

**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 12, 2012 and the Express Times on January 12, 2012; 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 June 6, 2012.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Cooper asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present for the Meeting:

Robb Arent  
Cathy Leach  
Michele Liebttag  
Brad Myhre  
William Sullivan

Absent from Meeting:

Seth A. Grossman

Attorney Paul Rizzo, and Borough Clerk, Brenda S. Shepherd, were present for the meeting. 5 members of the public were also present.

**OATH OF OFFICE – Michele Liebttag**

Mayor Cooper noted that there will be a ceremonial swearing in for Michele Liebttag as she has already taken an Oath of Office for Common Council. Municipal Clerk Brenda Shepherd administered the Oath of Office to Michele Liebttag. Michele Liebttag accepted her oath of office.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

On motion by Brad Myhre and seconded by Cathy Leach, the Mayor and Common Council approved to open the public comment session by favorable voice vote.

Skye Van Saun noted that there have been a lot of complaints about the towpath. The Park System put signs on every tree that says "do not litter". She wants to see the pristine view of the river. Cathy Leach stated that they are posted around Fourth Street and Sixth Street. It is to remind residents that they can not dump yard debris there. Mayor Cooper stated that it has been a problem for a long time and we are hoping to get it resolved in a friendly way. As to the area along the towpath next to Railroad Avenue, Skye Van Saun noted that people have planted bushes and are mowing that area. She spoke to Mike Reino about the pooling in that area which has made an island. No one explained who is suppose to take care of those areas. If people are using it as their property, they might think they can dump there.

Skye Van Saun also stated that she is impressed with the police coverage out there. She expects that her taxes will go down because of all the tickets being issued.

Jonathon Perlstein of Oasis Realty noted that he is making a good faith effort to catch up on taxes

and is doing the best he can. He added that the Shale Cliff project is still alive. Mr. Perlstein stated that the Mayor has been helpful explaining the project on the Nishissackwick Creek. It effects his property. He does not know where his piece of property falls into the project. He understands that the Council has to act tonight. Mayor Cooper responded that it is an evolving project because there were only rough estimates done by Linda Peterson and Engineer William Burr. We will discuss it and make a decision this evening as to whether we will go ahead. The decision has to be made tonight because of the narrow window of time to get the project done.

On motion by Cathy Leach and second by Brad Myhre, the Mayor and Common Council approved to open 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 Brad Myhre, seconded by Robb Arent and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved the consent agenda approving the minutes of the May 16, 2012 regular Council meeting and resolution #2012-67 & #2012-68 as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 67**

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION  
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87)**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality where such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Frenchtown, in the county of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue, Delaware Valley Municipal Alliance Grant, in the budget of the year 2012 in the sum of \$18,400.00 which item is now available as revenue from the County of Hunterdon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$18,400.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Delaware Valley Municipal Drug Alliance Grant"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of a revenue from the County of

Hunterdon in the amount of \$18,400.00.

Attest:

June 6, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Warren E. Cooper

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012 - 68**

**APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION  
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87)**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality where such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Frenchtown, in the county of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue, Clean Communities Grant, in the budget of the year 2012 in the sum of \$4000.00 which item is now available as revenue from the State of New Jersey, Solid Waste Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$4000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Clean Communities Grant"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of a revenue from the State of New Jersey, Solid Waste Administration in the amount of \$4000.00.

Attest:

