more.

Franklin VNA & Hospice

Barbara Normandin provided an overview of the needs and services provided to our residents. Due to rising health costs, it has become more and more difficult to obtain medications and proper healthcare. For over 73 years, The Franklin VNA & Hospice has provided skilled services, community education, and support services only through the assistance received through City and Town appropriations.

They opened the much anticipated Teuscher-Wilson Hospice Brick Garden earlier this year and are excited to honor the memories of those who have died. Brick sponsorship is \$50 which features a message or name of the sponsor's choice.

Barbara thanked the Mayor and Council for their time.

TRIP Center/Elder Services

Pam Jolivette began by giving credit to Nany Marceau for her hard work and dedication to the TRIP Center. She explained some of the services provided such as Meals on Wheels for older adults mainly, exercise, aging and disability, community collaboration, healthy eating, and the Garden at Sant Bani School.

Councilor Dzujna commented on what a terrific job they are doing and described them as being an integral part of our community. Councilor Dzujna asked Pam Jolivette how many meals are distributed annual. She replied that there were 23,613 Meals on Wheels distributed. At the center, 5,926 meals were provided.

Pam Jolivette thanked the Council for their time and consideration of continued support.

There were no further comments or questions from the Council.

Veterans Ski Area – Franklin Outing Club

Jim Jones, Co-President of the Franklin Outing Club expressed that the ski area is more than just that and wants to be known going forward as the Franklin Outing Club. There are many events coming up with concerts on the hill. The public can reach out to Jim for an event schedule. He stated that there's a 9-hole disk golf course up and running. The Lakes Region snowmobile Club has collaborated with the FOC to make some improvements.

Snowmaking is needed to sustain an entire season of skiing and snowmobiling. Other items such as a high capacity pump and Compressor are needed. Jim stated that there is much excitement of what is to come and lots of collaboration to make Franklin a great place to live.

Councilor Dzujna commented on the new leadership and what a great job they are doing. He stated that people should go there and check it out. Dzujna also thanked Mr. Jones for re-using the City's poles.

Mr. Jones spoke with Director Lewis on the viability to use solar power to alleviate electricity costs. He also mentioned that Verizon has such poor reception and wondered if the City could make some income by allowing them to use it. Mayor Giunta agreed that Verizon doesn't have good reception up here.

There were no further comments or questions from the Council.

Mr. Joes thanked the Council for their support every year.

Historical Society

President of the Franklin Historical Society, Leigh Webb provided a status on what the society has been doing this year and what projects he would like to do. Mr. Webb humbly requested \$250 in this coming FY budget to be used for cleaning up poison ivy and creating steps up to the Stevenstown Fort plaque. Also adding a descriptive plaque (removing the old one) at the site called, "Sentinel Pine". Other projects planned are the conserving of the original 1925 Theatrical Backdrops which are currently hanging in the Odd Fellows Hall (originally called "Burleigh Hall").

There are also plans to display art work of the past. Franklin Residents, namely Helen Hird, her student (and niece) Linda Keegan, both of whom excelled in Japanese style art.

Mr. Webb stated that he'd like to bring back a school activity called the Traveling Trunk.

Mayor Giunta thanked Mr. Webb for cleaning and repairing the plaque at the Daniel Webster Bust Sculpture. Mr. Webb stated that the sculpture was created by Daniel French but his daughter had to finish it. Mr. French is most notably known for his prolific work of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

There were no further questions or comments.

Mr. Webb thanked the Council for their time and for their past support.

Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee

Wayne Ives provided a status of the UMLAC and the many project they are involved in. This committee represents six communities reviewing permits, managing and coordinating projects and protection programs that impact our rivers and streams.

Mr. Ives commented on the strength and dedication of this committee which could only be possible through the generous donations of money and volunteerism of the communities it supports.

All are welcome to check out their Facebook and Twitter accounts. Also reach out by phone at 603.796.2615 or email: UMLAC@erriackRiver.org

There were no comments or questions from the Council.

Franklin Business & Industrial Development Corporation

FBIDC Director Jim Aberg provided the Council with information regarding plans to further assist in the development of Franklin's Downtown. He is working with City Manager Milner to identify buildings to transform and develop. His Downtown Development Team meets bi-weekly to discuss the current and future thoughts on our City's development. This is a team effort and each member brings precise talent to the table.

FBIDC works tirelessly in supporting good will and promoting a positive image for Franklin. By leveraging funding received from the City, the investment triples through grant funding and volunteering. And with continued partnership with our City, this helps influence other investors to want to develop here as well.

City Manager Miner thanked Mr. Aberg for his dedication to our City and stated that she is very excited to work with this great team.

There were no further comments or questions for Mr. Aberg.

Conservation Commission

Bob Morin, secretary for the Conservation Commission provided the Council with information on the organization, services provided, and explained their upcoming projects.

The Commission currently acts as a steward of our natural resources in the following areas: Great Gains Forest, Montgomery Forest, Griffin Road, and Billie Mo Brook Forest. He stated that there are no current timber harvesting plans but are planning a Wildlife Habitat Restoration project and some maintenance at Shaw Pond and Shaw Brooke.

