

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Warren Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” this Meeting was duly advertised and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 10, 2013 and the Express Times on January 10, 2013; the Agenda has been posted at Borough Hall and distributed to the Courier News, the Express Times, the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the Star Ledger on April 3, 2013.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Cooper asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present for the Meeting:

Robb Arent  
Seth A. Grossman (arrived at 7:35 pm)  
Michele Liebttag  
Brad Myhre  
William Sullivan

Absent from Meeting:

Cathy Leach

Attorney Albert Cruz, and Borough Clerk, Brenda S. Shepherd, were present for the meeting. 6 members of the public were also present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Mayor and Common Council approved to open the public comment session by favorable voice vote.

**Hunterdon County 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Marcia Karrow and Cynthia Yard**

Marcia Karrow noted that she is the chairman of the Hunterdon County tri-centennial committee, and Cynthia Yard, the County Administrator is on the corporate board. Providing some background, Marcia Karrow added that Cynthia Yard decided that we needed to get to all 26 municipalities to let them know what we are doing and to ask for your help. The County turns 300 years old next year and we are planning a year long party with about 150 to 200 events and lectures. The 26 municipalities are critical and important to its success. In the spring of 2011, the County Freeholders passed resolution creating the honorary committee made up of former freeholders, legislators and some members of the historical society. She ended up chairing that subcommittee that was charged by the freeholders to create a budget and a template of events. They wanted to see one major event a month for 2014 and we created a budget. There are 20 volunteers. In January 2012, we went to freeholders and announced publically that we were forming a not for profit organization. We did it primarily because we are hoping to spend a ¼ million dollars. It is easier for corporations to donate if you are not for profit and it takes politics out decisions of freeholders to spend that money. We want to do important commemoratives. We are asking the poets of Hunterdon County to write poetry the County and we are also commissioning a Hunterdon composer to write a Hunterdon overture. We have commissioned Paul Jennis who is a famous portraiture who painted Governor Cody’s portrait that hangs in the State House. He is doing a three panel mural for us that will hang in the headquarters of the library covering each century of the County. We are hoping to raise

enough money to do other important things as well.

We formed corporate board. She is Chairman, the Vice-chairman is Catherine McVicker, Chairman of the Board of Raritan Valley Community College, the Treasurer is former Freeholder Frank Fuzo, Vice President at the PNC Bank, the Secretary is County Clerk Mary Melfi and the Corporate Counsel is former County Counsel of 27 years, Gaetano DeSapio. Also on the Board are Freeholder Matt Holt and County Administrator Cynthia Yard. We have the responsibility and liability of spending the funds that we raise. We passed 3 important resolutions when we formed. The one is dissolving the corporation in 2015. The second one is that we are requiring ourselves to be fully publically audited and the third one is that we all voted that we will never expend funds that we have encumbered if we can not pay our bill off. We paid for everything that we have ordered. We have to be aggressive about fund raising in order to do the next project. They will be ordering T-Shirts, commemorative blankets and lapel pins when they raise enough money. We treat everything as if we are going to pay it in full tomorrow.

Marcia Karrow stated that we are planning one major event per month. Some of the events will include a Leni Lenape encampment for 3 days in Hampton and we are also planning a civil war enactment. There is a week of Lindbergh stuff. They are bringing up the guy from Florida Jim Davidson who wrote and does the Performance of One man Show that covers Lindbergh's life. They are doing that in the historic court house. It is an amazing show and it is endorsed by Lindbergh's first daughter. Cynthia Yard commented that Jim Davidson was so honored that he was asked, he is rewriting the opening of the presentation. Marcia Karrow added that they are going to be doing a parade, which is March 22, 2014, the actual date of incorporation and the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would love to have a float or your presence from Frenchtown in the parade plus your fire company. Afterwards, they are hoping to have the largest birthday cake that Hunterdon has ever seen in the park. We have other events, tours, tavern tours and the first tavern tour is the Frenchtown Inn with a historic meal and someone talking about the history of the tavern with a bus rides back and forth. We also have lime kiln tours, farm tours, town tours, historic village tours, walking tours, and there are a series of lectures on historic founding families of Hunterdon for example there is a lecture on the Reading family and the following day, there will be a tour of the Reading house. There will be a lecture on the Battle of Geary Ridge and the following day there will be a site visit of the battle site. There will be a huge quilt display. We have all five high school marching bands that will march together to the same song on October 18, 2014 at Deerpath which has never been done before in the history of Hunterdon County. We are hoping to do an old fashion Victorian ice cream social for teens and tweens, we plan on a scavenger hunt which you can download and do with your family and win a prize when you finish it. We will have a historical geocaching. There is a young woman who is going for her gold award in girlscouts that is doing historical geocaching tours around the County. Cynthia Yard noted that the freeholders have rented customs for the year. There will be periods of historical customs that they will wear at every meeting. She has invited them to go to schools. There are nine parades that they will be in. We are hoping they will be in as many parades as possible. Brad Myhre noted that the Borough has a Halloween parade. Cynthia Yard stated that she will get it on the calendar. Marcia Karrow noted that these are some of the events planned and there are lecture series on top of the events, at least 4 lectures per month, two at the north branch library and two at the main library. There will be a lecture from Don Shuman, an expert on the egg markets of Hunterdon County, and will do the lecture in the egg auction. We have special venues like Don Sherbloom who will do a lecture on John Vought followed by a house tour of the Bought

House in Clinton.