June 6, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Warren E. Cooper

Borough Clerk

**Restoration of Nishissackwick Creek**

Mayor Cooper stated that as you know we are in a position to take advantage of funding from the federal program to help pay for 75% of the restoration project for the Nishissackwick as well as 8.75% of the engineering costs. There is a letter from the Borough engineer of his estimates based on Linda Peterson's estimates of construction costs. Engineer William Burr, Linda Peterson, Representative from the EWP project and himself met with representatives from the NJDEP. The meeting went well. Engineer William Burr added that the issue is that the project has to be completed by October. In reference to the time for permit review, we were pleased with the NJDEP response. The NJDEP agreed with the project and gave us verbal consent that they would review the permit application within 20 days which would allow us to move forward to get project done. Linda Peterson added that the NJDEP did not give us a pass on engineering requirements. We do not have to have a hydrological analysis. You still need your engineer to do all the documents, notifications and permit fees. William Burr stated that we still have to submit reports normally required in an application. Responding to Mayor Cooper, Engineer Burr stated that his email is accurate. Mayor Cooper stated that nothing has changed in the discussion on what could be done. He met with 4 property owners along the Nishissackwick and they are financially and philosophically willing to contribute to the cost of doing the work. We are talking about 30 to 50 thousand dollars from those property owners. We will be in a good position to keep the cost to taxpayers as low as possible. It would be around \$160,000.00 that we would have to bond for. Bonding estimates are not included in those costs.

Cathy Leach noted that Mayor Cooper has verbal agreements with some of the property owners. We are looking at 30 to 50 thousand dollars from property owners based on the recognition that we will not come to them with a bill in 90 days. William Sullivan understood that the Borough will not ask them for anything greater than the value increase of their land. Mayor Cooper stated that it is only if we impose a special assessment. He is hoping to get buy ins from the property owners and not have to do a special assessment. Robb Arent commented that Repair 2 should not be the Borough responsibility to fix the utility pole. Mayor Cooper stated that JCP&L will move the utility pole. Site 2 downstream of the footbridge is not eligible for federal funding under the program. Everything in site 1 or 2 is essentially the park. Downstream of Route 12 through downstream of Route 29 is essential property owners and he spoke with the property owners of those area. William Sullivan added that there is a portion of the state park in that area. Brad Myhre stated that the Borough could forego the sediment below the bike path. Up from the bike path would be ongoing maintenance. Robb Arent commented that the more expensive section is site five. The biggest part of that would benefit 2 property owners. Mayor Cooper stated that if we could get 75% for those two properties, we are talking about 31 or 32 thousand dollars. We do not know if we will get that. Robb Arent stated that he is hesitant to commit to that much money to do that portion. Mayor Cooper commented that we are unlikely to find 75% of money at another point to do any work. Unfortunately, the project from a public relations perspective is invisible. Jonathon Perlstein commented that he has signed up not for his own personal gain because this would not improve my project at all but to make Frenchtown better. Under his NJDEP permit no one is allow in the back of his property, the last 3 acres. He is only allowed to improve the 1 acre parking lot. The DEP wants

to make the 3 acres part of the aquifer.

Linda Peterson noted that now that this documentation of the damage caused by Hurricane Irene has been documented, money is only available for that damage. If more damage happens, you will not get funding. That is important to know. Brad Myhre stated that there is no guarantee that the 75% match will be there in the future. We should offer the opportunity to the residents to get the 75% match and we want to repair our park. We will lose the bank of the park. Mayor Cooper expressed concern with the upstream portion because of the scouring of the banks which will not stop. The approach at the culvert is at a severe angle and was the same situation in Alexandria Township that has caused the collapse of the bike path. We need to be proactive. The funds are available now. Subsequent to a brief discussion as to the benefit to property owners, Cathy Leach noted that if we exclude a portion of the properties, the effectiveness of the project will be as effective. Brad Myhre noted that the stream is down to bedrock, the vegetation is compromised and the stream will continue to widen. That section on Route 29 backs up to the post office with a lot of debris and it affects everyone. Mayor Cooper stated that if it displaces north or south, it could undermine the bikepath. Even though we do not own it, our residents derive a benefit from it and a lot of people use it. It is something that we ought to consider. Robb Arent stated that he has confidence in the Mayor and in the property owners who said they will be willing to work out payments to the town. We will need to sign a damage report and estimated cost of construction and formally request USDA funding based on the Engineer's estimate. Linda Peterson stated that once you request funding and it is approved, at that point, she will do a performance time schedule because you will have to work very quickly. Your engineering consultant has to get plans done quickly. Engineer Burr responded that he can get it done in the time frame as long as the NJDEP adheres to their 20 day review period. Responding to Council, Engineer Burr stated that he will prepare a request for proposals, bid package and advertisement. The schedule included time for the bid packet. Linda Peterson added that there is the assurance of land rights, construction easements, and permission for town to perform work. That has to be a formal agreement and you will have to talk to your legal department for the construction easements. Mayor Cooper noted that there is a history of a difficult relationship with the borough and a property owner. It could be a deal killer. It can affect one reach. All costs would go down, there would be less surveying, less engineering, and it would reduce everything. Linda Peterson stated that you would not get paid for that portion. Robb Arent commented that most of the property owners will be happy. On motion by William Sullivan, seconded by Robb Arent and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council authorized the Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to go forward with the restoration of the Nishissackwick project and the EWP funding. Linda Peterson stated that they will help with the process. Cultural resources will be taken care of from our agency. We need to start that process and hope it will not be a deal killer. She will keep everyone apprised. The Mayor and Council thanked Linda Peterson and Engineer Burr. The Mayor signed the documents.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution #2012-69 – ABC License Renewal – Frenchtown Inn**