Mr. Morin coordinates with the City Forester, NH Department of Environmental Services, Lakes Region Snowmobile Club, Franklin's Municipal Services Department, and other civic organizations with respect to their plans when improving hiking trails or permitting for various activities.

Continued funding from the City will keep the partnership strong with the many organizations that need to come together when our forest and water sites might be impacted.

Mr. Morin stated that he would love the Council's help in filling the open seats on this commission and thanked the Council for all their past support.

There were no questions or comments for Mr. Morin.

City Manager Milner thanked all of the agencies who came before the Council this evening. They are all doing amazing things for our City and it does not go unnoticed. This is an important part of what keeps our City healthy and strong.

Superintendent Dan LeGallo and Chair Tim Dow addressed the Council

Mr. Dow thanked the Council for letting them speak tonight. He stated that the City Council asked for a Strategic Plan from the SAU and they would like to provide an update to the Council. Mr. Dow stated that Councilor Moquin was part of the team to help work on the Strategic Plan and that they would present it to the Council in September or October.

Susan Blair, Principal of the Paul Smith School described the model of teaching at Paul Smith and how is modeled similar to Sant Bani. She described the methods of this and urged that education can't be done the same as it's always been done. Paul Smith and their extremely dedicated teaching staff have implemented a way of learning through "Houses", not "Grades" and not jumping to a different teacher every year. Instead each house contained all the educational requirements necessary and a child would essentially remain in that house until they graduated. This gives the child the ability to get to know everyone in the house and each learn at their pace while experiencing strengths from each other. If a child needed special learning intervention, the staff would meet, discuss, and have an action plan for that individual.

Susan Blair stated that the children are very happy with this arrangement and are learning better with less stress. The staff is so dedicated. She described that they did the Polar Express week and all the staff "lived" the actual story. The children participated in it and it became real for them. Everyone had so much fun and learned while doing so. These children will never forget that experience.

There was applause from the Council and the public.

Councilor Barton and Councilor Brown each gave their praise and stated what a great job they are doing.

There was another round of applause that filled the room.

Carrie Charette, Franklin High School Principal provided a handout and mentioned that the year book dedication ceremony was approaching. The school is focusing on Franklin's image. She shared that 21 students enrolled in Huot. She also stated that testing scores improved. There are 214 athletic students and some of those same students play 3 sports. Academically, there are several students who received NH Scholarships and the 2018 Presidential Scholarship Award. The goals are to focus on student leadership, communication, and to be well rounded. She stated that they need the opportunity to try new things not just take a course and be done.

Carrie Charette thanked the Council for allowing her to speak. There were no questions or comments from the Council.

Chair Dow approached the City Council once more to update them on their current financial situation. On or about May 14th, there will be some teachers receiving RIFs. Some of them couldn't wait and have given their notice. There will be plans to reduce the music program and cut or reduce others as well. He stated that the school can't afford to lose these last few programs. Moving forward, Chair Dow requested to fully fund these programs and with the Strategic Plan/Houses, a report will go out every quarter.

Mr. Dow stated that they need to fill the grant writer position to write and obtain grants that will help fund the schools.

Chair Dow asked the Council to consider increasing the school revenue by 6% this year (and 2% each year after to reach closer to a 50/50 split. The schools lost a lot of funding through the Stabilization Adequate Education Funding cut.

Councilor Brown stated that something just doesn't seem right especially when school admin fees are over \$800K. Teachers shouldn't be the first place to cut. She added that there's room to consolidate other services.

Chair Dow stated that the shortfall from the state should be made up by the City of Franklin whether or not we can afford it. This City is responsible to fund the schools. The tax cap can be raised one time to fix the problem.

Councilor Zink asked the Council to shift \$400K this year and \$235K each year for 4 years to get the school funds and closer to a 50/50 split over time.

Councilor Clarenbach acknowledged this difficult situation and agreed that our schools are a priority. If we lose our schools, we lose the fabric of our community. We need to find mutual ground because we are all in a tough place. He asked what things would the City cut and wants the entire community to know that we pay for all of the services for the City.

Mayor Giunta addressed Chair Dow and stated that due to the loss of Stabilization and Adequacy, teachers and administration is still doing an amazing job but we need to be sensitive to the citizens of Franklin and not break the tax cap. Mayor Giunta asked City Manager Milner and the Councilors to work with Chair Dow maybe organize a budget workshop and see where we can help.

Chair Dow replied that he understands Councilor Clarenbach but pointed out that teachers will be leaving for a more stable place to live and work. Grants will be lost without a Grant Writer. He stated that the Citizens of Franklin have already spoken and want their taxes to be increased to fund the schools. In conclusion, he asked for a commitment of 4% from the City.

Councilor Moquin recapped that a workshop will be organized to work on a 5-year Strategic Plan with frequent checkpoints. She concluded stating that the silos need to be removed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Dzujna.

Seconded by Councilor Brown.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Audrey Lanzillo