

**PROCEEDINGS OF VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2007, 8:00 P.M.
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL - BROUGHTON HOUSE
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Gallasch at 8:00 p.m. at the Franklin Village Hall, Franklin, Michigan.

II. Roll Call

Present: Mark Jahnke, Dominick Schiano, Fred Gallasch, Brian Coyer, Alan Harnisch, Bill Lamott

Also Present: Jon Stoppels, Administrator
Eileen Pulker, Clerk
Patrick Browne, Police Chief
Tony Averbuch, Fire Chief
Tom Morrow, Treasurer
John Staran, Village Attorney

III. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Coyer, supported by Schiano, to adopt the agenda as presented and published.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Motion carried.

IV. Minutes

A. September 17, 2007 Regular Village Council Meeting

Gallasch and Coyer referred to page 6 and pointed out the following spelling errors. *Grammer* to *Grammar* and *chasse* to *chassis*.

Motion by Coyer, supported by Harnisch, to approve the minutes of the Regular Village Council Meeting of September 17, 2007 as revised.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Motion carried.

B. September 24, 2007 Village Council Organization Meeting

Motion by Lamott, supported by Harnisch, to approve the minutes of the Village Council Organization Meeting of September 24, 2007 as presented.

Ayes: Jahnke, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Abstain: Schiano

Motion carried.

V. Reports of Village Officers and Agents

Police Chief Patrick Browne referred Council to his written report and provided details for a few items to the Council's attention including:

- appliances and equipment were stolen from a house on Franklin Park Drive.
- A driver license and other personal items were stolen from an employee's purse in Bingham Farms on Telegraph Road.
- Two desktop computers were stolen from a business on Telegraph Road also in Bingham Farms.

Browne advised companies to install a good operable alarm system as it helps deter such thefts as well as gives the police officers a more accurate time frame for when and if an incident occurs.

Browne also mentioned that he will be holding a promotional exam for the officers that are interested in competing for the sergeant position and then the following week there will be an oral interview process. Browne added that he should be able to identify which officer is going to be promoted into the sergeant position by the end of the month of October.

Fire Chief Tony Averbuch referred Council to his written report and added that there had been a consolidated effort amongst virtually half of the fire departments in Oakland County towards creating a new mutual aid system which would incorporate fire and EMS response as well as hazardous materials and technical rescue assistance. Averbuch asked Council for their permission to supply either Trustee Coyer or anyone else who is interested to meet and discuss the possibilities of the Village becoming a part of this group.

Coyer stated that he would be happy to meet and discuss the possibilities of joining the mutual aid system.

Treasurer Tom Morrow referred to his written report pointing out that the Bills List totaled \$193,558.79 and was consistent with normal monthly spending. Morrow added that the expenditures are generally consistent with the '07-'08 budget and that the Village had sufficient funds to meet its current and anticipated obligations. Morrow also reported that as of September interest yield ranges from 4.34 to 4.98%.

VI. Submission of Current Bills

<u>TOTALS:</u>	
General Administration	\$8,282.94
Building	21,427.34
Insurance	26,280.10
Legal	4,209.00
Police	32,641.87
Pressure Sewer	0.00
General Debt Service	0.00
Major Roads	8,824.40
Local Roads	4,365.00
Rubbish	15,578.94
Trust & Agency	30,300.00
Village Hall & Grounds	0.00
Tax Fund	41,649.20
Waste Water	0.00
ALL FUNDS	<u>\$193,558.79</u>

Motion by Coyer, supported by Lamott, to approve the bills list as submitted.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Motion carried.

VII. Public Requests and Comments

Chuck Moss, State Representative, referred to the resolution of the state budget and made himself available for any questions or concerns. Moss reported that the next job on the horizon is the \$450 million in cuts. When asked, Moss assured Council that he is not hearing that there will be revenue sharing cuts.