**Resolution #2012-70 - ABC License Renewal - Frenchtown Wine & Liquors, LLC**

**Resolution #2012-71 – ABC License Renewal - Frenchtown American Legion Home Assoc.**

**Resolution #2012-72- ABC License Renewal - The National Hotel**

On motion by Robb Arent, seconded by Brad Myhre and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved resolutions #2012- 69, #2012-70, #2012-71 and #2012-72 as follows:

**BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN**

**Resolution 2012-69**

WHEREAS, the Plenary Retail Consumption Application of the Frenchtown Inn is complete in all respects; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all Statutory Regulations and Local Government ABC laws and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has disclosed, and the issuing authority has reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in licensed business.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Application of the Frenchtown Inn for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption License #1011-33-002-007 for the year 2012-2013 be granted.

Dated: June 6, 2012

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Warren E. Cooper, Mayor  
Borough of Frenchtown

ATTEST:

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Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk

**BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN**

**Resolution 2012-70**

WHEREAS, the Plenary Retail Distribution Application of Frenchtown Wine & Liquors, LLC. is complete in all respects; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all Statutory Regulations and Local Government ABC laws and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has disclosed, and the issuing authority has reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in licensed business; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Application of the Frenchtown Wine & Liquors, LLC. renewal of Plenary Retail Distribution License #1011-44-001-007 for the year 2012-2013 be granted.

Dated: June 6, 2012

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Warren E. Cooper, Mayor  
Borough of Frenchtown

ATTEST:

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Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk

## **BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN**

### **Resolution 2012-71**

WHEREAS, the Club License Application of the Fidelity Post 113 of the American Legion is complete in all respects, including submission of the Club Membership list; and

WHEREAS, the officers and directors are qualified to be licensed according to all Statutory Regulations and Local Government ABC laws and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Club maintains all records required by NJAC 13:2-88 "Special Events Open to Non-Club Members" and NJAC 13:8-12 "True Book of Accounts for Receipts and Disbursements".

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Application of the Fidelity Post 113 of the American Legion for renewal of Club License #1011-31-004-001 for the year 2012-2013 be granted.

Dated: June 6, 2012

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Warren E. Cooper, Mayor  
Borough of Frenchtown

ATTEST:

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Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk

**BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN**

**Resolution 2012-72**

WHEREAS, the Plenary Retail Consumption, Broad Package Privilege Application of the National Hotel, LLC is complete in all respects; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all Statutory Regulations and Local Government ABC laws and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has disclosed, and the issuing authority has reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in licensed business.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Application of the Frenchtown National Hotel, Inc. for renewal of Plenary Retail Consumption, Broad Package Privilege License #1011-32-003-011 for the year 2012-2013 be granted.

Dated: June 6, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
Warren E. Cooper, Mayor  
Borough of Frenchtown

ATTEST:

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Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk

**Resolution #2012-73 – Resolution in support of armed services men and women**



Mayor Cooper noted that this resolution will not be addressed this evening.

**ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance #716 – 2012 Salary and Wage Ordinance (Introduction)**

Mayor Cooper noted that this ordinance will not be addressed this evening and will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Ordinance #717 – Amendment to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Ordinance (Introduction)**

Mayor Cooper noted that this ordinance will change the hours during which liquor will be sold in the Borough of Frenchtown to match hours under state law. On motion by Brad Myhre, seconded by Robb Arent and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved the introduction of Ordinance #717 as follows:

**EXPLANATION:** This Ordinance amends Section 6-4 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Frenchtown titled “Regulations of Licenses” to change the hours during which liquor may be sold.

**ORDINANCE #717**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6-4 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN TITLED “REGULATIONS OF LICENSES” TO CHANGE THE HOURS DURING WHICH LIQUOR MAY BE SOLD.**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Borough of Frenchtown Common Council, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Section 6-4 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Frenchtown titled “Regulations of Licenses” is hereby amended as follows:<sup>1</sup>

**6-4 REGULATIONS OF LICENSES.**

**6-4.1 Hours of Sale.** No licensee shall sell, serve, deliver, or allow, permit or suffer the sale, service or delivery of any alcoholic beverages or permit the consumption of any alcoholic beverages on licensed premises between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. (Monday through Sunday).

**6-4.2 Intentionally omitted.**

**6-4.3 Intentionally omitted.**

**6-4.4 Exception to Established Hours for Special Events.** An exception is made to subsection 6-4.1 above to allow sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages when application is made to and approved by the Frenchtown Borough

**Deleted: on Weekdays**

**Deleted: on weekdays**

**Deleted: 1**

**Deleted: Saturday**

**Deleted: (1982 Code §34-1)**

**Deleted: Sundays; Sales Restricted to Restaurants and Dining Rooms.** No licensee shall sell, serve, deliver or allow, permit or suffer the sale, service or delivery of any alcoholic beverages or allow the consumption of any alcoholic beverages on licensed premises from 2:00 a.m. on Sunday to 6:00 a.m. on Monday, except that alcoholic beverages may be sold and served in dining rooms in restaurants, as defined in N.J.S.A. 33:1t, with meals on Sundays, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 10:00 p.m. (1982 Code § 34-1)

**Deleted: New Year's Eve.**

**Deleted: Provisions of subsection 6-4.1 shall not apply on December 31, when New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday. On that day alcoholic beverages may be served in licensed premises from 10:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m. of the following day. (1982 Code § 34-2; Ord. No. 530)**

Council by a group or organization for a special event or function scheduled to be held on a Sunday. The hours for sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at a special event or function so authorized may be set by the Frenchtown Borough Council as part of its approval.

Deleted: (1982 Code § 34-2; Ord. No. 530 §1)

**6-4.5 Sale of Winery Products; Offering Samples of Wine; Hours of Sale on Sundays.** Licensees in possession of a license pursuant to N.J.S.A. 33:1-11.2(c) shall be allowed to offer samples of wine products for the express purpose of sale of wine products in original bottle or container for consumption off the premises. These samples may be offered in amount of no larger than one (1) fluid ounce. No one patron shall be allowed to consume more than three (3) such samples in one day. These activities of sampling on premises will be allowed during the hours established in subsection 6-4.1.

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Deleted: and on Sunday between the hours of 12:00 noon and 10:00 p.m. (Ord. No. 522 § 34-2A)

**6-4.6 Hours of Sale of Malt Alcoholic Beverages.** Licensees shall be authorized to sell malt alcoholic beverages in the original bottle or can containers for consumption off the premises during the hours established in subsection 6-4.1.

Deleted: between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 12:00 noon and 10:00 p.m. on Sundays. (1982 Code § 34-3)

**6-4.7 Sales to Certain Persons.** No licensee or employee of a licensee shall sell, serve or deliver, directly or indirectly, any alcoholic beverages to any intoxicated person or person under the legal age, or permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages on any licensed premises by any of the above-named persons.

Deleted: (New)

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**6-4.8 Closing Provisions.** During the hours when the sale, service, delivery or consumption of alcoholic beverages on licensed premises is prohibited, all licensed premises must remain closed for business except for the sale, service delivery or consumption of food and/or non-alcoholic beverages. A licensed premises which remains open when the sales, service, delivery or consumption of alcoholic beverages on licensed premises is prohibited, shall close to the public that portion of the licensed premises which is utilized for the sale, service, delivery or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Deleted: (New)

Section 2. Severability. If any portion, paragraph, clause, sentence or phrase of this Ordinance is determined to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication of Notice of Final Passage in the manner provided by law.