Marcia Karrow noted that we have a website and are building it live so people can visit [www.Hunterdon300th.org](http://www.Hunterdon300th.org). You can see the list of booked events to this point, 70 events booked. There is a page of other events that are not booked yet so you can get a full idea of what we are planning like train rides with a lecture about rail history at the end of the train ride. The Crossing the Delaware event you will see. 2014 is also the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of New Jersey and they will be competing with us. One of the big points is to make sure the public knows that New Jersey's significant revolutionary war history is Hunterdon County history. When Washington crossed the Delaware River he did not go to Mercer County, he came to Hunterdon County and the battle of Trenton was in Hunterdon County.

Marcia Karrow noted that the Freeholders have been great partners and our headquarters is the choir school in Flemington Borough which the freeholders have lent to us for the next two years. We meet there and the meetings are open to the public. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 7-9pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday every month from 9-11 am. This is our fundraising year. We are not selling a lot. We are selling choice items and are rolling them out slowly. One thing we are selling car magnets of the Peterson Farm for \$10.00. You can get the history of the Peterson Farm on the website as well as the other things we are proposing to sell. We are developing a historic icon blanket hopefully by the Deerpath park season. They are hoping to sell that by the concert series in early July. We will be selling special lapel pin with the original county seal, and we have architectural notecards that are for sale now at headquarters. We will be selling pins every Saturday at the County library. The magnets are currently for sale at the County Clerk's office and a few other locations. She has almost sold out of the magnets just going to municipalities and will order more. They are doing some big fundraisers. Cynthia Yard is on the Board of the directors for the Hunterdon developmental center and she commissioned the art students to make three hundred sunflower bowls which will be stamped 300<sup>th</sup> year, 1774 – 2014. On June 14, 2014 there will be a lecture on flag day of the history of the County flags. On September 28, 2013 we will have a chili bake off contest with two levels, one will be professional entries for chefs and cooks and the second entry levels for volunteer fire company, rescue squads and perhaps police departments. We are planning to have music and dancing after the cook off and we are hoping to have an old fashion tug a war with the fire companies. The first 300 tickets that are sold will get the commemorative bowl. Secondly, some of you may know the photography of Walter Choroszewski. He did several books on Hunterdon County. He proposed doing a funding raising book for us because he loves Hunterdon County so much. He titled the book "Hunterdon in My Heart". The book will be available by Christmas. We are pre-selling it at a 20% discount at \$40.00 if you pre-order by October 1st. If you buy 5 copies, you get your name in the book. After October 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be \$50.00. For the other big fundraiser, we also have another artist, Dan Campanelli who is in Franklin Township. His work is extremely famous. He paints realism. He paints primarily structures, old houses, and stone houses. He and his wife are historians and they recently published a book on the Samplers and the Sampler Schools in Hunterdon County. That book will be coming out in the next few weeks. He and his wife are experts in the history of Quakertown and Pittstown and Dan Campanelli came to us to help us and offered to paint the historic court house. We accepted and he painted the painting and it is called "Blue Skies". It is being presold. Dan Campanelli gave us the rights to this painting and we are selling the original and hoping to get it donated back to the County to hang it at the historical court

house. We are printing 300 which he will sign and number them and we are restricting the image for 100 years. We are hoping to have one hanging in each municipality in the County. The print will cost \$195 and \$395.00 framed. We are not making any money on the framing. They are using Dan's Framer in the Town of Clinton. These are highly collectible. If you are interested in this, she will reserve one for the Borough. She can probably give the Borough the number 11 which is your fire company number. Just by going to municipalities, she has 60 already reserved. When we finish going to all the municipalities, we will be targeting law offices, real estate offices and banks for the rest of them. She believes they will be sold out within 30 days.

Marcia Karrow stated that we are asking for some things from the municipalities:

- a. An official liason to Frenchtown for us.
- b. Frenchtown's presence in their parade.
- c. An official event for our calendar for Frenchtown
- d. Asking each municipality to take 100 calendars to distribute which Dan Campanelli is producing a poster with 20 images of different structures in Hunterdon County representing different municipalities and superimposing her calendar on his poster. We are producing 25,000 calendars and asking each municipality to take 100 to distribute. They will be available by Christmas.