Marcia Gershenson, Oakland County Commissioner, made the following announcements:

- Oakland County will have a flu shot clinic in six locations from 9 – 2 on Saturday, October 27, 2007. Cost will be \$7.
- Franklin is highlighted on the Oakland County Economic Development website.
- Southeastern Michigan Council of Government (SEMCOG) is having a general assembly meeting on October 25, 2007 that will include a public comment portion on the long range transportation plan.
- SEMCOG will be hosting a program for municipalities Nov 1, 2007 in Farmington Hills on how to protect water sources while cleaning and maintaining streets and parking lots.
- There are three citizen appointments for the county; Area Agency on Aging, Building Authority and Parks and Recreation Board that are being considered and for which applicants are sought. Gershenson asked for those interested in the positions to contact her.

VIII. Special Reports

A. President's Report, Fred Gallasch, Village President

Gallasch referred to a letter he received from the CEO of the Detroit Regional Mass Transit Group regarding mass transit and forwarded the letter to Stoppels to arrange a meeting with the CEO.

Gallasch praised local newspapers, Birmingham Eagle and the Detroit Free Press, for the great articles regarding Franklin.

B. Landscape Committee Report, Bill Lamott

Lamott reported that the Landscape Committee has been working with Leslie Jakobs who developed an alternative landscape plan for the front of the police station.

Lamott referred to the trees that have been planted in the right-of-way and reported that approximately 80 of them need attention. Jerry Johnson will be tending to them and replacing those that need it. Lamott added that there will be some more trees available for planting this fall and if anyone is interested they should call the Village Office.

IX. Old Business

A. Oakland County Main Street Program, Pam Hansen – Planning Commission Chairman.

Hansen stated that the Main Street Program is a priority in the 2007 Master Plan and Franklin is currently a part of Main Street as a mentor community. Hanson added that the interest in the Planning Commission is to kick start the Main Street initiative. Hansen asked the Council to assign Planning Commission responsibility for the implementation of the downtown revitalization effort and approve the formation of a planning team to take the initial steps to define the commitment to Main Street. Hanson explained that the planning team would be comprised of a Council member, a Planning member, a Historic District member and a member of the merchants group. Hansen pointed out that this would be a terminal group which its only purpose would be to create a high level road map in regards to how Franklin intends to go about revitalizing downtown using Main Street as the basis but also incorporating ideas from neighbors, merchants and other groups that have weighed in on the matter. Hanson reported that the Planning Commission has a Master Plan Implementation budget for this fiscal year of \$25,000 which will be the source of funds for this group.

Coyer suggested having Stoppels be included in this planning team.

#2007-99 Motion by Coyer, supported by Harnisch, that a planning team be comprised of a representative of the Village Council - Bill Lamott, Planning Commissioner - Mary Hepler, Historic District Commissioner - Walter Denison, a Merchant Representative yet to be named, that the group be assisted by Jon Stoppels and the design of the group will be an advisory group as described and to report back to Council within four months with recommendations.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Gallasch announced that he received an invitation to attend the "Mozart to Motown" Oakland County Main Street 4th Annual event on November 3, 2007 5:30 pm – 11:00 pm. Up to 20 people may attend from Franklin. The deadline is October 19, 2007. Pulker will collect names.

B. Consider Village Board and Commission Appointments.

Gallasch referred to a memo from Pulker regarding the Construction Board of Appeals and the Fire Board of Appeals and asked for a motion to approve the names selected.

#2007-100 Motion by Harnisch, supported by Schiano, that the Construction Board of Appeals and the Fire Board of Appeals be composed of the following individuals:

Scott Aldridge – Electrical

Brian Marx – Plumbing/Heating/Cooling

Shadia Martini – Architectural

Mike Brassfield – Builder

Mickey Nemer – Builder

Dave Schmerin – Builder

Dave Goldberg - Builder

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Motion carried.

#2007-101 Motion by Coyer, supported by Lamott, to recommend that Gallasch as president nominate Mary Hepler to the Planning Commission for continuing term of office in light of her excellent qualifications and willingness to continue the service as well as the failure of the president previously to make that recommendation to Council and also in light of the special relationship that Hepler has to the president.