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Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Shepherd, RMC, Borough Clerk

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval for Frenchtown Fire Department to hold coin tosses on 6/9/12-6/10/12 and 7/14/12-7/15/12**

Brad Myhre noted that Chief Kurylka said that June 9th and 10th would be okay but to hold up on June 14th and 15<sup>th</sup>. He needs to check on the logistic of Bastille Day. We have a meeting in 2 weeks and can address it. Brad Myhre added that Ansi vests has to be worn. Mayor Cooper asked Clerk Shepherd to write a letter to the Fire Department to remind them that the Ansi vests have to be worn. The Council consented.

### **Long Range Facilities Review Committee – Frenchtown Board of Education**

Mayor Cooper noted that the Frenchtown Board of Education wants to establish a long range committee. They would like a Frenchtown Borough Council member to sit on that committee. They will meet once a month for 15 months. Subsequent to a brief discussion, William Sullivan volunteered to sit on that committee and reach out to President Kate Nugent.

### **Approval of the Morris Dancing in Frenchtown on July 31, 2012 at 3:00 pm**

Mayor Cooper stated that the email mentioned Front Street and Bridge Street but the schedule shows Harrison Street and Bridge Street. The event will take place on Front Street. Robb Arent requested that they make sure to coordinate with Transbridge Bus so we do not have issues. Council consented to the event.

### **Approval of 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Block Party on Upper Fifth Street for Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Council consented.

### **Approval of photo shoot for Belk Department Store on June 13 and 14 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm in the downtown area &**

### **Approval of photo shoot for Bass Shoes from June 26 through June 28 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in the downtown area**

Mayor Cooper noted that Frenchtown has been known as a photo location. We have gotten two requests for the opportunity to use the downtown area for photo shoots. One is the weekend of June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and the other is June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. Brad Myhre noted that he talked to Chief Kurylka and he will work with them. The logistics need to be worked out. He thought it was great and he will make himself available to help. Robb Arent noted that we have had them in the past. The Council consented.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **NJDOT 2012 grant applications rejected**

Mayor Cooper stated that we do not have any official word as to why our grants were rejected for Horseshoe Bend Road and Ridge Road. Brad Myhre noted that he spoke to Engineer Clerico and there will be discretionary funds for a second round of funding and the priority will be joint projects. His thought was that the Horseshoe Bend project would be a project that would likely qualify for funding. Engineer Robert Clerico is the engineer for Kingwood Township also. Brad Myhre added that he will reach out to the state delegation to support us. Mayor Cooper

noted that Engineer Clerico put the project together and he would continue to be the engineer for this project.

**No more motor oil collection at recycling center until further notice**

William Sullivan noted that he talked to Mike Reino and that it would be irresponsible of us to stop the motor oil collection. People may dump where we do not want them to dump. We can not collect anything right now. Mike Reino is active in getting the engineer to design a unit to store and collect used motor oil. After construction, we will continue to collect used motor oil.

**Borough website concerns**

Mayor Cooper noted that we have been getting requests with regard to individual business owners being allowed to advertise events on the Borough website. The Administrative committee has not been able to discuss it. If it is a Borough sponsored event, Borough sponsored entity or non profit organizations, they are allowed to put events on the calendar. Should we expand that to post individual business events? Cathy Leach asked about selling it to them. William Sullivan stated it would be good for the town but it cost money to collect fees. He does not think it is a problem to allow someone from town to post events. Cathy Leach stated that there is also a cost to manage that page. It is being done by volunteers. William Sullivan stated that you could limit to the number of words being posted. This could be linked all over. Brad Myhre added that it could be linked to the Business Associations home page. Mayor Cooper stated that he does not know how the Business Association feels about advertising for non members. Brad Myhre recommended bring it back to committee and consult with the Business Association. Robb Arent commented that members were allowed to post special events in his store. Certain businesses would advertise a special event every week. He would not want to clog up the Borough's website like that.