Cynthia Yard added that we are selling commemorative bricks to do something at their headquarters and library. The kick off event for the celebration is January 1<sup>st</sup> at the reorganization meeting and the Freeholders will be in costume. Someone is writing a script of an old historical freeholder meeting. Cynthia Yard also reported that the schools have graciously agreed to participate in the 300<sup>th</sup> celebration. We are getting all schools involved. She has two teachers on the committee, one is the superintendent from Kingwood Township. The schools are asking for someone from each municipality who could be a point person for students to have ways to get credible research. She has gone to their historical society, the County Culture and Heritage and has asked for names of people who are experts in certain areas such as lime kilns, civil war, etc. The freeholders will go to every school in the County in costume to challenge the school to participate in a time line specific to their municipality. We need a name from each municipality. They have the County archives as well. There is a book. The Hunterdon County Democrat published books in 1976 about Hunterdon County and Hunterdon's role in the revolution, etc. She wants to hand them out to each municipality and school. They found 2000 in a barn. Each municipality is getting one. Also, she handed out the municipal directories for this year. The directories are dedicated to the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are fortunate that Marcia Karrow is leading this committee. At the last meeting there were close to 100 people there. It is important that municipalities get involved. The schools are doing a page a day of 300 fun facts of Hunterdon County. Every school has agreed to read a fun fact every day on the PA. She will make sure that each municipality gets the fun facts. Almost every event of the celebration will be free or there will be a minimal charge. You must reserve seats. She asked if we can link our website to your website. It was her idea to come to every municipality and she is honored to be here. She is retiring in 2014 and happy to be a part of this. Cynthia Yard noted that as part of raising money, they are hoping to get banners for the towns and communities that say "Hunterdon County celebrating 300 years". If you are interested in placing banners in town, she will get them to you. Brad Myhre stated that we have equipment to put up street banners. Cynthia Yard stated that we will have pole banners and will do street banners if municipalities are interested.

Mayor Cooper thanked Marcia Karrow and Cynthia Yard. He is excited about it. We are on board for whatever we can do to help. Brad Myhre thanked Cynthia Yard for her years of services to the County and she is extremely talented administrator and very well respected throughout the state.

Sonja Michell, resident of Ridge Road, noted that she sent the Council a letter and made you aware of my situation and concerns. Her concern is the ditch on her property. She does not think it is a solution to the problem. She feels there will be erosion in her yard and at the road that was newly paved. She added that eventually her yard will look like the ditches below her. It is not something she desires or wants. She is not an expert on erosion. William Sullivan responded that he has gotten an email from Mike Reino and he will meet with him next Wednesday at 7:00 am. He asked Ms. Michell if she would meet with them. Ms. Michell noted that she works Wednesday morning until 9:00 am and asked if they could maybe meet in the early afternoon. She though Mike Reino would come before it starts raining. William Sullivan took Ms. Michell's contact information and will let her know when they will meet. Sonja Michell thanked the Council.

Robert Haver, Frenchtown's representative on the Delaware Valley Regional High School Board noted that they finally picked a superintendent, Daria Wasserbach. Daria Wasserbach over the years has been the driving force behind shared services. They are hoping to continue doing that and to do shared services in anyway with Frenchtown.

Robert Haver also reported that recently the high school got DEP approval to encroach on a tributary, a dry stream, that feeds into a creek. We would have had to provide a 90 foot buffer that would have made solar panels an impractical project. They will continue forward to do their solar. If you are looking to do any solar in town there is some purchasing power where we can work together. They offered it out to Kingwood, Holland and Alexandria Townships. We will probably move forward with the design phase in the next coming meetings. They should have a good idea by the end of the summer whether they will go forward with it. If there is interest, please let him know.

Robert Haver stated that the other reason he is here is to voice his concerns regarding the dog park. There has been a lot of talk on Facebook about it. There are three things to bring up. One, in speaking with Kate Nugent, School Board President, they feel there concerns have not been addressed, that answer were given, impractical answers. Mayor Cooper asked if he knew what the concerns were because when they were here they did not bring anything up that we had not heard before. He thought the concerns were addressed. Mr. Haver stated that they were not prepared for it. They had not been involved in that issue in a while and it was a surprise to them that they were questioned about it. That is the feeling he got from them. The big issue is the physical education. Physical education is required by law. We need to provide that to every student. Mayor Cooper reiterated what the position of the dog park regarding that is. The dog park folks have agreed that the dog park will not be open during school hours when the physical education program is going on. They have said that. Robb Arent stated that we will have two public hearings coming up on that. If you can, help us to get people to come in and give their opinion. He has had public hearings on the sewer, nobody comes and then he gets an earful six months later. Robert Haver stated that he knows you are only just starting lease discussion. His concern is the enforcement of those rules. We have signs at the current parks that are not being followed such as no dogs and there are dogs there all the time. He does not expect the police to be monitoring that stuff all the time. Parents are there with

