



City Council Meeting October 3, 2016

Call to Order

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

In Attendance

Councilor Clarenbach, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Barton, Councilor Giunta, Councilor Desrochers, Councilor Wells, Councilor Zink, Councilor Dzujna, City Manager Dragon and Mayor Merrifield.

Absent

Councilor Boyd.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Giunta.

Public Hearings

Susan Hallett-Cook stated she sat on the Withdrawal Committee and came in late to that committee. It seemed that the decision was already made to withdraw. At several meetings she asked for the research for the pros and cons of withdrawing. The basic information she received was Hill had already pulled their kids so they have already withdrawn so it was forgone conclusion. At one meeting she provided a NH Center for Public Policy studies on School Consolidations and that is because NH is one of the few states that is consolidating and not withdrawing. With the per pupil costs what they are it makes sense to band together than pull apart. Her research is that the districts that have withdrawn that were financially viable in the beginning have done very well. Districts that have withdrawn that were in the financial situations, like Franklin is in, have been put in even worse financial situations which mean layoffs, loss of programs, sports and academics.

Dave Testerman, chaired the Withdrawal Committee, stated some schools dissolved their SAUs are roughly large schools and they divided them so any studies that were done are looking at those schools. Franklin's situation is different as Hill moved their students to Newfound for ten (10) years which left us administering a small elementary school in Hill and was receiving \$97K from Hill. The consensus was we need to focus on Franklin and not spend time at Hill. There was a vote of 4-3 of the Committee to dissolve. That decision then went to the State School Board and the State gave Franklin permission to dissolve and at this stage it is pointless to rehash all of this. He understands people have opinions, but the Committee voted and its recommendation was to dissolve. He asked that the Council support the committee's decision.

Deb Brown, School Board Member, Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair, School Board Finance Committee Member, stated she has researched this topic going back to 1995 and the conclusion of all those times was it was not a good move. In the last two (2) years \$11K has been spent in legal fees, funding for adequacy aid is decreasing 4% each year and this year they lost \$115K, Hill did withdraw for more educational opportunities for their residents, SAU funding is a \$60-70 loss if we withdraw. There was no educational information if we withdraw from the SAU. Next year the school district could lose another \$200K. She asked that they give the Hill students time to finish out and have the Hill board on the SAU for another two (2) years. She urged the City Council to not set a date for withdrawal.

Tamara Feener, former School Board Member and Chair and Withdrawal Committee member until she lost her school board member position, stated she used to attend Hill's school board meetings and Hill's chair stated for Franklin not to worry about them they would be just fine so Franklin should not worry about Hill and should concentrate on Franklin. If Franklin stays in the SAU with Hill the Superintendent will need to travel to Newfound to represent. The 21st Century Grant was lost and there is an opportunity to go after it again so hopefully they will do so. She has brought up over and over to go with Blue River to bring students and tuition into Franklin School District but to no avail. Open Enrollment was allowed from Attorney Upton and approved by the State Board but the school district has not acted upon it. She supports the withdrawal as it is time to focus on Franklin as Hill is doing that for them.

Cathy Viau, Hill resident and graduate of Franklin, stated she feels Franklin has many good things to offer and urges not to withdraw. If you want people to come into your town you don't want to push people out and give the impression that you don't care about other people coming in. Students' education is number one in bringing people in. The only reason Hill left Franklin is they felt the City Council is not funding the education of the students in Franklin as they could. It's not about revenge it is about coming together as community members and working for the betterment of the community and bond together.

Glen Feener stated per State Statute you have to set a separate meeting from this public hearing and he urges the Council to do so. He was one of the ones who tried to keep Hill from leaving but there was an element in Hill that wanted to leave and that has hurt the school department especially with the revenues. Hill still has eight (8) years left with Newfound. Franklin needs to take this educational opportunity to separate from Hill and have a Superintendent who is dedicated completely to Franklin and working on the educational opportunities and solving the problems within the Franklin School District rather than having to travel to Hill or Newfound to take care of the problems for Hill students. Is there money to be saved, for the past 1 ½ years consolidation of the school's financial reports has been looked at. It's not taking away their rights to spend their money they way they want too, it is for better reporting and in the long run for a better education. Consolidation creates a savings and the Hill School Board has created a block as they don't want the City of Franklin holding their money. The meetings that Hill had to leave Franklin were very one sided and not accurate. At this time we should focus on Franklin students only.