Mayor Cooper stated that the other issue is that we ground to a halt on updating on our website. He is looking for help. Cathy Leach will take on management of the calendar of events. She will meet with Dave Cahill. Cathy Leach stated that she will assume that responsibility as long as she is able. Mayor Cooper stated that we need to get the photos of Council on and we need to have contact information for Council if you want more than your email address.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Status Reports from Ad Hoc Committees**

**Safe Streets and Roads**

William Sullivan reported that they still need 2 business community members for the committee. Seth A. Grossman advised Bill previously that he would talk to the Business Association at their meeting. They will need more time.

**Sewer Advisory**

Robb Arent noted that as promised, the Sewer Advisory Committee has a report. The mandate of the committee was to review how we charge for sewer fees. Based on the ordinance, sewer is billed by units. Since we are building a Wastewater Treatment Plant and since we know what it will cost, is there a more equitable way to collect sewer fees? We believe there is a more

equitable way of doing it. A usage rate, 25% of the annual operating cost, would be a fixed fee and the remaining 75% will be pocket usage. Looking at usage, it would be calculated for the prior usage of November, December, January and February. These months do not include lawn watering, etc. It is more representative of the usage that ends up in the sewer system. It will be a blended rate. We have some residents, approximately 25, who are on private wells. The option is to use the average residential usage in their calculation or if they choose, they can install a water flow meter and report from those meters. The commercial business that is on a commercial well will be required to have an inflow meter. The commercial business is the Laundromat. He is not sure if there is a lot more laundry done in the summer. We can get information from the water company. They do a usage report. We have to determine how we want the report. Brad Myhre complimented the committee on a job well done. He asked if it is revenue neutral? Robb Arent responded that March of each year, the report will come in from NJ American Water Company. At that point, we will look at projected expenses for the coming year and then it will go into a calculation. It will be 105% of the project's operating cost less any amount we want to take from reserve. William Sullivan asked if it will cover infiltration expenses. Robb Arent responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Cooper complimented the committee on the great effort and great execution. This will benefit the residential and commercial units. It gives control over their expenses. Robb Arent stated that the committee would like to have a public event one Saturday this month. He will send a copy of the draft report to Dave Cahill for the website. He is hoping they will have historic data going back three years so we will have some idea of what a property owner's bill would look like. Secondly, they would like to defer starting this new billing system until 2014 which would be close to completion of the new plant. During the interim, we want to make sure the public is aware of things that they can do to minimize water usage, low flow shower heads, fixing leaks, etc. to make sure people have time to reduce water usage. Thirdly, there are additional recommendations from the committee. They would like to remain as a functioning committee. They would like to work with the Council March of every year to make recommendation of what fees should be and they would like to consider and make recommendations such as whether to create a sewer authority. It would be too hard to implement now. The usage from 2012-2013 would still allow us to do billing in 2013. Mayor Cooper commented that holding a public meeting is a terrific idea. It may cause the committee to make changes at that point and bring it back to Council. Robb Arent noted that the committee worked tirelessly to get the work done. He added that each year when we set rates, it will work backwards to calculate how much money we need, individual usage divided by total usage.

#### **Downtown Revitalization committee**

Mayor Cooper noted that the committee has met a number of times. We will get a report at the next meeting.

#### **PARKS/RECREATION/LIBRARY**

Cathy Leach reported that she received a copy of the library minutes from their last meeting. They had a discussion of opening the library on Saturdays and decided it was not worthwhile. The library offered Saturday hours for 8 years and it was staffed by board members. They believe the hours meet the need of the community. She will follow up and will also get

community input. Mayor Cooper asked when was the 8 year period? Brad Myhre stated that he would like to see documentation of the number of visitors.

Cathy Leach also reported that we received a piece of correspondence and request from Alissa Szeplaki who wants to hold a Bark Festival where people can bring their dogs. There will be raining, vendors, pet store vendors, etc. Frenchtown Riverdogs is not behind this event. The event will be July 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5 pm. Responding to Council, Cathy Leach noted that she does not have the sports calendar for the field. It does require a special permit. Brad Myhre stated that we can approve it as a Council. Responding to Council as to the liability, Attorney Rizzo stated that the liability rests with the owner of the dog. State statute makes owners strictly responsible. Cathy Leach noted that Alissa states that she would use the upper part of field for vendors, etc. and she will use the bottom to host games and contest. Council asked Cathy Leach to confirm that DVAA calendar and consented to the event if not in conflict with the DVAA calendar. Cathy Leach noted that she will have Alissa fill out the proper permit application.