Harnisch stated that he is fully in support of the resolution as Hepler is the obvious choice and is very well qualified. Harnisch opined that she should have been appointed at the time of the vacancy months ago. Harnisch added that Hepler is qualified beyond any purview of doubt.

Mike Hoyt, 25023 Canterbury Road, spoke in support of any planning commissioners who are currently serving in an unconfirmed status being officially confirmed so they can continue in their important roles. Hoyt added specifically that he supports the President and Council confirming the appointment of Hepler so that she can continue in her long serving role. Hoyt reported that one of the Commissioners who have consistently distinguished themselves and consistently demonstrated exemplary service, effort and contribution to the Planning Commission and the community during Hoyt's tenure had been Mary Hepler. Hoyt opined that the Village is extremely fortunate to have someone of Hepler's intellect, her perception, her organizational skills, her analytical skills, her communication skills, her leadership abilities and her unselfish contribution of her time and energy. Hoyt stated that he thinks it would be a significant loss to the effectiveness and productivity to the Planning Commission and the community if she is not confirmed.

Ayes: Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: Jahnke

Motion carried.

Gallasch declared the appointment of Mary Hepler to the Planning Commission.

#2007-102 Motion by Lamott, supported by Coyer, to ratify the reappointment of Mary Hepler to the Planning Commission for a three year term.

Ayes: Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: Jahnke

Motion carried.

X. New Business

A. Consider Village Council Appointment.

Gallasch explained that with his taking over as President of the Village there is a vacancy on the Council for someone to serve his remaining two year term.

#2007-103 Motion by Harnisch, supported by Coyer, to nominate Amie Saltzman for the vacant two year term on the Village Council to run until September 28, 2009.

Harnisch explained that he has heard of three people who are interested in the vacant council seat and would have liked to have seen this interest during the election. Harnisch added that Saltzman has real good municipal government experience, she is a wonderful person and she has a powerful name in the Village of Franklin government as her mother served on Council for many years. Harnisch stated that one of the three names he heard were Jim Stevens who also has a wealth of local government experience in Franklin as he served on the Planning Commission for

many years. Harnisch commented that Randy McElroy had been an excellent colleague of his on Council for many years and received 265 more votes than any of the other names mentioned for the position. Harnisch explained that unfortunately McElroy had declined to be considered. Harnisch stated that the tipping point in his decision was that Saltzman is a woman and he feels that she could bring some diversity to the council.

Schiano stated that he would have gladly supported McElroy for the position if he had wanted it.

Jahnke read into the record a letter dated October 8, 2007 from James D. Stevens regarding the Planning Commission appointment and the Council seat appointment. (attachment #1)

Schiano opined that he did not think that this kind of campaigning is proper when the election is over.

Jahnke, when asked, had responded that Jim Stevens was not campaigning for the position and that until Sunday night, the understanding was that council was going to re-appoint Randy McElroy, read into the record his own comments for this meeting regarding the Council seat appointment. (attachment #2)

Coyer spoke about Saltzman's nomination saying that she is sensitive to Village issues and has been a long time resident of Franklin. Coyer added that Saltzman speaks independently and is an independent person and will not be a carbon copy of anyone currently on Council. Coyer explained that given her analytic abilities, her sensitivity to issues and persons, she is a clear candidate for this position.

Harnisch announced that he is proud of his nomination of Saltzman as she is a very well qualified candidate. Harnisch added that his support of Saltzman is not in any way a negative reflection on Stevens or anyone else as he has a tremendous respect for Stevens. Harnisch then stated that he did not receive any contact from Stevens regarding support or consideration for the position. Harnisch also pointed out that Whit Jones spearheaded the "Franklinites for a Responsible Government" years ago and it is in no way some negative conspiracy group and any such suggestion makes him extremely angry. Harnisch referred to the suggestion that there was a violation of the Open Meeting Act and stated that he did not violate the Open Meeting Act or contact or communicate with any other members of council.

Jahnke, in response, stated that Harnisch was inaccurate; that he had never spoken to Lamott or Coyer.