Leigh Webb, Withdrawal Committee Vice-Chair, stated that he voted against withdrawal and approached that decision logically and objectively. The plan that was submitted has already exceeded the estimate for loss of revenue of \$11K because of legal fees and other expenses and every dollar has to be considered. You need to consider would the withdrawal benefit the students of Franklin and the answer is no because of the financial consequences. Financial consolidation would help offset the impact of the losses by withdrawing but instead we should look at what savings can be put towards things needed in the budget. If Hill thought it was a good idea then they should have withdrawn from us.

Scott Burns, School Board Member, stated he was the only person who originally voted no, on the School Board Committee, to withdrawing. One thing he learned is you have to begin working with your boarders so withdrawing from another boarder community we will lose revenue. It doesn't take a village anymore it takes villages and we need to start working with them. If we withdraw Hill won't work with us or pay us any money.

Comments from the Public

Persons wishing to address the Council may speak for a maximum of three minutes. No more than thirty minutes will be devoted to public commentary.

Tamara Feener asked about the Finance Committee and the audits with the money flowing through SAU 18 and not the school district and where is that at? She stated that when she was on the school board Steve Grislack stated the money was not to flow through SAU18 but was to flow through the Franklin School District as that is not showing transparency nor per pupil cost. City Manager Dragon stated they had a joint meeting recently and Superintendent LeGallo and Business Administrator Bergquist did get an opinion that it should be reported on form MS25. 85% of school districts in New Hampshire report so they did indicate that they will be changing their policy and begin reporting on this form for the future. Mayor Merrifield stated that these grant funds would be incorporated in the new proposed budget for next year. Councilor Giunta asked Tamara Feener if she still wanted to know about the audits. City Manager Dragon stated that the Franklin School District is caught up. The SAU is in FY14 and we are in FY17 and they are making progress. There was a large amount of funds being held due to audits but a large amount of those funds have now been released. Tamara Feener asked how much money has been used to get these audits caught up? She feels that the SAU is not an educational basis and they need to get their house in order and they are costing a lot of money to get these audits caught up.

A woman from the Franklin Lions Club spoke about the Renaissance Faire which raised \$3200 and exceeded their goal by noon on Saturday. This came about due to all the generosity of the Police, Fire, CERT, Dennis & Max, Elks Club and it gave them the ability to exceed their goal to raise money to feed families of Franklin and the area. She thanked everyone for their time and energy for this event.

Leigh Webb thanked the Mayor for scheduling to bring his band and other bands to perform to benefit the music program at Franklin High School.

Annette Andreozzi mentioned that the City Charter states that signs that are put on City property must be approved by the City Council. She has noticed an increase in signs and she is at almost every Council meeting and if not reads the minutes and she knows the Council has not approved some of these things at various parks, the tressel, over in West Franklin, along the side of the road that is not the State road, and would like the City to start removing the signs that don't have permission unilaterally so no one is signaled out.

Tamara Feener stated there is also an RSA about putting signs on public property so you need to look at that as well.

Legislative Comments – None

City Council Acknowledgements - Councilor Dzujna wanted to acknowledge Krystal Alpers as she just recently won an award, Sandi Van Scoyoc Legacy Award, from Healthy NH Foundation for her work with making healthy access to the kids.

Councilor Dzujna wanted to acknowledge Mayor Merrifield as he received the Humanitarian award from his alumni at St. Anselm's College.

Councilor Desrochers stated that they have done a fine job on Prospect St. On a side note out west they have big gates they put down and there is a \$750 fine and two (2) years in jail for driving on highways in the snow.

Mayor's Update – The Mayor stated that his fellow alum, Brian Sullivan is responsible for the Mayor receiving the award and is thankful from the bottom of his heart. Next year it will go back to its rightful owner, Brian Sullivan. There were many in support and thanks to all who attended.

There will be three (3) rock bands here Saturday night to benefit Franklin High School music program and there is a suggested donation of \$10pp.

There needs to be a meeting set to Canvas the Votes so after setting the SAU Withdrawal date we need to set that date.

Agenda Item I.

City Council to consider the minutes of the September 12, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Motion: Councilor Dzujna moved that the Franklin City Council consider the minutes of the September 12, 2016 City Council Meetings. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Desrochers abstained, All others in favor; motion passes.

Agenda Item II.

School Board Report – School Board Member Burns stated they found out today they lost \$115K from the adequacy aid this year. On Oct. 6 at Choose Franklin they will be handing out their Mission Statement and discussion. With all the changes 25 students in a class is the highest with most classes averaging 17-19. There has been an increase in the Huot Center and there have been discussions with Winnisquam to attend some of their classes. With enrollment they are down about 70 students. Councilor Desrochers asked what classes are they working with Winnisquam on. School Board Member Burns stated they are working on various classes as it is open dialogue. Councilor Desrochers asked if Autocad was one of the classes and School Board Member Burns stated it was.