children at the Borough park. At the Old Frenchtown Field you have one teacher with twenty some kids and it is a little more difficult to monitor and watch all those kids. You have to give them some leeway. If there is a dog coming after a child, it is harder to intercede that. He sees enforcement as a problem. It is the members of the park and members of the Riverdog to do enforcement. If we are having trouble enforcing else where how will this be better there. If you have one student whose parents think the child will get mulled, the whole class will have to sit out. We either provide that child whose parents are concerned with a separate physical education or keep all the kids out so everyone will lose out on access to that field. My kids have used it, he has used that field from kindergarten straight on through, my mother has used it from kindergarten through and my grandfather used it. It is something we always had. Also the soccer field is a concern too. He knows that they are interested in expanding the soccer field. Where do they expand? It will end up being elsewhere, at Kingwood Township or Alexandria Township. We will end up incurring costs to bus them or we say "no more soccer". He does not think that will be an option. There will be some financial cost to the taxpayer over this if that is the case. Lastly, we have had big events at the field before, where we used the entire field particularly back in the 80's. If the economy rebounds, hopefully we can put big events together like that again. The width of the dog park and buffering would bring the ignition area for fireworks to close to the crowd. You may have the inability to host fireworks there again. That is a concern as well. Responding to Attorney Cruz, Robert Haver stated that he is here as a resident.

The Mayor and Common Council approved to close the public comment session by favorable voice vote.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Governing Body and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

On motion by Robb Arent, seconded by Brad Myhre and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved the consent agenda approving the minutes of the March 20, 2013 regular meeting, the bills list dated 4/3/2013 as attached to this set of minutes and resolution #2013-34 as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-34**

#### **TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the 2013 Temporary Budget Appropriations be raised by the statutory one twelfth.

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:

April 3, 2013

---

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk

**PROCLAMATION - Relay for Life of Hunterdon Proclamation**

Mayor Cooper stated that we have been asked to accept this proclamation from Judith Tutela. They are trying to have every community to do this. On motion by Brad Myhre, seconded by Seth A. Grossman and carried by unanimous favorable voice vote, the Mayor and Common Council accept the following proclamation:

**RELAY FOR LIFE OF HUNTERDON PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, Relay For Life is the signature activity of the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, remembers loved ones lost to the disease, and empowers individuals and communities to come together to recognize and fight back against cancer; and

WHEREAS, the funds raised during Relay For Life of Hunterdon supports the American Cancer Society's mission of saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays – by helping our citizens stay well, by helping our citizens receive the best treatment for cancer, by supporting the search for cures for cancer; and (delete: by fighting back; and)

WHEREAS, Relay For Life helped fund more than \$150 million in cancer research last year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Frenchtown Borough Common Council does hereby proclaim June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of 2013 as,

**"RELAY FOR LIFE OF HUNTERDON COUNTY DAYS"**

in our community and hereby encourage our citizens to participate in the Relay For Life

event at Hunterdon Central High School on June 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Date: April 3, 2013

---

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Before we get to new business, Mayor Cooper requested to move a few items up on the agenda, the police chief's report and the new park use form. Council consented. Brad Myhre stated that he has some input from Cathy Leach and the form is in your packets. Mayor Cooper stated that Chief can answer questions.

Robb Arent stated that he has questions on the need for a new police car. We have one car for each officer. You do not have all officers on at the same time. Chief Kurylka noted that years back each officer had their own car. It kept the costs down and wear and tear on the vehicles down. The vehicles lasted a long time. Now what we have is certain officers are assigned to certain vehicles. We rotate them to keep the mileage down. The ones used the most are the newer ones. We are trying to keep the mileage down on the oldest ones. Chief noted that he uses the Expedition. The mileage on the Expedition is not costing much. As to the other cars, he is looking to replace one vehicle, 11-10, with a newer car. Car 11-10 was purchased in 2005. They anticipate that the oldest cars would be recycled out. The cost of maintenance through the years has been horrendous. We paid \$10,000.00 in maintenance since the lease ran out on 11-10. The car is falling apart and it will come to a point where it is not safe to utilize. He can not just run with 2 or 3 cars. The four cars we have we get a lot of mileage out of them. We address the issues we have in town as you can see by the court costs and what it is costing to maintain them. The officers are not just riding around. They are enforcing the laws. If you look at the statistics in his report, the calls have increased from 2,800 to 3,200 and the state police handle some. It is not that we do not have the volume of work. Sometime we do overlapping. He may have two officers working or manning an area that needs police presence or a hot spot. Cars are not cheap. The car he is looking at is coming in cheaper than what he can get for a fully marked car with a light bar. By taking away the light bar, we are saving \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00. He cut corners with the car when he priced it out. Mayor Cooper asked Chief Kurylka what it would cost for a five year lease payout. Chief Kurylka stated that he did not have the figure with him but sent the information over. Mayor Cooper noted that every year is different, but looking at the statistics, the number of calls has steadily increase but it is not true for the number of miles you drive. In 2010, 2011, 2012, the vehicles went fewer miles than they did in 2004. What do you attribute the drop off of mileage to? Chief Kurylka noted that this year they were minus an officer for 3 or 4 months. We tried to cover the hours lost but did not put out the volume. Also, he is having his officers dismounting and walking Bridge Street more. He is also having them in stationary positions more. The actual mileage in patrolling fluctuates on the time of the year but he does stress on them to keep the mileage down to keep the wear and tear down on the cars. Mayor Cooper stated that it is a more effective community policing approach to do that. Chief

