



# CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

*"The Three Rivers City" \**

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December 12, 2016

Friends and colleagues,

The City Council, Mayor and City Manager wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday! We also wish to extend our gratitude to you for another successful year here at the City of Franklin. The difference between our success and failure is your efforts as individuals and together as a team!

Holidays give us a good, reason to reflect on the year passed and celebrate our successes (no matter how big or small) with family and friends.

This year Franklin made many steps forward once again. The City held our "year later" workshop as a follow up to last years "Franklin for a lifetime" event. It was amazing to see how many initiatives in last year's planning document we were able to complete. This past year, as part of the overall economic development the city applied for and received \$400,000 in tax credits to make building and facades improvements. Take Root Co Working Center, the Franklin Clothing Company opened. In addition, Colby Sawyer College also opened a satellite office on Central Street. Franklin Studios and Ralph & Jo's expanded. Private/Public partnerships have created a great deal of synergy in the downtown redevelopment efforts.

The city converted all street lighting to LED lights with the assistance of Eversource rebates. We were able to fund the conversion through energy savings-cutting the street light budget in half! This year we also began the first (in many years) major city road reconstruction projects. Prospect Street had the first phase of a major overhaul. In the spring, the Prospect Street and Terrace Road project will be completed. Simultaneously we will be resurfacing Davis Street, Woodrow Avenue, and Sanborn Street (between Kendall & Babbitt Road). These improvements not only improve drivability for residents, they also cut down city staff time to maintain and reduce the wear and tear to city equipment.

This year the City was also able to order a new fire engine to replace Engine 1. Engine 1 is 28 years old and in poor condition. A purchase of this magnitude is not easy given our financial constraints. Several years ago we started the practice of preserving all capital dollars in the budget. Therefore, when the seven year lease purchase ended for the city's trash trucks we were able to use a portion of those funds for the much needed replacement of this fire engine.

This year, like several years past- the City has been dealing with tax deeded properties in poor condition, boarded up partially burned buildings, and brownfields (environmental) cleanup projects. While these projects are time consuming and sometimes frustrating for many city staff across multiple departments- these are a necessary pieces of the overall revitalization of the community. You are making a difference-one building and one parcel at a time!

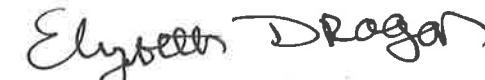
The budget is almost always a challenge. This year and the next few years may prove to be the most challenging yet. The school is losing state funding at unprecedented levels. School enrollment is on a sharp decline and changes in law have impacted funding to communities like Franklin that have historically received disparity aid. The City is meeting every month with representatives from the school to discuss how to work together to find a way to meet the needs of both the city and school. Together there is strength. We will keep you departments and all of you involved and updated as we move forward. You are all an integral part of City's team and truly the reason for our success. As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for all of you who have worked side by side with us to shape and grow this wonderful community.

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor and City Manager with deepest respect-we thank you for all your support and hard work throughout the year. Wishing you all the best in the New Year.

Best regards,



Ken Merrifield, Mayor



Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts" Eleanor Roosevelt