Mayor stated that the Department of Education recalculates adequacy aid during the year and will reduce even after you have adopted a budget if your enrollment goes down. That is something else that needs to be addressed.

Councilor Giunta asked if we are down 70 students this year at \$3K per student so we will be down \$210K in adequacy aid for next year. City Manager Dragon stated we were down \$284K and then another \$115K on top of that. Councilor Giunta stated that the third (3) Tuesday of every month the Joint Finance will meet to discuss this and other items so nothing is a surprise.

Agenda Item III.

City Council to consider setting a meeting to vote on whether or not to accept the provisions of RSA 194-C providing for the organization of a School Administrative Unit involving districts of Franklin and Hill, in accordance with the provisions of the proposed plan.

Motion: Councilor Desrochers moved that the Franklin City Council set a meeting on October 24th at 6:02 pm to hold the vote on whether or not to accept the provisions of RSA 194-C providing for the organization of a School Administration Unit involving districts of Franklin and Hill, in accordance with the provisions of the proposed plan. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in favor, motion passes.

Mayor then asked the Council to set a date for Canvassing the Vote within the next seven (7) days. City Manager Dragon suggested October 11 as Monday is a holiday and prior to that they have so many days to count the votes.

Motion: Councilor Giunta moved that the Franklin City Council set a meeting on October 11th at 6:00 pm to Canvas the Vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in favor, motion passes.

Agenda Item IV.

Partnership for Public Health to give the Council an update on initiatives in the region.

Lisa Morris, Executive Director, spoke from Partnership for Public Health and was last here in 2014. She explained the difference between healthcare and public health. Healthcare is building relationships for your personal health and public health is building relationships in the community and how to build relationships for community health. She helps build relationships with communities and works with Franklin Police, Fire, FMDTF, and Franklin Heal Initiative. Councilor Wells is Franklin's representative on Winnepesaukee Public Health Council. Councilor Wells stated they try to educate people and advocate for public health and develop a plan based on regional priorities. There are over 100 individuals and 86 agencies working to improve health outcomes.

There is \$150M coming from the federal government into the State for Mental and Substance Abuse Disorder Services and integrating them with Health Services. \$13M has been deemed into the Winnepesaukee and Central region to be able to develop these capacities. The Partnership for Public Health is the Administrative Lead for this initiative, which 30 agencies who are working together to create a substantive plan to improve capacity for behavioral health and integrate it with primary care. How well that money moves in depends on not increasing Medicaid payments. This is a five year (5) initiative and they are moving from a fee for service to a value based payment. The thirty (30) communities are called Community Health Service Network (CHSN).

To get the biggest change in community health behaviors they are looking at social determinants and that is reducing poverty. That is looking at safe and affordable housing, jobs and wages, substance use issues and family units doing well. In public health there is a more focus on these social determinants on health. If they can improve these they will automatically improve those health outcomes. Education is an important determination of health. The more educated a person is the healthier they will be.

Councilor Dzujna asked how they are going to get this across to families. Lisa Morris responded by stating a more coordinated focused effort and integrated effort by working off the same plan. City Manager Dragon stated she agreed social economic factors are a huge piece of the puzzle and was happy to hear her say the same thing. She then asked will there be an effort to investigate the root causes of poverty here and get to the reasons why people are in poverty and then develop your plan around that. Lisa responded yes and to explore evidence based practices but is unsure they can take poverty in its whole as that is so big. It is a very big initiative so they would have to figure out how to framework it. City Manager Dragon stated her only concern is she hopes there will be focus on action and not just planning and actual activities and support for local education. Lisa stated action is one thing the State is requiring and planning is actually very short as the deadline is Oct 31 for which it has to be submitted. They are required to select from a menu but have some required core competencies. Councilor Barton asked what would you offer Franklin itself. Lisa stated that one of the initiatives is care coordination and not sure what that would exactly look like at this time. A hypothetical is individuals leaving jails are lost between transition and a lot of work would be done to

support them so they are not lost. Councilor Giunta reiterated that Lisa stated that socioeconomic has a big impact on the community. What if some of the \$150M was set aside and then they looked at the communities across the region for the ones with the biggest problem and then made grants for education. He then asked if she could bring that message forward. Lisa stated that some of the \$150M is capacity building but the majority of it is implementation dollars. They are required to have data and the CDC will only pay if they have the metrics. The money isn't automatic they have to meet those metrics to get payment. If they meet their metrics and get incentive payments then they can use those dollars anyway they want. They do focus on the communities with the greatest need.

