

**PROCEEDINGS OF VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN  
VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008, 8:00 P.M.  
FRANKLIN VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE  
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 48025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Brian Coyer, Alan Harnisch, Bill Lamott, Amie Saltzman, Dominick Schiano, Fred Gallasch, Mark Jahnke (arrived 8:05 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Jon Stoppels, Administrator  
Eileen Pulker, Clerk  
Patrick Browne, Police Chief  
Tony Averbuch, Fire Chief  
John Staran, Village Attorney, Hafeli Staran Hallahan Christ & Dudek,  
P.C.  
James Kochensparger, DPW Contractor, Greenscapes

**Motion by Coyer supported by Schiano to excuse Jahnke in his absence from this meeting.**

**Ayes: Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Saltzman, Schiano, Gallasch**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Jahnke**

**Motion carried.**

**III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Coyer requested that the Resolution for Paul Mullin be provided in October, table for one month, as Mullin was unable to attend this night's meeting. Gallasch requested that the Resolution in honor of Whit Jones be moved up in the Agenda to immediately follow the minutes.

**Motion by Schiano supported by Lamott to approve the agenda as revised.**

**Ayes: Coyer, Harnisch, Lamott, Saltzman, Schiano, Gallasch**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Jahnke**

**Motion carried.**

**IV. MINUTES**

**A. August 11, 2008 Regular Village Council Meeting**

**Motion by Coyer supported by Lamott to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2008 Regular Village Council meeting as presented.**

**Ayes: Coyer, Lamott, Saltzman, Schiano, Gallasch**

**Nays: None**

**Abstain: Harnisch**

**Absent: Jahnke**

**Motion carried.**

Jahnke arrived at 8:05 p.m.

**IX. PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES**

**A. Consider Resolution in Honor of J. Whitfield Jones**

As an introduction, Gallasch noted that Jones, who had recently passed, had been a very active community member for many years and that the Council wished to address their appreciation by presenting this resolution.

**#2008-54 Motion by Saltzman supported by Schiano to approve the Resolution in Honor of J. Whitfield Jones as follows:**

**RESOLUTION**

**J. WHITFIELD JONES**

**In Appreciation of his Public Service to the Village of Franklin**

WHEREAS, **J. WHITFIELD JONES** had served the Village of Franklin, Michigan, since March 1983 as an elected member of the Village Council until March 1990;

WHEREAS, **J. WHITFIELD JONES** had served the Village of Franklin, Michigan, since March 1990 as the President of the Village Council until March 1994;

WHEREAS, **J. WHITFIELD JONES** had served Southfield Township, Michigan, as an elected member of the Township Board;

WHEREAS, **J. WHITFIELD JONES** had resided in the Village of Franklin, Michigan, for forty-nine (49) years and had served on the Franklin Community Association, including as its' President and on the Birmingham Area Senior Coordinating Council (BASCC), where he held many offices including President;

WHEREAS, **J. WHITFIELD JONES** remained an active and involved citizen of the Village of Franklin, always committed to its best interests and working toward that end, throughout his entire residency in this community; and,

WHEREAS, **J. WHITFIELD JONES** graduated from Wayne State University in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Bachelor of Science Degree;

WHEREAS, **J. WHITFIELD JONES** had been employed by Michigan Bell for 45 years, performing many duties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008, that the Village Council of Franklin desires to express their appreciation for such dedicated public service by **J. WHITFIELD JONES**.

Harnisch noted that Anne Jones and many friends and neighbors were present at the meeting, as he read the resolution into the record. Harnisch stated that Jones was a great man, whom he looked up to and tried to be like as much as possible, he would miss Jones a lot and had a deep appreciation for what he had done for the Village.

Lamott stated that he had met Jones eight or nine years ago, having been introduced by Bob Cornillie to meet with others about an upcoming election, noting that he had been down to earth and a caring individual, wanted a limited role of government, and government to do the right thing, considered him a good friend, whom he missed, was glad to have known, and was pleased to be present at the meeting this night to honor Jones.

Schiano stated that he had met Jones a number of years ago in a similar way, adding that Jones had been an elder statesman of the Village, a selfless man who had the interest of the Village at heart, had a fantastic way of articulating his vision for the Village, and all had coalesced around the values that had been talked about recently, being fiscally responsible, maintaining the rural character of the Village, supporting the Police and Fire Departments, and embodied a selfless man who wanted the right thing done for the Village. He added that he loved Jones, appreciated all that he did, and he considered it an honor to vote for the resolution.

