

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
November 5, 2013, 6:30 PM
AT THE VILLAGE HALL
32325 FRANKLIN ROAD
FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN**

WORKSHOP

President Kochensparger called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Present: Pam Hansen, Jim Kochensparger, Judy Moenck, Ed Saenz, Mike Seltzer

Absent: Brian Gordon, Tom Morrow

Also Present: Eileen Pulker, Clerk; Amy Sullivan, Administrator; John Staran, Village Attorney

Motion by Moenck, seconded by Seltzer to approve the agenda.

Motion was approved unanimously.

I. PERSONNEL POLICY REVISIONS.

Sullivan reviewed the new version of the Personnel Policy, noting that most of the changes are “housekeeping” matters. A major change would be to change the definition of a “full time employee” from one who works 40 hrs./week to one who works 32 hrs./week. He/She would still be eligible for health insurance but would receive reduced paid time off on a pro-rated basis.

Another change would be to add an appeal process for non-union employees who are terminated. Staran elaborated on the pros and cons of opening up the “at will” status of non-union employees. He explained that an “at will” termination can be for any reason or no reason. If an appeals process is added, the employer must at least create the appearance that any determination or sanction require some showing of “cause”. If an appeals process is instituted there is a potential to make a major change between employer and employee relationships.

Hansen asked Staran to address the downside(s) of having an appeal process in place.

When asked, Police Chief Roberts expressed that he was not in favor of the appeal process in that it undermines his authority as a Department Head. The VC hired him to make such decisions and put trust in him to do the right thing in hiring and firing. He added that it also slows down the replacement process.

Hansen opined that she saw the appeal process not as undermining management but as supporting management.

Sullivan noted that she is not in favor of the appeal process but will put it and other revisions on the next Council meeting agenda.

Kochensparger questioned Staran about the wording for health care eligibility if the term “full time” indicates 32 hours, in lieu of 40 hours.

II. SHORT-TERM ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT.

Sullivan re-caped her report from the last Council meeting adding that Council’s review was necessary of the 12 areas she had identified as requiring work, to advise whether there was an immediate need or if the project could be pushed into future years.

Saenz opined that the Council needs more expertise on this matter than members driving around the village. He also mentioned that he believes that the longer the roads are not fixed, the more it will cost in the future to repair them.

Sullivan had asked Hubbell Roth and Clark (HRC), Village Engineers, to measure and evaluate those areas that she felt were in need of immediate attention and come up with a price. She addressed Saenz’s concern about future repair costs.

The timing of millage renewals, increases, and elections were discussed. It all boils down to a political decision. Kochensparger thinks the options should be pointed out to the Villagers and discussions should begin so everyone in the Village is more aware of the situation of the road repairs necessary.

Hansen stated that she would like to know, based on the data at hand and the review that HRC did, what the financial burden the Village would have if those roads were fixed now as opposed to later. She would also like to hear some reasonable alternatives.

Sullivan informed the Council that a representative from HRC will be at the VC meeting Monday, Nov. 11, 2013.

III. MUNICIPAL CREDIT AND COMMUNITY CREDIT CONTRACT FOR FY-2014.

Sullivan re-iterated what Pulker’s informational memo to the Council said. This item will be on the Monday, November 11, 2013 agenda.

There was a discussion about the ramifications if the monies for transportation were kept in the Village, as opposed to passing it through to BASCC.

IV. METRO ACT – BILATERAL ROW TELECOMMUNICATIONS PERMIT FOR FIBER TECHNOLOGIES NETWORKS, L.L.C.

Kochensparger questioned why we would put the cables (wires) on the existing poles in the Downtown if in the long term, the goal of the Village is to remove the telephone poles, and bury utility lines.

Staran expounded upon the Metro Act, its requirements, how it would affect the Village and the Fiber Technologies application itself.

Possible questions were formulated which could be asked of the representative who will be in attendance at the next VC meeting.

V. PRIOR DISCUSSION ON LIMITATION OF PARKED CARS.

#2013-94 Motion by Hansen, seconded by Moenck to refer the Limitation of Parked Cars to the Planning Commission for their review and evaluation.

Motion was approved unanimously.

VI. PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON POSSIBLE MILLAGE FOR A NEW SENIOR FACILITY.

Sullivan provided an overview of the purpose of the Joint Senior Services Committee Report. There was a discussion about the possibility that Villagers would consider paying an additional millage to fund a new senior facility.

With the road millage situation and possibly a millage for General Fund and Police services being considered in the near future, it would be very difficult to justify asking the residents for an additional millage to buy land and build a new building for BASCC.

There was a discussion about the rule of excused absences from scheduled meetings.

Sullivan asked that the VC members drive by the properties which would be discussed at the Special VC meeting on Monday. The owners would be granted or denied a Right-of-Way variance.

VII. CONSIDER WHETHER TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATION STRATEGY RELATING TO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

#2013-95 Pulker called a Roll Call Vote to Convene in Closed Session to Discuss Negotiating Strategy Relating to a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Hansen	Aye
Kochensparger	Aye
Moenck	Aye
Saenz	Aye
Seltzer	Aye
Nays:	None
Absent:	Gordon, Morrow

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Submitted,
Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk

James Kochensparger, President