Agenda Item V.

A Proclamation relating to Arbor Day in Franklin, NH.

The Mayor read the following:

PROCLAMATION

In the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Sixteen,

A Proclamation relating to Arbor Day in Franklin, New Hampshire, in keeping with our City's continuing efforts towards recognizing the importance of trees; their upkeep; maintenance, replacement, removal and their surrounding habitat.

WHEREAS, The City of Franklin, New Hampshire typically tends to celebrate Arbor Day in the Fall Season, thereby avoiding the heat of the summer and recognizing that Fall is the most suitable time of the year to plant trees, and

WHEREAS, In 1872 a gentleman named J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, The concept of dedicating a day called Arbor Day was first observed in the State of Nebraska with the planting of more than one million trees throughout this State over the year of 1872, and

WHEREAS, Trees should be planted in their appropriate Natural Environment as many species are only adaptable to certain climate zones, soils, sunlight, precipitation, air quality and other conditions most suitable to their origin throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, in order for trees to be healthy they should be planted allowing for no conflicts with underground or overhead utilities, space to develop a canopy and mature to their natural shape and beauty through proper pruning and maintenance to avoid potential safety hazards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I Kenneth Merrifield, Mayor of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire, a City with more Trees than People, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 3, 2016 as:

"ARBOR DAY in FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE"

and invite all Citizens to participate in the preparation and the planting of four trees in Daniell Park located off of Liberty Avenue, beginning at 11 A.M.

Agenda Item VI.

City Council to consider the approval of Resolution #04-17, increasing revenue and expenditure accounts based on the awarding of a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Office of Highway Safety for the Franklin Police Department in the amount of \$28,800.

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the Franklin City Council schedule a public hearing on Resolution #04-17, on Monday 7 November 2016 at 6:05 pm in Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall regarding accepting the Law Enforcement Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative grant in the amount of Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars, approving the Memorandum of Agreement with Tilton Police Department and appropriating Franklin's portion of the grant in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Dollars. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

The Mayor read Resolution #04-17:

RESOLUTION #04-17

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2017.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Sixteen,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin has adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2017 which began July 1, 2016, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands the Police Department sought and received a 100% federal non matching grant from the Office of Highway Safety called the Law Enforcement Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative Grant totaling \$28,800 for the purpose of investigating and apprehending individuals or organizations involved in opioid related drug use and trafficking, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands that the grant requirements will be fulfilled in a joint effort by both Franklin and Tilton police departments and that each department will bill and receive grant funds directly according the grant memorandum of agreement, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire understands that Franklin police department is expected to receive approximately half of the grant funding totaling \$14,400 and wishes to appropriate this funding, Now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, November 7, 2016 the City Council of the City of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby adopt resolution 04-17 accepting the Law Enforcement Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative grant from the Office of Highway Safety in the amount of \$28,800, approving the memorandum of agreement with the Tilton Police Department, authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary paperwork **and authorizing an increase in FY2017 revenues:**

Grant Revenue - Police Acct. No. 01-2-103-33111-000 – Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$14,400),

And an increase in FY2017 expenditure accounts,

Overtime Wages – Investigations Acct. No. 01-2-102-40140-000 – Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$11,265),

Medicare – Investigations Acct No. 01-2-102-40225-000 – One Hundred Sixty Three Dollars (\$163),

New Hampshire Retirement – Investigations Acct No. 01-2-102-40230-000 – Two Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two Dollars (\$2,972),

By a roll call vote.

All in favor, motion passes.

Agenda Item VII.

City Council to consider eliminating the position of the Municipal Services Department “Operations Superintendent” in the City of Franklin Fiscal Year 2017, Wage and Classification Plan (grade 1020) and reinstating a full time position of Deputy Director of Municipal Services (grade 1020).

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the Franklin City Council amend the Fiscal Year 2017, Wage and Classification Plan eliminating the position of “Operations Superintendent” (grade 1020) and reinstating a full time position of “Deputy Director of Municipal Services (grade 1020). Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Councilor Clarenbach stated as a City we have to take into account our personnel costs and going forward to really think about these as we won't be able to afford it. City Manager explained that for the Recreation piece that position just shifts money from position to position but keeps the budget the same and is net neutral. Councilor Barton asked what is the increase per year. Councilor Clarenbach stated it is \$12K.