Coyer stated that two of Jones's best decisions had been to move here to Franklin and to create the family that he did with his wife Anne here. Coyer added that he never met a more elegant person who was more capable at presenting other's views in a comprehensive way to help solve problems, and that the Village was fortunate to have had Jones as he helped the Village through difficult times in the early 90's, with his only having been Village President for four years because his impact far beyond that time.

Jahnke stated that he had met Jones 16 or 17 years ago while serving on the Franklin Community Association Board (FCA), was happy to help with financial duties and to work with Jones on them, and like everyone else, Jones had been one of the first people that he had gotten involved with, served with him through some very difficult times, and he exemplified everything good about Franklin and volunteerism, led the Village through those extremely tough times, known as the "sewer wars", adding that the Village made it through them, and most don't even remember them now.

Saltzman stated that she had first worked most with Jones while still in college and that he had been dear to her entire family.

Mrs. Jones (Anne) thanked the Council for their recognition and asked she be provided with a copy of the resolution as she was preparing a scrapbook of his life to share with his grandson so that he will know his grandfather when he is older.

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

**Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

## V. REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICERS AND AGENTS

Police Chief Patrick Browne referred the Council to his written report and reported on one incident that had occurred in the Village in the past month in which jewelry and electronic items had been taken in a residential breaking and entering, for which the Oakland County Sheriff's department had been called in to investigate and process the scene, adding that Detective Lieutenant Castro had presented the case at an investigators meeting to discuss whether or not similar events had taken place in surrounding communities and to provide a look out for a suspect as described by neighbors. Browne reported that there had been five larcenies in offices in Bingham Farms, all occurring in the daytime during August during which wallets and purses had been taken, a suspect composite was provided and a suspect was seen at a local store, that information regarding the thefts had been exchanged with neighboring communities to coordinate search efforts and a suspect has been caught and arraigned.. Also in Bingham Farms four lap top computers had been taken from offices, for which a suspect was seen on a surveillance video and that information has been provided to surrounding communities. Browne stated that he had planned to meet with building managers and tenants to highlight the need to lock up personal items.

Fire Chief Tony Averbuch referred the Council to his written report, thanked the Council for the recent picnic for staff and volunteers, and reported that the department had been busy responding to a large number of runs. Averbuch commented that they had enjoyed participating in the Labor Day activities and all had gone well that day.

Tom Morrow, the Village Treasurer was not present at the meeting but had provided a written report prior to the meeting. Jahnke discussed the preliminary budget summary reported provided, and asked that a finance committee meeting be arranged for the review of the draft audit as soon as that can be made available. Schiano also commented, noting that the draw on the General Fund fund balance was due to the building department issues and not a new item.

Jim Kochensparger, Greenscapes, DPW reported that right of way work continued with an emphasis on the Village corridor, along Franklin Road between 13 Mile and 14 Mile roads in preparation of the annual Round Up. Kochensparger continued noting the installation of mums at Franklin Road and 13 Mile as well as at the base of the Historic Marker on the Village Green. Kochensparger stated that the brush had been cleared to provide better visibility at Romsey and 14 Mile Road.

## VI. SUBMISSION OF CURRENT BILLS

### Totals:

<b>General Administration</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>16,003.15</b>
<b>Building</b>		<b>16,997.11</b>
<b>Insurance</b>		<b>36,270.47</b>
<b>Legal</b>		<b>3,503.68</b>

Police	11,144.20
Pressure Sewer	478,176.27
General Debt Service	433,580.00
Major Roads	4,480.55
Local Roads	4,365.00
Rubbish	17,157.67
Trust & Agency	14,800.00
Tax Fund	207,631.72
Waste Water	<u>2,101.02</u>
ALL FUNDS	\$ 1,346,210.84

**Motion by Schiano supported by Coyer to approve the bills list as submitted.**

Schiano asked that when the Finance Committee meets to review the draft Audit that the agenda for that meeting should include a review of the building department budget. The fungicide treatments for Village trees were discussed as well as the fuel charges from Farmington Hills Police Department and the Fire Department use of BP credit cards.

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

**Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Low Eads, the Village's Cable Board representative on the Birmingham Area Cable Board, reported that it was time to renew the annual PROTEC membership, the cost for which is provided by the Cable Board.