Christopher Pray, 26011 German Mill Road, stated that he was troubled because Steven's letter sounded more like a letter of resignation withdrawing his name from the nomination. Pray questioned why the public is invited for public comments if the decision was already made prior to the meeting taking place as that would defeat the whole purpose for public comment.

Steve Rosenthal, 26091 Romany Way, opined that it seems that Stevens was more qualified than Saltzman for the position.

Dean Moenck, 26148 Meadow Drive, stated that he supported Stevens as he is the logical candidate. Moenck added that he had served with Stevens on the Planning Commission for the last three years and had found him to be very dedicated to that body. Moenck opined that Stevens had worked well with the community and was very deserving and would be a great addition to Village Council.

Ayes: Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch
Nays: Jahnke
Motion carried.

B. Consider Traffic Control Order #2007-01.

#2007-104 Motion by Coyer, supported by Schiano, to adopt the Traffic Control Order #2007-01.

Staran verified that this traffic control order will be permanent until the Traffic Engineer or Village Council changes it.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch
Nays: None
Motion carried.

C. Consider Civic Event Permit Application for the “Winter Festival”.

Gallasch explained that every year there is a Winter Festival in Franklin and this year it is requested to be Saturday, December 1, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

#2007-105 Motion by Lamott, supported by Harnisch, to approve the Civic Event Permit Application for the Winter Festival, including the banner to be strung across Franklin Road.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Averbuch verified with Council that the application does include a banner.

D. Consider Special Council Work Session with Huda School Officials.

Lamott proposed creating a subcommittee with representatives of the government and the citizens to talk to the Huda School Board Members as there was a need for communication.

Schiano stated that he would like to see any meeting regarding Huda School be a public meeting to avoid any confrontations or accusations in the future and they should follow the same rules and procedures as anyone else was required to do.

Coyer urged the residents to work closely with village staff and administration rather than forming the third part of a triangle. Coyer suggested appointing a group to respond to the matter and have a public meeting and then report back to Council.

Jahnke expressed that he was concerned about doing something that is outside of the Village’s planning and zoning ordinance, and outside of the planning commission purview. Jahnke added that he would discourage council from creating a committee.

Stoppels referred to his memo dated October 5, 2007 and elaborated further by explaining that he did tell Huda School that they need to submit site plan to the village office no later than October 31, 2007 which will include their special use permit application as well. Stoppels added that the public education will continue through the Quorum and the Village Newsletter and the Village

Office will be open early every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. for coffee and discussion regarding the Huda School. Stoppels suggested having a staff level meeting including Stoppels and one or two members of Council, Planning, Historic District Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Huda School and then have a public council meeting.

John Hoffecker, 25067 Romany Way, stated that recently there had been much more activity and interest in taking what has been a consistent disregard for neighborhood concerns by Huda School and a complete disregard of any action against them in the past. Hoffecker added that nothing had been done with them over the years for everything from site upkeep going against the ordinances and not submitting a special use permit. Hoffecker explained that the neighbors on Romany Way believe that the traffic there is beyond what is appropriate for a low density situation. Hoffecker opined that there are many other ways to control the traffic there such as busing the students in from another location. Hoffecker thanked Council for putting the additional signs up on Romany Way as it had made an immediate impact. Hoffecker added that he is very much in favor of a public hearing so the Romany Way residents can be heard and have their issues addressed.

Rosenthal explained that in his experience, most communities will not let a contractor or project near council before first being approved by the other boards and commissions and going through the procedures. Rosenthal added that he would like to see a cure for the current violations and he would like them forced to abide by the Village Ordinances as anyone else would. Rosenthal pointed out that Huda School has not even submitted a site plan so it can be determined whether they are in violation or not. Rosenthal pointed out that the builder and architect know better than to implement things prior to any approval by the community and asked why it is being allowed by the Village.

Stoppels stated that there is a difference between a facility that exists and has existed that is being redeveloped versus a brand new facility. If there was vacant land and a school was proposing to be put there nothing would happen until they have an approval. Stoppels added that because there is a preexisting use that arguably has or to some degree functioned in the same way they are proposing there are certain things that they are allowed to do.