Kurylka noted that the federal and state grants that go out are based on communities policing. He put in the grant to hire another police officer the community policing. It is very important. That brings a positive aspect back to the community. We are showing something different especially to those who have had a negative dealing with a police officer in the past. We are showing something different. When we run our ice cream program the officers walk around town handing out tickets for free ice cream. We are dismounting at the school and not sitting there running radar as we have in the past. It is important to have the one on one at the school. Mayor Cooper stated that with the success of that approach, we are likely to see mileage numbers like we have seen in the last few years. Chief Kurylka responded that it is a safe assumption but he can not predict what is going to happen. He added that years ago we were backing up Holland, Kingwood, Alexandria, etc. The crime rates in other municipalities are changing and the complexity of it all is changing. Today, we have a different cosmetic. People care about where they live and the community that they live in. Responding to Seth A. Grossman, Chief Kurylka stated that they have four vehicles but the Expedition is not set up to be a patrol vehicle and we have six officers. We do have enough vehicles for them. Replacing one gives us 3 patrol vehicles. Overall the number of vehicles does not increase. Seth A. Grossman asked why we need 3 patrol vehicles? The concern is do we need three vehicles. Chief Kurylka responded that if one breaks down, you have back up. You also have to consider that every vehicles is being used during town events ie parades, town events, Halloween and addressing the speeding. Seth A. Grossman asked if we need 3 patrol vehicles. Chief Kurylka stated that he absolutely needs 3 patrol vehicles. He has the Expedition and probably in a year or so he will have to get rid of it. It is not set up to be a patrol vehicle. Brad Myhre noted that the new vehicles are more energy efficient, they are 6 cylinder motors which will help us with fuel consumption. Chief Kurylka noted that they are also all wheel drive. Mayor Cooper noted that when Chief presented his budget, it cost us \$6,700.00 for maintenance for the fleet. His estimation is that we would save \$2,200.00 a year by replacing the older vehicle. Robb Arent noted that it is equal to four months of payments. He asked that if we get a new car that if a certain officer retires, we get someone as diligent. Chief Kurylka stated that he already has someone in mind. He added that things are not moving as quickly as the officer thought anyway. He also has some programs he is looking to do when the weather breaks. Brad Myhre noted that with the FEMA reimbursement, we are getting back a considerable amount of money for wear and tear on the vehicles. In the past, former Mayor Sworen was effective in putting in those numbers and making sure that we were able to offset the vehicle costs. He explained to Brad Myhre how to do that. We will be getting a chunk of money back which will help offset the cost of the new vehicle. Chief Kurylka noted that he is conscienceous about their budget and he makes sure he does not go over budget. Responding to Seth A. Grossman, Chief Kurylka noted that if we switch out vehicles, the maroon unmarked car is the next oldest and that will be another 3 years until we have to replace that one and the Durango another 5 years or more.

#### **Approval of new park reservation form**

Brad Myhre noted there is a copy of the old form and new form in your packet. He spoke with Cathy Leach and the committee did not get a chance to look at it. She did look at it. She thought it would be appropriate to have a line in their that says whoever is using the park should be responsible for bagging their trash so it is easier for DPW. She also thought a check off or some mechanism to alert public works when they had to pick up. He understands that every Monday they do the trash at the parks and downtown. Robb Arent noted that they do it at the end of the week during the

summer. Chief Kurylka commented that he would not have problem with forwarding the park reservation form to public work when approval is given. We open and close the park on the weekend. Mayor Cooper stated that you could add a box that says that applicant understands they are responsible for bagging their trash and putting it near the receptacles. Chief will have his secretary amend the form. Responding to Chief Kurylka, Brenda Shepherd noted that there was a separate page of the application that has the rules and regulations, hours of the park, bagging of trash, etc. Brad Myhre stated that if there is a separate sheet, we can include it with the application because the applicant on this form will agree to the rules and regulations. Council approved the new parks reservation form with the changes discussed. Mayor Cooper stated that the second page of the application will become part of this application.