**#2008-55 Motion by Coyer supported by Lamott to approve the renewal of the PROTEC membership for the Village of Franklin, with the cost to be provided by the Birmingham Area Cable Board, as follows:**

**WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Michigan Coalition to Protect Public Rights of Way an interlocal authority formed pursuant to Michigan Public Acts of 1967, Extra Session, No. 7, as amended (PROTEC") has determined that it is in the best interests of the Participating Local Governmental Units to enter into an Interlocal Agreement Establishing a Joint Power Authority for the Purpose of Protecting the Public Rights of Way; and**

**WHEREAS, a form of the Interlocal Agreement Establishing a Joint Power Authority for the Purpose of Protecting the Public Right of Way (the "Agreement") has been proposed by PROTEC and is on file with the Clerk;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**1. The Local Governmental Unit hereby approves the Agreement and authorizes the Village of Franklin to execute and deliver the Agreement by signing**

**and dating Exhibit B to the Agreement and forwarding an executed copy of Exhibit B to the Michigan coalition to Protect Public Rights of Way in accordance with the provisions of Article I of the Agreement.**

**2. The Clerk is hereby authorized to provide a certified copy of this resolution to the Michigan Coalition to Protect the Public Rights of Way, together with the executed copy of Exhibit B.**

**3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded to the extent of such conflict.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

Marcia Gershenson, District 17, Oakland County Commissioner, reported on several items, as follows:

1. Childhood Obesity Conference, September 27, 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, for a cost of \$10 at the Oakland Intermediate Schools building on Pontiac Lake Road, across from the Pontiac Farmers Market.
2. Safe Landscaping Conference at the Bloomfield Township Library on October 6, 2008, partnering with Oakland County Drain Commission (OCDC) and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension for educational alert of good practices.
3. Scholarship program for High School students are available through the Community Choice Credit Union.
4. Oakland County Computer collection, partnered with Good Will Industries, is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2008.
5. A grant writing workshop is to be held on September 22 & 23, 2008 at Oakland County.
6. Training for Police officers on tools for dealing with people with developmental difficulties is to be provided; she has the material if needed.

Gallasch noted that Oakland County Road Commission had approved the 14 Mile Road from Franklin Road to Beverly Hills limit to be adopted into the "Adopt a Road" program and it was in large part due to the work of Marcia Gershenson.

Coyer noted that native plant and tree purchases can be made from the Oakland Conservation District, [oaklandconservationdistrict.org](http://oaklandconservationdistrict.org).

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Consider Referral to the Planning Commission for the Proposed Relocation of the Kreger House and two accessory buildings (26565 Scenic).**

Lamott reported that word had been received three weeks previously that the Kreger property had been sold and that the buildings would be available, donated by the new owner. Several things are to be determined in the next few weeks including:

1. what to do with the buildings
2. where to place them (temporarily or permanently)
3. how to pay for it

Lamott stated that a meeting had been held on September 4, 2008 at the Fire Department, at which five (5) subcommittees were formed. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2008 at which there will be conducted a facilitated workshop after which a recommended proposal should be available. Lamott explained that the house had been built in the 1860's and the buildings included the house, tool shed, and barn, all which will need to be moved by the end of the year.

Discussion ensued regarding the required approvals, procedures necessary, and what specifics were to be provided in a resolution, more details to be supplied, and that there was a lot of community support already.

Staran replied that subject to Village ordinances the site plan would require approval, with Planning Commission and Historic District Commission review and recommendations.

Lamott stated that the buildings are being donated to the Franklin Historical Society with assistance to be obtained from various other groups in the Village including, Franklin Foundation, Garden Club, and the Franklin Community Association (FCA).

Christopher Pray, 26011 German Mill, spoke in support of the project, named it a valuable resource, and also promoted the new website launched for information and donations to be provided for those interested at [www.kregerhouse.com](http://www.kregerhouse.com)

**#2008-56 Motion by Coyer supported by Lamott to refer to the Planning Commission for the Proposed Relocation of the Kreger House and two accessory buildings at 26565 Scenic to discuss possible use, location and costs and to report back to the Village Council.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

## **X. SPECIAL REPORTS**

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

Gallasch provided reports as follows:

1. Thanked Stoppels, Pulker and the rest of the staff for their work on the Main Street application which was due to be reviewed by Oakland County on September 18, 2008.