Peter Green, 26006 Carol Street, explained that he is in the construction business and has never seen anyone allowed to begin work prior to plans being approved. Green referred to West Bloomfield where they made them stop work at a certain time because of sound and light, and that they had to put blockage in the windows if they needed to do off shift work. Green stated that another community required him to wash the tires on their trucks prior to driving on the city streets. In other communities there is no construction work allowed during the summer. Green expressed frustration that the Village of Franklin had allowed Huda School to get as far as they have with no penalties whatsoever as he has never seen such disregard for ordinance enforcement. Green opined that letting them work all hours of the night and put in sidewalks without approval is ridiculous and should never have happened.

K.C. Ryan, 32320 Bowden Lane, stated that he agrees with the previous comments and he asked that the Village enforce the ordinances that are in place. Ryan added that the signs have made a difference and he is glad to see education in the Village.

Pray pointed out that he had asked Mr. Dinnan, Building Official, about the construction trailer months ago and it is still sitting there. Pray added that they are still working there on Saturdays and the lights remain on late in the evening. Pray opined that the Village needs to get a grasp on

the special use and the uses that are going on after hours as there are gatherings there that go on well into the evening.

Mary Hepler, 30575 Rosemond Drive, spoke as a planning commissioner who had participated in numerous public hearings where Huda School issues have come before the Commission and opined that they are mostly non productive. Hepler added that there is not a special use permit that exists and there needs to be one as soon as possible because that will set the frame work for the entire decision making process that they can then follow. Hepler stated that they need to produce a site plan and that she is in favor of having all activity on the site stopped that can be stopped. Hepler opined that having a public hearing at this time would be pointless and she would rather see a step by step process implemented.

Connie Ettinger, 25600 River Drive, corroborated that she has witnessed bright lights shining all the time late in the evening at the school and she strongly encouraged the enforcement of the existing ordinances to the maximum extent possible to alleviate some of the problems that the neighbors are feeling. Ettinger added that it is not just a neighborhood problem as there is conversation and concerns regarding Huda School village wide.

Gallasch announced that it seems that council wants to wait until the site plan is in and then follow the normal process. Gallasch encouraged Stoppels to enforce the ordinances that are on the books currently.

Stoppels will give council a report on the violations that have been found and the actions taken to date.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity for a special land use application. Staran explained that whether they need a special land use permit is largely dependent on what is submitted in the site plan.

Gallasch directed Stoppels to continue with the staff interface and to push for the site plan to be submitted no later than October 31, 2007. Gallasch added that if the site plan is not received by October 31, 2007 then the Village should do whatever legally it can to push the issue as strongly as possible as there can not be toleration of another delay.

Ryan commented that Huda School is being referred to as a community school even though nobody in the community is attending it.

XI. Bids/Contracts

A. Consider Oakland County Interlocal Agreement for Ballot Layout and Coding Services.

#2007-106 Motion by Schiano, supported by Harnisch, to approve the Oakland County Interlocal Agreement for Ballot Layout and Coding Services as provided by Oakland County.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Motion carried.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Coyer, supported by Lamott, to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 p.m.

Ayes: Jahnke, Schiano, Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Gallasch

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Wicke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Fred Gallasch, President

Attachment #1

Jon Stoppels
Franklin Village Administrator

Dear Jon:

Please present the following comments during the public comment period at tonight's Village Council meeting. The first set of comments relates to the appointment to fill the Planning Commission vacancy and should be read into the record at the appropriate time for that. The second set of comments relates to the appointment to fill the Council seat vacancy and should be read into the record at the appropriate time for that issue.

- Jim

First Comments – regarding the Planning Commission appointment

Dear Members of Council:

I apologize for not being present tonight. I had intended to be here for the Planning Commission appointment as well as for the upcoming Council seat appointment for which I was being considered. However, I was told this afternoon that I would not be receiving support of the majority of the Council for this appointment and, because my family is hosting a dinner tonight at our house for my son's high school soccer team, I elected to help out there.

