

**SPECIAL MEETING
VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE HALL – BROUGHTON HOUSE
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD
FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN
APRIL 30, 2012, 7:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Kochensparger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Franklin Village Hall.

Present: Lew Eads, Tom Morrow, Steve Rosenthal, Mike Seltzer, Sherry Sparks, Jim Kochensparger.
Absent: Pamela Hansen (excused)
Also Present: Amy Sullivan, Administrator
Eileen Pulker, Clerk

Kochensparger explained how the meeting would be conducted.

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Special Meeting to Discuss Preliminary Budget FY 2012-2013

Sullivan provided a brief review of the same PowerPoint presentation of the 2012-2013 Proposed Draft Budget she gave at the meeting on April 16, 2012.

Kochensparger requested that she also review those modifications that were brought up at the April 16, 2012 meeting by the audience but were not included in the budget given to the Council for this particular meeting.

Sullivan continued with the comments from Council in terms of changes they would suggest be made to the budget that was presented. In the Fire Fund, a new description was needed for the \$38,000 that is owed the Fire Dept. In the General Fund, the Kreger House will have its own Revenue and Expense line items. In the Building Fund, \$550 was in the Training line item in error and will be moved to the Dues line. The only financial change to the budget was to add \$600 to the Police Dept. for the printing and mailing of the Crime Prevention brochure.

She explained that these were the only agreed upon changes to the budget which will be presented to Council at the May 14, 2012 meeting along with any recommendations that might be made tonight.

Kochensparger wanted to clarify that Sullivan is suggesting a \$15,000 increase in the Police Dept. pension contribution. It is hoped that this will be made up with the decrease in the Medical Group Insurance from savings in the proposed high deductible plan.

Morrow made some comments about the recent millage passage and hopes that with this tight budget the General Fund fund balance will be reimbursed the absolute minimum of \$25,000, listing three areas of concern: 1. Kreger House public bathrooms – the budget has been increased from \$1000 to \$2700 which was not part of the Police or restoration of the General Fund fund balance, which is estimated to be the minimum amount to keep the bathrooms open. Morrow noted that he is comfortable with that figure but until it is turned over to the Village and funding is secured, no additional funding is available for this project for the coming budget year. 2. The Planning Commission – the spending will increase by 40%, which is because of an increase in the rate paid to the consultant. Morrow stated that he feels it is necessary to keep the spending closer to what was budgeted last year. The Commission must find a way to reduce the usage of the consultant, by possibly working on one project at a time and keeping the meetings down to a minimum. 3. Main Street – when Council brought

the concept to Franklin it was envisioned as a “long term public/private partnership”. Morrow opined that he feels it is time for MSF to balance out that “public/private partnership” and suggests that its funding remain about the same as this year at \$15,000 (\$5000 for the 1st 2 quarters and \$2500 for the last 2 quarters of the budget year). The Council needs to balance its budget and MSF needs to balance its “public/private” commitment as a long term entity in this Village.

Public Comments:

Jesse Polan, Oakhills, Franklin Community Association (FCA) questioned what the revenue figure (\$884,631) represented relative to the maximum that the voters voted in. Morrow affirmed that the Village Council is using the entire amount that the voters approved. Sullivan explained that part of the reason was that the taxable values declined again this year and the Council is trying to off-set another decrease in property values.

Randy McElroy, Woodside, stated that based upon the reviews, what have we seen in any trends as to the drop and recovery in assessments and property values. Sullivan answered that it did go down less than 1% this year which is the 4th year of decline.

Dean Moenck, Meadow, asked how much would be going to the General Fund fund balance and asked how would that affect our bond rating. Morrow responded that \$25,000 is the anticipated amount and does not know about the bond rating but his guess is that it is not going to hurt the Village; it can only help.

Bill Lamott, Scenic Hwy., reminded the Council that on 3/13 he submitted a list of items that he thought the Council should look at and appreciated that some of the suggestions had been implemented. 1. He asked for a clarification of the \$39,000 Fire Dept. transfer stating that it appears that the \$39,000 is out of the budget now but the deficit is not getting any better and it is in next year’s Fire Budget. Sullivan explained the most recent budget which is not on the web site does not have the most recent current year budget amendments which included a change in that amount and what was not paid this year, is scheduled to be paid next year. 2. Bill Lamott spoke about the future repaving of Franklin Road, the improvement of the aesthetics of the downtown area, and the Village-owned right-of-ways. Bill Lamott urged the Council to set aside \$10,000 for the Historic District Commission to hire a consultant or do what is necessary for such a project. He is convinced there is grant money available for such a project, thus the Village will be reimbursed. 3. Bill Lamott added his concern that the Council is missing an opportunity by not finding a treasurer, assistant treasurer, and cable board representative who is not currently on Council. Bill Lamott stated that he believes that it would be beneficial to include other people and other viewpoints from the community and urged the Council to find people for those positions as quickly as possible. 4. Bill Lamott opined that the budget and bill’s list should be kept current on the web site.

Jane Polan, Oakhills, FCA, appreciates the line item for Main Street and supports it. She also wanted to thank Pulker for her help on the Directory and that working with Pulker and Sullivan on FCA business has been great.

Dom Schiano, Oakleaf, wanted it clarified that the \$39,000 (for the Fire Department Fund) would not be an expenditure for this current year, which, according to Sullivan means that the deficit was decreased by \$39,000.

Randy McElroy, Woodside, voiced his confidence about the handling of the bond re-financing citing his personal experience, and he expressed his concern about Morrow filling

both jobs of Council Member and Treasurer, urging Council to fill the Treasurer's position as soon as possible. Morrow reassured him that all the bonds that can be refinanced have been, adding that it was important to note that when a bond is refinanced it does not extend its maturity.

Elina Costello, Franklin Road property owner (Smile Builders), spoke in favor of Main Street. As President of the Main Street Franklin Board and on behalf of the volunteers, she thanked the Council for considering and budgeting Main Street in spite of the difficult economic conditions. Elina Costello stated that "... (MSF) will show that it is much more of a public/private partnership this upcoming year than in the past."

Frank Yanke, owner of Yanke Design, recapped what he stated at the last meeting, synopsising the reasons he and his wife, Kim, chose to locate their business in Franklin. He stated that they have always supported the organizations and groups in Franklin for the last 23 years and rationalized the cost of MSF per household in the Village.

Eileen Harryvan, Vincennes, expressed her support of Main Street noting that in the 2 years they have lived here, she has seen a difference MSF has made. She was so impressed with the difference it has made in the Village that she agreed to join the Board as its Secretary and is proud of the work that has been done. MSF is expending a lot of energy to making that partnership more complete. She noted that she appreciates what the Council is going through during this budget process and thinks it is very important that all the families support all the organizations in town, including Main Street Franklin.

Kochensparger reviewed that the budget was covered line by line at the last meeting, reviewing additions and deletions, and discussions of each account. There were two (2) budget workshops set up and the cameras had been invited both times. This meeting was held because it was pre-scheduled so the public could have the opportunity to speak about whatever else they wanted discussed.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Beke

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

Jim Kochensparger, President