As to the Frenchtown Riverdogs proposal, Cathy Leach stated that she has scheduled a public information session to give the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the proposal of the dog park at Old Frenchtown Field. It will be attended by the Frenchtown Board of Education and Dave Bailey. This public session will be June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm at Borough Hall. She will publish it on the website and will put something in the Hunterdon County Democrat.

Cathy Leach stated that she is researching the Mayor's wellness campaign, a formal program with the state.

Cathy Leach asked if the Business Association can use George Michael's field for Bastille Day? Mayor Cooper noted that he met with George Michael and he will start the project quicker than we thought. There is a backhoe in the field today.

#### **POLICE REPORT**

Brad Myhre reported that the Police Department as well as Brenda Shepherd and Daniele Lattig have been recertified in CPR and Defibrillator training.

Brad Myhre also reported that the Police Department is involved in the "Put it down" program for cell phones and the hazard of driving while on the cell phone. If you are stop for driving while using a cell phone, you have to complete and online test. If you do not complete the online test, you get a summons.

Brad Myhre commented that at the next monthly meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, they will have a presentation on the e-ticket and plate reader system. It is a flawless program and provides silver alerts, etc.

#### **STREETS/ROADS REPORT**

William Sullivan stated that there is a public works issue, leaf collection and lawn debris. The leaf machine is on its last leg. It is expensive to replace at approximately \$100,000.00. He would like to

pursue that we do not pick up leaves at all and have everyone bring it to the recycling center. The other option is to do what other towns do, provide paper bags and only pick up the paper bags. It would be much faster. He has a sample ordinance from Middlesex and Edison who do it this way. They sold bags and covered the expense of fees. We actually should be composting. Leaves are suppose to go back into the root system. William Sullivan reported that the leaf machine is down. For \$5,000.00, we can get it working again. Cathy Leach recommended looking into sharing equipment. William Sullivan responded that it is difficult because we would all need it at the same time. Collecting leaves takes a great deal of time by public works. We allow people to push the leaves into the stream, parking areas and roads. It is a safety issue as well as them washing into the storm system. It is a great expense. A few yeas ago, he proposed composting, etc. He would like the Council's input. Brad Myhre asked about the option of leasing equipment and getting away from owning the equipment. William Sullivan commented on the manpower it takes. It takes days. Every moment from September through December is sucking up leaves. If we have an early snow, it is a problem. Leaves are not supposed to come off the property. William Sullivan stated that if you can get the leaves to the curb, why can't you get it into a bag. Leaves should stay on the property. Five foot of leaves turns into 2 inches in the spring. Brad Myhre stated that we should look at how we utilize public works workers. Part time seasonal workers would be much cheaper. William Sullivan commented that we are looking at spending \$2,500.00 to keep the leaf machine running for one more seasons. Also, we are allowing people to cause a hazard and then we clean it up. As to the Middlesex and Edison programs, people had hard time at first but now they just do it. Robb Arent added that we have a green team working on Sustainable Jersey certification and we are operating two diesel engines when collecting leaves. William Sullivan stated that we can pick a spot for composting and every few years, move it around. He asked which direction the Council would like to go. There are several options, leasing equipment, bagging leaves, composting or bring leaves to the recycling center. He added that Mike Reino recommended that we go with the paper bag program. He has a sample ordinance. No debris is allows in the roads. If the leaves are not in a paper bag, there is a fine schedule involved. Responding to Council, William Sullivan stated that he will get a solid proposal. Mayor Cooper recommended that he reach out to John Mizen and Richard Reilly. They may be able to expand hours to take leaves directly to the community garden.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, a motion was made by Brad Myhre, and second by Robb Arent to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm. Motion carried by favorable voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brenda Shepherd, RMC  
Borough Clerk