My primary purpose for these comments is to support the appointment of Mary Hepler to the Planning Commission. I realize that the appointment of Mary by her husband Fred may have the appearance of impropriety given that he is now Village Council President. However, the impropriety is superficial only. Mary has served with me as a Planning Commissioner for many years during her husband's time on Council, and I have yet to see any actual conflict of interest occur. She has demonstrated commitment and excellence in service to the Village. I know of no other candidate who is

more qualified to serve the Village in this capacity and therefore request that she be given favorable consideration for this appointment.

Sincerely,
James D. Stevens

Second Comments – regarding the Council seat appointment

Dear Members of Council:

As should have been mentioned earlier in my prior comments concerning the Planning Commission appointment, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. I did, however, want to provide some comments concerning the impending Council appointment. In a few moments, the Council will appoint Amie Saltzman to the seat that has been vacated as a result of the recent election. This, I believe, is a certainty absent strong opposition and pressure from the residents, in which case I believe the official appointment will simply be put off temporarily until a later meeting.

I learned of this decision earlier today from one of the members of Council who told me that Ms. Saltzman had been selected over me. I did appreciate the advance notification of her appointment in lieu of me being selected. However, I am a bit disappointed in the decision itself, not so much because of the result, but because of the reason for it, which I feel should be publicly noted.

In particular, it is clear to me that support for my appointment was clearly conditioned on my joining the current majority's group, which they referred to in at least one conversation with me as the "Franklinites." While I have never previously had any ideological differences of opinion with their group, I did decline their request for me to join it, and I did so because I thought some neutrality or independence on my part would be of benefit to the village as a whole. In particular, I have what I believe to be a good rapport with the members of that group, having worked with many of them for many years in matters involving both the Planning Commission and Village Council. I also have a good rapport with Mark Jahnke who is not of that group, but who I know from church and as the result of our daughters being friends. Therefore, while I offered my support for the current Council members that are in that group, I nonetheless stated that I would prefer to remain neutral so that I could maintain credibility with all Council members and be effective at bridging the gap between what often seems to be unnecessarily polarized positions.

For that one act alone, I was denied the support of the majority of Council who have apparently decided in advance to act in concert and appoint Ms. Saltzman. In my opinion, this is not a decision based on the relative merits of potential candidates for the position, but rather is purely politically based without any real consideration for the best interests of the Village.

My qualifications for Franklin Village Council are as follows, and I would be interested in finding out what Ms. Saltzman's are.

1. 7+ year member of the Planning Commission, approximately six years as its Chairman. In that capacity, I was actively involved in the following:
 - a) 2007 Master Plan Update – Oversaw the recent wholesale revision to the 1997 Village's Master Plan, including conducting multiple public hearings and community meetings
 - b) Cressbrook – Reduced their site plan to 2/3 of the number of houses originally sought while avoiding litigation at the taxpayer's expense despite repeated threats of a lawsuit from Robinson Brothers' attorneys.

- c) Rezoning – Initiated and successfully saw through to completion the rezoning of approximately one third of the entire village to help stop lot splits and preserve the village character.
 - d) Non-conforming lots under common ownership – initiated and spearheaded legislation to prevent separate development of commonly-owned adjacent undersized lots; again to avoid overdevelopment of the village.
 - e) Contextual Zoning – oversaw the development and successful recommendation to Council of legislation to preserve the open space character of the village
 - f) Residential Design standards – legislation limiting the construction of manufactured homes in the village
2. 8+ year Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I believe that I have contributed positively to the Village, and in doing so have made it a better place to live for its current residents, and have helped secure its future as a top community in Michigan. Furthermore, I think my ability to work cooperatively with other members of a public body has been thoroughly demonstrated by my time on the Zoning Board and by my tenure as Chairman of the Planning Commission where I made it a priority to have all views of the commission members and Village residents expressed and respected by the group. Perhaps there are members of those two groups that do not feel that way; if so, I would request that they come forward to say so.

By my comments, I mean no disrespect to Ms. Saltzman, whom I do not know. She may have significant experience in municipal government or in serving Franklin by involvement in community organizations, but if so, I am not aware of it. Some members of Council might defend the decision on the basis that she is a woman and there is a need for female representation on Council. This is an attempt to rationalize the decision for the public; that is, to give what seems to be a good reason in lieu of the real reason.

In closing, I ask that you please do not dismiss these comments as the product of bitterness on my part. Naturally, I am disappointed at not being selected for something that I am interested in and willing to do. However, as everyone who has spoken to me about this topic knows, my interest in serving on Council while real, is nonetheless very limited. My family prefers that I devote any extra time I have to them, and so they at least thank you for helping them to realize that.

Sincerely,
James D. Stevens

Attachment #2

Mark Jahnke
10/08/07
Council Meeting

First let me say that I have met Amie Saltzman three to four times and found her very pleasant. I am the only one in this room who served at this table with Art Saltzman, her father, and Jo Saltzman, her mother. However I can say I did not hear her name as a potential council person until today.

Many reasons have been given to support Ms. Saltzman for this position. One reason is that the council should have a feminine voice, at least one female member. No one will disagree with that. But the Franklinites for a responsible government, the group that runs the slate of three candidates on the red signs, has chosen not to run a woman for council for almost six years since Jo Saltzman ran for a two year term back in 2002. Another woman, Amy Parker, ran against the slate back in 2004 and missed out by 30 votes.

However when the red sign group had a chance to appoint a replacement for Ralph Sosin, about 12 months later in the Spring of 2005, they chose Dominick Schiano.

Some will say that Ms. Saltzman will bring a fresh voice and outlook to council yet these are the same red sign guys who told all of us how wonderful they were just a month ago for the September 11th election. Personally I would like a fresh voice and a fresh outlook but I want someone who can hit the ground running and has experience in Village affairs.

By charter council has 30 days from September 24th at 8:00 pm to fill the vacant seat and that is when Fred took his oath of office for the Village President job. Effective June 18th or so we all knew that Fred Gallasch was running unopposed for Village President and that this council would have to submit names of persons to fill out his two year term. I only heard two names as potential replacements for this seat. One was Randy McElroy who ran in the September election and was the low vote getter. Another was Jim Stevens who until this summer had been Chair of Planning Commission and for several years served on ZBA.

Last week I sent out an e-mail to over 100 residents soliciting input on this subject and actually heard only one other name put forth other than Jim Stevens and Randy McElroy, someone who served with me on the FCA Board long ago. My concern tonight is that at least four other members of this council engaged in discussions about potential new council persons outside the public forum. I don't know the extent of their discussions but I will be surprised tonight if any of them do not vote for Ms. Saltzman.

Was there a violation of the Open Meetings Act? Again, we've had this discussion before and all Council will tell me there was not.

Council should table this motion and vote on this another time within the charter prescribed 30 days because we have 16 days left. Let's get some more input from the community and make a better decision. I would suggest appointing a committee to do the search and gather names but I think I'm a little too late for that.

My choice again is Jim Stevens. Until June 2007 he was the chairman of the Planning Commission. He served the Village well for several years. By all accounts got along well with this council during Jim Pikulas' administration and I can vouch for his excellent work over the past three and a half years.

Please recognize that the Planning Commission is made up of nine members, some of whom are here tonight. I'd love to hear from them. They appoint their own chairman. Jim was elected and reelected on an annual basis by his peers for apparently seven years. This is unlike the Village President position where six of the last seven were uncontested. On top of this, Jim was the person with the dual role between Planning Commission and ZBA.

In conclusion, if this motion comes to a vote tonight I'm going to vote "no". Again, while my contacts with Ms. Saltzman have been pleasant they have been limited and I have a rather high standard for council replacement. I expect a council person to have years of Village government community experience. Council will have several weighty issues to address over the next two years and we need somebody who can step in with a good knowledge of those.