Brad Myhre asked Chief Kurylka what was the biggest challenge facing Frenchtown right now from your department? Chief Kurylka stated that due to the volume and increase in motor vehicles traffic, motor vehicle enforcement goes up. He looks at the volume of traffic going over the river bridge at 67,400 both ways. Brad Myhre stated that it is interesting when you look at the statistics, River Road, Bridge and Race Streets are number 1. Chief Kurylka stated that it could be crosswalks, parking or cell phones. When you see the increase in calls, it comes from the cad system from the County which includes walking complaints or patrol with contact on the streets. He attributes a lot to the increase in traffic. The domestic violence is down he believes due to better policing at the Commons. Property owners who rent are taking better control of the renters. Brad Myhre noted that when the economy goes down, a lot of municipalities see a spike in break ins and theft. Chief Kurylka noted that there are certain groups still active throughout the county. He wishes he could tell you how much gets prevented because someone is being seen. He referred to one incident that prevented a theft because he was present. It was closing time at the old Kerr gas station and he was sitting there. A half hour later, he got a call to back up Milford for an armed robbery in progress at the Cooley gas station. When he got there, it was the two guys he saw drive by him at the Kerr gas station. The two guys told him that they were going to rob the Kerr gas station but we saw you there. He knows by being there, it prevented that robbery.

Chief Kurylka stated that he hopes to have fireworks for National Night Out. They need \$5,000.00. He and Robert Winfield are meeting with the Lions Club. Michele Liebttag asked if he has the same concern with the dog park and fireworks in that location? Chief Kurylka responded in the affirmative. He stated that he loves animals and has dogs of his own. His concern is the policing of such. He hopes it does not fall back on him. Responding to Mayor Cooper, Chief noted that there are times when they have to tell people about their dogs at the park but he does not want to have to go into a fenced in area and policing that.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Approval of Roving Nature Day Camp program at Frenchtown Park from July 8- August 2, 2013 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.**

On motion by Robb Arent, seconded by Brad Myhre and carried by unanimous favorable Roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved the Roving Nature Day Camp program at Frenchtown Park from July 8- August 2, 2013 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

##### **Approval of the 2013 Animal Control Contract with Hunterdon Humane**

Mayor Cooper asked that we table this again for this meeting. Both the advise from Tadhgh Rainey of the County Health Department at the last meeting and comments that Council has made, we want to be able to make sure that Frenchtown has an animal control officer who can respond when there is a problem animal in town. We know that Hunterdon Humane will not do that. Brad Myhre noted that one night, he received a call about a stray dog and was told you are the police commissioner you deal with it. Thankfully, the person kept the dog overnight but he did called the Hunterdon Humane and they said they could not send someone for a day because they did not have power. It was during Sandy. It was put on Facebook and quickly resolved. The issue is if they do not respond, what do you do with the dog or a rabid animal. Robb Arent noted that it is about a half a dozen a year. He believes we are under covered for what we pay for animal control.

Robb Arent asked if the Council could adopt a resolution that outside presentations to the Council be limited to 20 minutes. We had two lengthy presentations last meeting. Seth A. Grossman recommended limiting comments to 5 minutes. Brad Myhre stated that he was always told that it is important to be respectful to those who dedicate funding to you.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Dog Park**

Attorney Cruz noted that he started working on the dog park and prepared a notice consistent with the regulations that has to be published. He asked Cathy Leach to develop a time line for deadlines for placing notices. Cathy Leach is working on that. After that he will work on the lease agreement.

### **Kingwood Avenue Sewer Pipe project**

Mayor Cooper noted that we will need to adopt a budget before we start the project.

### **Creek Road Project**

Brad Myhre noted that they are working with FEMA on this project. They went through another round of revisions on the way they want us to draft it. We are at the point where they will accept the project for funding. They will fund 75%. Mayor Cooper added that there have been changes with the people involved and each time they wanted the proposal to be change. Brad Myhre commented that we have the funding source established. Mayor Cooper noted that Engineer Burr has reached out to EWP which helped us with the Nishisakawick Creek project. Possibly, we can get money to off set the 25% we have to pay.

### **Vultures on Kingwood Avenue**

Mayor Cooper reported that there was 25 people that came out on Saturday about the vultures. We talked about a few thing to do going forward. We will map the locations where the vultures are roosting. Tadhgh Rainey from the County Health Department will provide that information to the USDA. They will come to see what they will do. They are looking at the end of April to try to put balloons filled with helium and string them at the same time which was effective elsewhere without having to resort to paying \$450.00 for a dead vulture to hang upside down in one tree.