Director Sullivan got up and stated that there has always been a Deputy Director in MSD but when George retired he offered to come back to assist in the management of numerous water projects that

were in there infant stages. If we didn't keep George on this we still would have had a Deputy Director's position at 40 hours. Due to the retirement regulations, there was a meeting and it was in the City's best interest to keep him on for his knowledge and that paid off and saved the City a lot of money but at a 32 hour week. George is now officially retired so Director Sullivan is now asking to have the position reinstated to its original position. You have one person handling an office that is in reactive mode every day and is unsure of what the next day will bring. If Director Sullivan is out on the road then there are times no one is in the office. This position is part of the Administrative Division of a seven division department with only twenty-two (22) people to handle six (6) other divisions. If Director Sullivan is out there needs to be a rank and file structure. If we don't hire a Deputy Director they will have to take working foreman away from jobs to handle the administrative calls and tasks that the Deputy Director would be handling.

Councilor Barton asked is this replacing this position. Director Sullivan stated it is adding eight (8) hours to the existing position. It is reinstating the Deputy Director position and eliminating the Operation Superintendent position and adding eight (8) hours to the Deputy Director's position as it was originally in the pay plan seven (7) or eight years (8) ago.

City Manager Dragon added that back in 2009 she was hesitant to do this but you have to make decisions based on the situation. It now needs to go back to a 40 hr position and Director Sullivan needs to give some of his responsibilities to this person. He needs to be able to take a vacation and turn his phone off and take a break and he currently is unable to do that. Councilor Zink asked if the \$12K would be in the MSD budget or the City budget. City Manager Dragon stated they are in the MSD budget but split between Water, Sewer and the general fund as the duties will also be split between those departments. Councilor Clarenbach asked if in 2009 were the credits given back in the similar fashion. Finance Director stated they were. Councilor Starkweather stated that the job requirements show that this is not just someone who sits in the office and answers the phone. This person is going to be able to handle the equipment when needed and feels this is a win win. Councilor Dzujna asked if there are any other certifications the person will need. Director Sullivan stated the basic will be knowledge of the City infrastructure that is one requirement. The position requires a minimum of NH public water system level I, solid waste operator's license, CDL-B. The complexity of the job has changed because of social media, internet and it is being regulated intensely. Councilor Desrochers asked if he is going to hire within. Director Sullivan stated they are going to post it internally and there are potential candidates.

All in favor, motion passes.

Agenda Item VIII.

City Council to consider elimination of one Event Supervisor position and increase one Event Supervisor's hours from 34 to 39 hours.

Motion: *Councilor Barton moved that the Franklin City Council eliminate one Event Supervisor position and increase one Event Supervisor's hours to 39 hours. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.*

All in favor, motion passes.

Agenda Item IX.

City Manager Dragon asked to skip this item.

Agenda Item X.

Other Business

1. **Committee Report** – None
2. **City Manager's Update** – City Manager Dragon advised that the City received the following contingent grant line amount: \$728.64 for fire training, \$1,920.64 from STEP Patrols Grant (New Patrols grant for alcohol/drugs).

City Manager Dragon mentioned that Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry is looking for volunteers, 3 to 4 once a month or once every two months.

City Manager Dragon stated she had an update from the inspection division and passed out a handout. You will see that since the hiring of the second inspector to fulltime the type of calls they are handling has increased is very dramatic and they are able to respond quicker to the calls.

City Manager Dragon mentioned that this Friday NHMA is holding a gubernatorial forum at 11 am at the LGC building if anyone is interested in attending it is open to elected and appointed officials.

City Manager Dragon gave an update on the Driven by Circumstances AKA Sober House. She passed out a legal document prepared by the City Atty Fitzgerald after a meeting with them. The issues are really with fire and safety issues, with the State, but there are still some code issues that all need to be addressed.

All in favor, motion passes.

3. **Late Items** - None

Motion: *Councilor Giunta moved that the Franklin City Council enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A3,II(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or*

personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session:

Councilor Clarenbach	<u> X </u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u> X </u>	Councilor Barton	<u> X </u>
Councilor Starkweather	<u> X </u>	Councilor Wells	<u> X </u>	Councilor Boyd	<u> abs </u>
Councilor Desrochers	<u> X </u>	Councilor Giunta	<u> X </u>	Councilor Zink	<u> X </u>

All in favor; motion passes.

Entered nonpublic session at 8:05 p.m.

Public session reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

Motion: Councilor Clarenbach moved that the Franklin City Council seal the minutes indefinitely as divulgence of this information would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. Motion seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

All in favor; motion passes.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Giunta and seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

The Mayor passed out an evaluation on City Manager Dragon and asked if it could be completed for the November meeting. Councilor Wells asked if City Manager Dragon would do a self-evaluation.

All in favor; meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauraine G. Paquin