2. The Village of Corunna celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday and invited Villagers to attend their celebration to accept a commemorative gift for which Bill and Ann Lamott attended.
3. Thanked Dom and Cindy Schiano for the employee picnic which went very well and was well attended.
4. The Franklin Merchants have published a new walking tour map of the Village's downtown, which is available on the Village website, and encouraged everyone to support the local merchants.
5. Huda School has received a report from the State Fire Marshall who has required, for better fire services, that in-ground tanks for water be provided to be used if needed by the Fire Department. The work was to begin shortly and while outside of the Village's jurisdiction will be overseen by the Fire Department and Village Building Official. An explanatory letter was being mailed to the Village residents near the school. Additional information was provided on the dumpster surround and a proposed informational meeting with the school officials.

Discussion ensued regarding tank placements (on the north side of the building), fill dirt required, and plan review for drainage issues to be completed once the details are available.

## **B. Council Reports**

### **1. Wireless Report**

Coyer reported that the Wireless committee had met with the Village's IT consultant, Matt McNamara of Great Lakes Internet to explore feasible options to supply wireless service in the Village. McNamara discussed a satellite network and indicated his ability to provide a demonstration project in the Village to obtain Villager comments.

### **2. E-mail Retention Policy Report**

Coyer referred the Council to the proposed policy for e-mail retention that had been adapted to the Village's needs based on a Michigan Municipal League version, which had been supplied prior to the meeting. He asked that they each review the information and report back to him with their comments and is to be reviewed by the Legal Committee at their next meeting.

Jahnke questioned the Council Liaison report that had been provided at the Planning Commission meeting in regards to the hiring of a Main Street Director, adding that he had a strong concern that the Council and Personnel Committee be involved and participate in the hiring of the director and that the Council should define the position.

## **C. Administrator Report**

- 1. 2007-2008 Accomplishments Report, Attachment #1**
- 2. 2008-2009 Goals and Objectives, Attachment #2**

Stoppels reviewed the reports and received the following comments and questions:

1. Jahnke inquired about the Building Department funds.
2. Jahnke requested that in addition to the Five (5) year financial plan, that a two (2) year more specific plan be worked up.
3. Jahnke, in terms of long term budgeting asked about the possibility of refinancing any of the Village bonds, and look at the long term debt service funding in light of the need for future road resurfacing.
4. Jahnke asked that the actuarial reports be updated, for the post retirement health care cost, to meet with the actuaries to determine what assumptions they are using for employees, noting that the police officers stay with the Village until retirement typically.
5. Coyer commented on the goals, noted the need for pathway funding.
6. Coyer noted that specific pathway plans should encompass safe passages from the Northeastern side of the Village, on the other side of Franklin River, to the Village center.

The reports concluded with several council members commenting that while very comprehensive, there were still more things that could added to the report, and that the report should be available to the public on the Village website and in a Quorum newsletter.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Schiano supported be Lamott to adjourn the meeting.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Gallasch, President

#### **ATTACHMENT #1**

2007 – 2008  
Administrative Accomplishments

**Increased Property Values:** While many Oakland County Communities saw a decrease in their taxable property values, Franklin saw an increase in the values. High quality Village services and a low millage rate result in a desirability to live in Franklin which creates stability in market value.

**Balanced Budget:** The proposed 2008 – 2009 Village budget recently adopted by the Council was again balanced and provided for additions to the various fund balances.

**Reduced General Fund:** Despite increases in goods, services and personnel. The Village was able to adopt a general fund budget that was \$79,000 lower than the previous year.

**Five Year Financial Plan:** Updated the five year financial plan allowing for financing of significant expenses and costs related to retirement benefits and post retiree health care.

**Improved Building Department Budget:** The Building Department Budget was re-vamped to accommodate the down turn in the economy and reduction in building activity.

**Building Department Bond Issues:** Resolved long standing issues related to the holding of outstanding performance bonds.

**Revised Building Fees:** Revised existing building permit and inspection fees to . . .

**Long Standing Building Permits:** Created computer based record of all outstanding and active building permits.

**Outstanding Building Permits:** Closed out approximately 400 old, inactive and outstanding building permits.

**Revised Master Plan Implementation:** Several efforts were made to carry out specific Master Plan recommendations including; Downtown Revitalization Planning ordinance revisions, establishing and enforcing Historic District design standards, providing training and educational programs for elected, appointed and administrative officials as well as residents, establish and implement proper maintenance teaching for new and existing trees and vegetation. Development of a regulatory street signs consolidation and replacement plan.