### **2013 Budget**

Mayor Cooper noted that we have a couple of things to clean up. We are actually in pretty good shape. He spoke with Warren Korecky yesterday a couple of times. The Administrative committee

developed the budget sort of blind because we did not know exactly what our funding was going to be. We came in close to what we have available to us. The budget as adjusted by Council last time comes within \$15,000.00 of the spending cap, operating cap, and \$28,000.00 within the 2% tax levy cap. There are two areas that we did not consider that will help us cut into that a lot. The insurance contribution by the employees gets counted as a revenue source. We are estimating it at about \$10,000.00 or \$11,000.00 this year. As you know, there is an increase in the rate employees have to contribute is increasing as of July 1, 2013. Depending on the salary and medical package, the percentage will increase by half. Last year, it was \$8,658.00 and this year, we are estimating \$10,000.00 or \$11,000.00. Responding to Michele Liebttag, Brad Myhre noted that the health insurance appropriations is a single line item. Responding to Robb Arent, Mayor Cooper stated that it functions to reduce our expense. He will ask Warren Korecky. Robb Arent asked where the revenue from Lambertville is put in the budget. He will also find that out. Robb Arent noted that on sheet 10, fire prevention bureau fees, it shows that last year we received \$1,362.50. Brad Myhre noted that this figure is the local portion. The state portion averages around \$5,000.00. Robb Arent stated that it looks like we did not get the state portion last year. He wants to make sure the revenues are coming in. Brad Myhre responded that we will have to check on that. He added that as to the sale of municipal assets, we can auction the police car but he does not know what that number will be. Brad Myhre commented that he wanted to speak with Warren Korecky about the FEMA reimbursements.

Mayor Cooper noted that the other item that will offset is not in here and that is any increase in ratables that we would have experienced, added assessments. We should have gotten that number from January. The number on the website is from last year. Brenda Shepherd sent an email to the tax assessor to get that number. Last year, it was a little over \$2,000. If it is that amount plus the health benefits contribution made by the employees, it bring us within \$5,000.00 of the 2% cap for operating expenses. It also brings us within \$17,000.00 with regard to the tax levy cap. One thing we need to do is to find \$5,000 to cut out of the budget to bring us to the 2% spending cap and the levy cap within \$12,000.00. One place we think we can make an adjustment is under the police salaries and wages on sheet 15. The salary for 2013 was proposed \$285,000.00. We discussed with the Chief how we can go forward with making Jennifer Terepka full time and keeping costs down. We will increase her salary by 2% and by doing that we save \$5,000.00. That will bring it to \$280,000.00.

Mayor Cooper spoke about the surplus and reserve for uncollected taxes. We had more surplus this year than we did last year. Brad Myhre noted that the surplus is on Sheet 4. Last year, it was \$147,802.00 and this year we are going in with \$210,000.00. Mayor Cooper noted that the actual surplus for 2012 was \$279,000.00. What Warren Korecky did was use \$210,000.00 to fund this budget. Last year, we ended with \$184,000.00 in surplus and we used \$147,802.00 which meant that we did not use \$36,000.00 out of the 2011 budget to fund the 2012 budget. We have \$58,000.00 of unallocated 2012 surplus that we could apply to the 2013 budget. If you did not want to make any further changes to this budget, we could use \$12,000.00 out of that surplus figure and increase the line on sheet 4 to \$222,000.00. That would keep us at cap for both the tax levy and spending cap. That would allow us to have \$45,000.00 going into 2014 that we did not use. We did bettering tax collection this year than in the past by 2%. However, because we used a 3 year average technique last year, we no longer have that option because the low number was the three year out and because

we increased tax collection so the reserve is more this year. That is where we are with the budget. If we were to make no further changes and we get these other items straightened out, Warren Korecky says we can introduce the budget on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Cooper announced that he will not be at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> but the Council could still introduce the budget. Attorney Cruz noted that you will need 4 votes to introduce the budget.

