

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 1, 2011, 6:00 pm
HELD AT VILLAGE HALL
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Gallasch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin Village Hall.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Lew Eads, Brian Gettel, Bill Lamott, Fred Gallasch, Steve Rosenthal (6:06 p.m.), Jim Kochensparger (6:06 p.m.), Mike Seltzer (6:30 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Amy Sullivan, Administrator; Eileen Pulker, Clerk; Tom Morrow, Treasurer; Tony Averbuch, Fire Chief; John D. Staran, Attorney; Andrea Paulsen, Finance Clerk

III. WORKSHOP ITEMS

1. Finance Committee

A. Presentation of FY2011-2012 Budget Preparation

Sullivan provided the Council her overview report of the Village Budget for the upcoming year, with additional comments from Morrow. The presentation illustrated a need for either further cuts in Village services or an increase in the Village millage rate. Sullivan provided the estimates for future millage amounts that she and Treasurer Morrow had arrived at through their research in lower property values, lower revenue receipts in both the General Fund and Building Fund, and increased costs for retirement savings, insurances, fuel and utilities, among others, and also the reduction in millage rate for the Fire Department.

The need for Village resident's approvals of a Headlee Roll Back and any millage rate increase was discussed, as well as the timing required for a proposal to be included in the September 13, 2011 Village Election. Sullivan discussed several ways in which to review the matter, noting that the Council could conduct their own research or choose to form a committee of interested, knowledgeable residents to review and recommend to the Council what their own findings and suggested actions would be. Gallasch requested that each Council member think of a few good names to suggest as possible committee candidates, and asked that the committee members be appointed at the next Village Council meeting.

Sullivan was asked to provide additional information, as follows:

- a. Specific millage amounts necessary were to be provided at the next Workshop meeting, on March 3, 2011.
- b. Provide an average home value, millage rate, and increased tax rate by later in the week.
- c. Prepare a shortened version of the presentation provided, to be shared at the next Village Council meeting on February 14, 2011.

Target dates for ballot language were discussed, noting that the final ballot language would need to be provided to the Village Clerk no later than June 21, 2011. Additional time restraints would be necessary if the millage rates were determined to be suggested to be increased beyond the original amounts provided, which would require Charter Amendments. Charter Amendments require approvals of the Attorney General and Governor's office, which in the past had taken six (6) to eight (8) weeks to obtain.

Possible public meetings were discussed, noting that the Franklin Community Church would need to be utilized and that the summer of 2011 would be the right time to conduct such meetings.

B. Budget Amendments FY2020-2011 General Fund and Building Fund.

Sullivan provided an overview of the recommended budget amendments that had resulted in a review of the second quarter, ending on December 31, 2010. The changes were necessary to capture the savings as a result of hiring the new Administrator, increased expenses in the Village's property and liability insurance coverage, and the decline in revenue in the Building Fund.

Many suggestions were discussed, including a larger stipend for those who opt out of the Village's health insurance coverage. Gallasch agreed to speak to Chief Browne in that regard.

2. Legal Committee

A. Consider 1st Floor Retail Ordinance

John Pulker, Chairman, and Calvin Cupidore of the Main Street Franklin Economic Development Committee, presented the committee's findings of a possible 1st Floor Retail ordinance provision. Vivian Carmody, Main Street Franklin Executive Director, was also present and provided additional information. Pulker noted that there had been a reduction in retail businesses in the Village, and that there was not currently a strong retail center in the Village's downtown, which is a goal of both Main Street and the Village's Master Plan. Pulker explained that sample ordinances had been obtained from three (3) communities nearby, and that while the subject has been discussed a number of times recently, it had not yet been referred to the Planning Commission for a proper vetting of the proposal.

Staran opined that individual property rights might be infringed with such an ordinance provision, citing the inability to eliminate existing uses in a building.

Carmody noted that first floor retail occupancy would typically demand a higher rent over that of an office, and commented on a number of buildings that are now vacant that raise the concern of the other merchants in regards to what businesses might occupy those spaces.

Discussion ensued and it was determined that this would be an item on the next Village Council meeting agenda.

B. Renewal of Solid Waste Contract

The renewal of the Garbage and Recycling Contract was discussed, and Sullivan was directed to provide actual fuel costs for the last year. The item will be added to the next Village Council agenda.

C. Civic Events and Banner Policy

Sullivan reviewed the materials provided, and clarified that the changes included provisions for the Village and the Fire Department to recoup costs for installations of banners and event costs. The approvals of the changes will be added to the next Village Council agenda.

D. Consider Master Fee Schedule for Tree Removal Permit Revisions.

Sullivan stated that the revisions had been reviewed by Mike Barger, the Village's Arborist and Bill Dinnan, Village Building Official. The revisions will be placed on the next Village Council agenda.

3. Personnel Committee

Sullivan noted that she had completed her own goals, and was requesting goals from Pulker, Browne, and Paulsen.

4. Department of Public Works Committee

Sullivan noted that research continues on the cost savings measures and that talks would take place in the next week to ascertain from Beverly Hills how the Village might obtain help from their department and what those costs may work out to be.

5. Website Committee

Eads reported that while he had met with the Municipal Web representative, no firm proposal had yet been presented.

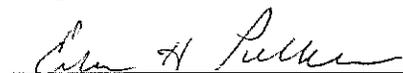
6. Open Issue Update

Sullivan referred to her written report, and asked if there were any questions. Gallasch requested that Pulker provide a calendar of Workshop meetings for consideration at the next Village Council meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

H. Frederick Gallasch, President