**Ordinance Revision:** Reviewed, revised and adopted new ordinances related to off street parking, signage and fences.

**Broughton House Renovation:** Continued renovation work of the second floor and basement of the Broughton resulting in consolidated record storage and nearly 100% usage of existing building square footage.

**12 Hour Police Shifts:** Developed and implemented a 12 hour shift for police officers to maximize coverage and improve efficiency.

**Four-Ten Hour Day Work Week:** Developed and implemented a four ten hour day work week for administrative staff while retaining the 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday Through Friday service schedule the result is a savings in fuel and utility costs as high as 20%.

**Fuel Savings:** Developed revised Police Patrol policies designed to reduce fuel usage while maintaining patrol coverage and visibility in the community.

**Fuel Savings Program** – Fire Department: Provided for Fire Department use of Villages fuel purchasing program to reduce fuel expenses in the Fire Department.

**Improved Public Works Program**: Developed a comprehensive public works maintenance plan to include performance standards and measures and improved work order response time.

**Road Crack Sealing**: Implemented the second year roadway crack sealing program to minimize maintenance needs and prolong the usable life of all Village roads; thus reducing long term road replacement expenses.

## **ATTACHMENT #2**

### VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN Administrative Goals and Objectives For Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009

**Goal:** Downtown Revitalization

**Objectives:**

1. Apply for, and obtain full membership status as part of the Oakland County Main Street Program.
2. Adopt job description, recruit, and hire a part time director to oversee the Main Street program and all other downtown revitalization efforts.
3. Develop a comprehensive list of both short and long term goals to revitalize the downtown both physically and economically.
4. Recruit and appoint community members to serve on the following sub-committees; Design, Organization, Promotion, and Economic Restructuring.
5. Develop “baseline” measurements (including photos) for both economic statistics and physical features for comparison purposes in future years.

**Goal:** Master Plan Implementation

**Objectives:**

1. Work with Planning Commission to develop a comprehensive list of sub-goals related to the established implementation plan for fiscal year 2008 - 2009.
2. Develop a budget necessary to accomplish the sub-goals.
3. Develop a work plan to accomplish the sub-goals.
4. Identify specific work groups made up of appointed, elected and administrative staff persons and assign sub-goals.
5. Monitor and record progress, and oversee budget.

**Goal:** Identify and implement cost saving measures within parameters of the adopted 2008 – 2009 budget.

**Objectives:**

1. Work with department directors and key staff to identify potential cost saving efforts within their respective budgets.
2. Implement cost saving efforts, monitor progress and report results.
3. Evaluate for potential cost overruns throughout the budget and address any problems before they develop.
4. Develop plan to utilize cost savings, through budget amendments, to cover any cost overruns.
5. Analyze results for applicability to development of 2009 – 2010 budget.

**Goal:** Oversight of proposed site plan and special use permit application for Huda School.

**Objectives:**

1. Contact Huda officials regarding any current plans and timelines for building or site improvements, site plans and special use permit applications.
2. If necessary, begin process of reviewing the special use permit application before the site plan if the school official's plans include an undetermined timeline for the site plan submittal.
3. Schedule Planning Commission review and necessary public hearings for the special use permit application and/or the site plan submittal.
4. Monitor site, and school/evening activities for adherence to Village Code requirements.

**Goal:** Long term budget planning

**Objectives:**

1. Review and revise five year financial plan
2. Prepare five year forecast for taxable values and potential effects of Headlee and Proposal A.
3. Evaluate the possibilities to re-finance any existing bonds.
4. Update actuarial related to pension plans and other post retirement benefits.
5. Identify all needed major capital improvement projects and evaluate various funding mechanisms.

**Goal:** Village pathway funding and work plan

**Objectives:**

1. Review Village engineer's feasibility study to provide an integrated pathway system within the Village.
2. Evaluate and select optimum funding sources
3. Gain Council and/or citizen approval of funding mechanism(s)
4. Develop work plan and timetable including phasing if necessary.

**Goal:** Oversight of public works activities and contract

**Objectives:**

1. Meet with public works contractor to establish a work plan for all routine duties and develop an effective means of completing special work orders on a timely basis.
2. Monitor activities as they pertain to adequate completion of routine duties and record finds.
3. Maintain a log of all requested special work orders including; request date, quality of work and completion date.
4. Meet with contractor on a regular basis to discuss progress, operational challenges, and ways of improving performance and efficiency.