Robb Arent commented that the numbers that the Mayor shared with us at the last meeting where 20% of the public works salaries come out of the sewer budget and 34% of the office staff comes out of the sewer account, along with benefits he has calculated it to be approximately \$65,000.00. He added that based on the number of sewer units, everyone with a sewer unit paid \$75.00 more to fund the Borough's salaries. We have a disparage issue because we have people that are not on sewers. We are scheduled for a \$40 increase this year for sewer and \$40.00 next year and so on. William Sullivan commented that there is a portion of the sewer that all of these people do. Is there a way to right these numbers? Brenda Shepherd collects sewer taxes when the sewer collector is not in and the public works also does time in the sewer plant when needed. Robb Arent noted that he excluded the sewer collector's salary in the \$65,000.00 figure. Mayor Cooper noted that he spoke to Warren Korecky about this today and we have to understand a few things. Frenchtown is not anywhere close to being unique by having sewer fees help pay for municipal services. As budgeting gets tight, it is something that municipalities are known to do and can do. You remember a couple of years ago, we appropriated \$100,000.00 from the sewer account to fund the municipal budget. This is doing the same thing but a little at a time. This has been going on a long time. He agrees with Robb Arent and this is something that needs to be addressed. However, we have a whole neighborhood, the same neighborhood that is not paying into sewer and is paying for road maintenance, etc. William Sullivan stated that the Borough puts a lot of effort into their roads. He added that the county road he lives on does not put as much effort into their road as we put in other roads. Responding to William Sullivan, we have these trade offs in equalities across the budgets. William Sullivan noted that we are getting ready to burden the rate payer and it is time we address it. Brad Myhre stated that he thinks a lot of the people on those roads would like to have the ability to be on sewer. Mayor Cooper stated that at some point this year, we may find out how to go about doing that. Brad Myhre added that Robb Arent makes a big point. Are we running in the most effective manner with the new plant? Robb Arent stated that he would feel better if there was some way of shifting some of that \$65,000.00 burden off of the sewer. William Sullivan agreed that the Council should start the discussion and because the sewer is starting to cost a great deal more, we start keeping more of the sewer money in the sewer plant. Mayor Cooper asked for suggestions. Michele Liebttag also stated that it needs to be addressed and we need to try decreasing without seriously impacting the budget. Brad Myhre added that he does not know if it will be addressed in this year's budget. William Sullivan commented that by keeping the 2% cap, it does limit our abilities to shift money but we should start looking at it. Seth A. Grossman commented that we need to look to see if there is any possibility to move in this direction this year but in future budgets thinking ahead. The way we will offset revenue from the sewer plants is to see if we have other revenue sources. Mayor Cooper stated that going forward, we need to think about it. Responding to Seth A. Grossman, Robb Arent noted that we have been working on something for about a year and a half. Alexandria came to us about the retirement home on Route 513. The retirement home on Route 513 would like to expand their facilities by adding a lot of buildings and more beds, etc. It is services that we need for this area. They can not do it using septic. Their only option was to consider putting in their own

wastewater treatment plant which is cost prohibitive. Because that property is adjacent to the Borough of Frenchtown and within 150 feet from our current sewer line, we have been working with Ken Bogan from the County to expand our sewer service area to incorporate that one single property in Alexandria. They are looking to put in a 100 bed facility and not put in their own treatment plant. We have been waiting to see if we can get our sewer service area extended to include them. We would get a nice check. Our ordinance already states any part of the sewer service area outside of the Borough, pays rates at 1 ½ times the current rate. Mayor Cooper noted that we have been told by the Mayor of Alexandria that they will act on a resolution at their next meeting to formalize the process and have this go to the County and move this forward. There is a good likelihood that this will be another source of revenue for sewer. Mayor Cooper added that Robb Arent made this happen. He asked everyone to individually take a look at the budget to see if we can identify one or another place where we can cut the budget a little more. We agree to figure out a way to relieve some of the pressure off the sewer budget going forward. We will have to request another budget extension and introduce in May. Mayor Cooper noted that by moving the additional \$12,000 out of surplus, it will bring us within the 2% cap. As to the budget line items, Brad Myhre asked that if we move in that direction and shift \$10,000.00 into the current budget from the sewer budget, how will we stay within the cap and how does it work? We will have to ask the auditor. Mayor Cooper stated that if you increase the budget to include salaries currently being paid out of the sewer, you will have to reduce other areas of the budget to stay within the cap. Brad Myrhe expressed concerned that if you give up a base line in the budget, how do you get it back. Mayor Cooper stated that we have to be diligent in finding an area in the budget that we can cut and leave it cut. Subsequent to discussion, the Council agreed to meet on the 17<sup>th</sup> to discussion the issue further. Attorney Cruz reminded the Council about adopting the COLA ordinance.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Cooper noted that we have heard from Sonja Michell earlier in the meeting.

Mayor Cooper noted that there is correspondence from the Green team. They want to run a rummage sale in Kingwood Park. They would split the proceeds of the rummage sale with Kingwood. Council agreed.

Attorney Cruz reported that as to River Mills, he spoke with Thomas Smith, Esq., who advised him that Geatano DeSapio, Esq., was now the attorney for River Mills and that Mr. Smith provided his files on River Mills to Mr. DeSapio the morning of the Council meeting and that Mr. DeSapio would be contacting him. Hopefully, that will move things along. In reference to the offer that the Borough had made to George Michael to act as mediator with Mr. Stout, they said we would get a response to that.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Robb Arent, and second by William Sullivan to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. Motion carried by favorable voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Brenda Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk