

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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 noticed to the Hunterdon County Democrat on January 15, 2015 and the Express Times on January 15, 2015; 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 December 2, 2015.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Cooper asked everyone to stand for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Present for the Meeting:

John Hindman
Cathy Leach (arrived at 7:36 pm)
Michele Liebttag (arrived at 7:37 pm)
Jack Opdyke
Caroline Scutt
William Sullivan

Absent from Meeting:

Attorney Paul Rizzo, and Borough Clerk, Brenda S. Shepherd, were present for the Meeting. 17 members of the public were also present.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Emily Slack Day

A few month ago, Pastor Peter Mantell from the Frenchtown United Methodist Church, reached out to let us know there was a Frenchtown resident that was about to turn 100 years old. The Council discussed it and we wanted to make a big deal about it. We set aside time tonight to honor Emily Slack for the occasion of her 100th Birthday. Mayor Cooper noted that we have a few things to present to Emily Slack. He has asked Jack Opdyke also a life time long Borough resident, to read the Proclamation. Jack Opdyke read the following proclamation and presented it to Emily Slack:

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING DECEMBER 23, 2015 AS
EMILY SLACK DAY**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Frenchtown wishes to declare December 23, 2015 as EMILY SLACK DAY; and

WHEREAS, Emily Slack was born on December 23, 1915 and will be celebrating her 100th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Emily Slack has one child, Gail Zearfos; and

WHEREAS, Emily Slack has two grandchildren, Debra and Amy, with whom she enjoys spending time and traveling; and

WHEREAS, Emily Slack was born and raised in the Borough of Frenchtown and cares deeply about the community; and

WHEREAS, Emily Slack has been involved in the community for many years; and

WHEREAS, Emily Slack spent many years working as a local poll worker and also served as local bank manager in Milford; and

WHEREAS, Emily Slack continues to be active with the Frenchtown United Methodist Church where she has been a member for many years:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Frenchtown proclaim December 23, 2015 as EMILY SLACK DAY; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Frenchtown wishes to thank Emily Slack for her dedication and contribution to the community.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Proclamation be fully reflected in the meeting minutes of the Borough of Frenchtown and that a signed copy of this Proclamation be respectfully tendered to Emily Slack with our gratitude.

PROCLAIMED this 2nd day of December, 2015 by Mayor Warren E. Cooper.

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Everyone applauded.

Mayor Elect Brad Myhre also presented on behalf of Senator Michael Doherty, Assemblyman John DiMaio and Assemblyman Erik Peterson a joint Proclamation from the State Legislature celebrating Emily Slack's 100th Birthday and signed by the Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Speaker Vincent Prieto. Brad Myhre wished Emily Slack a Happy Birthday. Everyone applauded.

Emily Slack thanked everyone.

Emily Slack's daughter noted that Emily also enjoyed being Mrs. Santa Claus for many years and the kids loved her and she loved it.

Pastor Mantel noted that he has been the pastor for a short while but every moment of the 1 ½ years, he has been grateful for the opportunity to get to know Emily Slack and what a joy it is. Her mind is better than all of ours put together and speaks volumes about the beauty of Frenchtown.

The Council took a 10 minute break to celebrate with Emily Slack her birthday cake.

Mayor Cooper thanked everyone for celebrating with Emily.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Council approved to open the public comment session.

Henry Rey, Commander of the American Legion, noted that he sent a letter last November to change the Legion's sewer unit billing. He came to the Council meeting back in August and again in September. He filled out the sewer questionnaire form and handed it in. There is nothing that pertains to the Legion on that form. What will be done about it? Why are we classified at the maximum? Mayor Cooper responded that the designation and distinction for the number of units you are assigned to happened many years ago under a system that has existed in town for certainly as long as many of us here tonight can remember. We have a mechanism for you to challenge. We have been trying to figure out a way to revise the system for the entire town for several years. We thought we were on the verge to do that on a step by step process but because of the debt service on the new sewer plant, we were advised by the Ad Hoc Sewer Committee to hold off on doing that until we could be sure that the revenue generated by a new system would be enough to meet our obligations. We are hoping and everyone would like it to happen but we are not going put the Borough of Frenchtown at the risk of defaulting on loans until we are sure we will be able to meet our obligations. We have a new plant that we are not entirely sure what it will cost to operate. We know we will be using more chemicals and we do not know what the numbers will be. We will follow the advice of the sewer committee. Henry Rey stated that they will have to take it to court. It is a hardship for them.

Henry Rey commented that as to Creek Road, it does not cost much for a bucket of stone to fill the potholes. Do not try to grade the road. It does not work. The road is worse than it was 60 years ago. He does not know if anyone has travelled on it lately, but it tears cars apart. He asked that stones be put in the holes. William Sullivan responded that he will address the issue.

Sky Van Saun of Eighth Street noted that she wanted to thank Mayor Cooper for his years of service as the Mayor. She truly appreciated it as one of the constituents.

Liz Johnson of 19 Second Street stated that as promised she is here to ask for unredacted copies of the executive session minutes in which the tax abatement for George Michael was discussed. She has the redacted copies. A developer who has not adhered to a written contract, has approached the out going Mayor for some type of tax preferential treatment which has not been discussed. She is now specifically addressing Council on this. She has heard from the Mayor, the Borough Attorney and the Custodian of Record. She has not heard from Council. There are some concerns on Council members not being forth coming with residents. This man comes and we know that from the redacted copies of the minutes, the Mayor is concerned enough that he does not want to do any more business with this person but asked that any further negotiation be done with the son which is a different negotiation team. The minutes further say that the Council has decided not to act any further but we are somehow salivating enough at the offer that we are waiting for a new offer. Can someone please explain what it is that is being asked for and where Council stands on this? We are hearing that people are coming out of those sales offices and being told that they are not going to have to pay taxes for the next 5 years. If the developer is going to pay that tax bill, that is great. But, if he has a backroom deal going on, the taxpayers deserve to know that someone else is getting preferential tax treatment over us. As taxpayers, we have proven that we do not suffer fools here and if we cannot get answers, we will take appropriate action. She asked for someone on Council

to give her their summation, otherwise she will pursue the sunshine law violation. Mayor Cooper noted that it is customary for the Mayor to respond initially. Liz Johnson noted that the Mayor has responded to it and she is not satisfied with that response. She asked the Council President to respond. Mayor Cooper stated that her presentation was fraught with a quite a few misstatements. You received what was deemed appropriate under the law by the Borough's attorney and confirmed by the Borough's Custodian of Records. That is what this Council asks our Borough Attorney and Custodian of Record to do, to follow the law. If you feel that we have acted inappropriately, you have two recourses. The first recourse would be to file a complaint with the Government Records Council. He recommended that Liz Johnson do that because that will resolve the matter in a way that will not cost everybody money. Mayor Cooper added that if you are unsatisfied at that point, then you have a right to sue to get the documents or records by getting a court to force us to relinquish the documents. However, until that time comes, it is the opinion of the Records Custodian and the Borough Attorney, that we have already provided you with what can be provided under the law. Liz Johnson asked Council to address that issue of what was asked for by the developer or say that you will not. She put it to Council. Mayor Cooper asked if anyone on Council would like to address Ms. Johnson's question. He advised Council that at this time, anything that was discussed in executive session that has not been provided to Ms. Johnson has been deemed by the Borough Attorney and the Custodian of Record to be inappropriate to be provided to the public for the public's protection. Ms. Johnson stated that she has every intention to take this to the next step. Council did not respond. Ms. Johnson stated that she will take the appropriate action in court.

Caroline Scutt asked why are we taking this so far? What you received is where we stand. What you received is what we can provide. Mayor Cooper stated that what you have been provided is what we can provide.

Sky Van Saun of Eighth Street asked Mayor Cooper to explain the Borough's best interest. Mayor Cooper noted that what he is going to explain should not be construed to represent anything that has happened in executive session. It is a hypothetical situation. One exclusion to the open public records act is that Council can meet to discuss and to negotiate matters that involve contract negotiations. For example, if someone came to Council and wanted a special reduction in the sewer rent and Council was willing to discuss the matter in executive session and the conversation went back and forth and if we discussed how much of a break we would give. If that information were to become public, our ability to negotiate with the next individual who might come forward would be compromised by the content of the conversation especially if that content disclosed a difference of opinion and perhaps Council would be lobbied to make a change, etc. In that instance he is describing, the residents of the Borough of Frenchtown who are paying sewer rents would be put at risk because any adjustment made to one individual's sewer rate has to be made up somewhere else. So by not disclosing the content of those discussion whether or not there was any movement at all, it is very possible that the Council would discuss it and not take any action at all, However, the very fact that the information was made public, might give some individuals the notion that they could lobby certain individuals on the Council, that they had expectation that they could get a break or do a different strategy and it would put the rest of the Borough at risk. It would be a failure on the part of this Council to do its fiduciary duty responsibly.

James Meade of 611 Harrison Street stated that late last night the planning Board had an informal

presentation by the proposed developer of the Ceramics Plant. He is trying to get a sense of whether there is a timing for public input via the Planning Board or Council. There are few things he wanted to ask questions about and to verify specifically the density and comments by the traffic engineer. When is the public supposed to provide their input and in what form? Mayor Cooper noted that the public will have several opportunities for public input both before the Planning Board and before this body when and if the proposed redevelopment plan comes before Council. You can approach Planning Board at any time to make comments and ask questions. If it is on the Planning Board agenda, the Planning Board will allow the presentation to come forward and then the Planning Board Chairman will open up for public questions and comments. James Meade asked if there is a time line? William Sullivan responded that it is a process and the time line is set upon the builder as they prepare the information. If it is incomplete or if it is the will of the people that they want this, we may sent it back. It has to come from the Planning Board first. Mayor Cooper stated that the Planning Board and Council has identified the area as an area in need of redevelopment. Once the Planning Board gets through the process working out details with the developer on what the development will look like, then, the plan comes to the Borough Council and there is another opportunity for public input. James Meade noted that a prior ordinance was passed for 110 units. That approval would have to come to Council for approval. Mayor Cooper stated that there will be public input at Council as well.

Having no other public comments, the Mayor and Common Council closed the public comment session.

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 Jack Opdyke, seconded Michele Liebttag and carried by favorable voice vote, the Common Council approved the consent agenda approving the bills list of 12/1/15 as attached and Resolution #2015-112, Resolutions #2015-117 through #2015-121 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 -112

BLOCK 52, LOT 29 – REDUCTION IN BILLING

WHEREAS, the current owner of Block 52, Lot 29 purchased the property on March 24, 2014; and

WHEREAS, from the time the current owner purchased the property the property should have been billed one sewer unit; and

WHEREAS, the property for 2014 and the first half of 2015 was charged two units; and

WHEREAS, the property owner is eligible for a credit of \$170.00 for the second quarter of 2014, \$187.50 for the third quarter of 2014 and \$187.50 for the fourth quarter of 2014, resulting

in a credit of \$545.00; and

WHEREAS, the property owner is eligible for a credit of \$187.50 for the first quarter of 2015 and \$187.50 for the second quarter of 2015; and

WHEREAS, after the applying of the credits from 2014, there still remains a balance due to the Borough for the 3rd Quarter of 2015 in the amount of \$86.02 and for the 4th Quarter of 2015 in the amount of \$262.50.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the account has been adjusted for the aforementioned credits and no refund is due to the property owner as a result of \$348.52 still due and owing on the account for 2015.

WARREN E. COOPER, Mayor

Attest:

December 2, 2015

Brenda Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-117

2015 BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

WHEREAS, it appears that the unexpended balance in the following accounts will not be sufficient to pay outstanding bills:

**Building and Grounds – Other Expense
Employee Group Health Insurance
Utility & Bulk Expenses - Water**

WHEREAS, it appears that there will be for 2015 an unexpended balance in the following account:

**Tax Assessment – Other Expense
Social Security System (OASI)**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Frenchtown that the following transfers be and the same are hereby authorized, and within the resolution is the authority of the Borough Chief Financial Officer to make said transfers:

FROM:

Tax Assessment- Other Expense	\$ 500.00
Social Security System (OASI)	\$ 1,650.00

TO:

Buildings and Grounds – Other Expense	\$ 500.00
Utility and Bulk Expenses – Water	\$ 750.00
Employee Group Health Insurance Premiums	\$ 900.00

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:

December 2, 2015

**Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-118

2015 BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

WHEREAS, it appears that the unexpended balance in the following accounts will not be sufficient to pay outstanding bills:

Sewer Utility – Interest on Bonds

WHEREAS, it appears that there will be for 2015 an unexpended balance in the following account:

Sewer Utility – Group Insurance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Frenchtown that the following transfers be and the same are hereby authorized, and within the resolution is the authority of the Borough Chief Financial Officer to make said transfers:

FROM:

Sewer Utility – Group Insurance **\$2152.50**

TO:

Sewer Utility – Disability Insurance **\$2152.50**

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:

December 2, 2015

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION #2015-119

Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014-June 2019

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee;

and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Delaware Valley Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2014 in the amount of:

DEDR: \$20,777.00
Cash Match: \$5,194.00
In-Kind: \$15,582.75

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED:

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Brenda S. Shepherd, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Borough Council on this 2nd day of December, 2015.

Brenda S. Shepherd, Municipal Clerk

BOROUGH OF FRENCHTOWN

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-120

HUNTERDON COUNTY MUNICIPAL GRANTS PROGRAM ALLOCATION

WHEREAS, the Borough of Frenchtown has been allocated the amount of \$51,638.52 in the Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Municipal Grants Program for the year 2014/2015; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Frenchtown intends to use the reserve in the future for the acquisition of new open space and/or payment of indebtedness for recently purchased open space; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey to request the County to reserve the allotted funds of \$51,638.52 in the Municipal Grants Program for the next year.

Dated: December 2, 2015

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Brenda S. Shepherd
Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 – 121

CANCELLATION OF PORTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2015-113

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2015 Resolution No. 2015-113 was adopted providing for a transfer from Utility and Bulk Expenses – Gasoline to DCRP – Employee Contributions in the amount of \$150.00, and

WHEREAS, there was no need for the transfer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the portion of Resolution 2015-113 relating to the transfer between the Utility and Bulk Expenses – Gasoline to DCRP – Employee Contributions in the amount of \$150.00 be hereby cancelled.

WARREN E. COOPER, Mayor

Attest:

December 2, 2015

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – November 4, 2015

On motion by Cathy Leach, seconded by John Hinman and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved the Regular Meeting minutes of November 4, 2015 with Jack Opdyke abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2015- 116 - Reduction in Performance Guarantee for Frenchtown Bridge Street, LLC.

Mayor Cooper noted that when a developer plans a development and gets approvals, the Borough Council has the right to require that a certain amount of money be set aside against the possibility that the development may not be completed or built or left incomplete. As the structures hits certain milestones, the developer can request reductions in the amount of the set aside be lower to reflect the actual cost of completion going forward. We have done this before on this project. The developer has requested a reduction and it has been reviewed by the Engineer and that request was brought to Council for approval. On motion by William Sullivan, seconded by Michele Liebttag and carried by favorable roll call vote with Jack Opdyke abstaining, the Mayor and Common Council approved Resolution #2015-116 as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-116

WHEREAS, Frenchtown Bridge St., LLC, known as River Mills at Frenchtown, requested a reduction of its Performance Guarantee for Blocks 34, 35 and 36, Lot 1, Block 38, Lot 2 and Block 14, Lot 52; and

WHEREAS, Frenchtown Bridge St., LLC, originally posted a Letter of Credit as Performance Guarantee in the sum of \$894,238.80; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Frenchtown approved a reduction of the Performance Guarantee to \$553,894.80 on March 18, 2014 as recommended by the Consulting Engineer, Robert J. Clerico, P.E., in his letter dated February 25, 2014 and revised March 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Frenchtown Consulting Engineer, Robert J. Clerico, P.E., submitted a letter dated October 28, 2015, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution, recommending a further reduction of the Performance Guarantee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clerico recommends a reduction to \$409,786.74; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Frenchtown, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that the reduction of the Performance Guarantee will be as follows:

1. The Letter of Credit is reduced to \$409,786.74.
2. All other Performance Guarantees remain in effect.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Attest:

December 2, 2015

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

Resolution #2015-122 - Resolution supporting the Drive Sober Campaign

Michele Liebtag noted that this is similar to the program we participated in around July 4th. This is another program opportunity. Mayor Cooper noted that we have received a grant for \$2,000.00 to cover the cost of these patrols. On motion by William Sullivan, seconded by Michele Liebtag and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved Resolution #2015-122 as follows:

Proclamation/Resolution #2015-122
Supporting the Drive Sober Campaign
of December 11, 2015 - January 1, 2016

Whereas, there were 556 Motor Vehicle Fatalities in New Jersey in 2014; and

Whereas, 29 percent of the Motor Vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were related to impaired drivers; and

Whereas, the State of New Jersey will participate in the Drive Sober Campaign from December 11, 2015 - January 1, 2016; And

Whereas, the State of New Jersey has set a goal of decreasing deaths and injuries related to impaired/drunk driving;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Borough of Frenchtown declares its support for the Drive Sober Campaign from December 11, 2015 through January 1, 2016 and pledges to increase

awareness and benefits of the Drive Sober Campaign.

Attest:

December 2, 2015

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

Resolution #2015-123 – Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriations

Mayor Cooper stated that this resolution will allow us to put the \$2,000.00 grant into this year's budget. On motion by Michele Liebttag, seconded John Hindman and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved Resolution #2015-123 as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015 -123
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 in the budget of the year 2015 in the sum of \$2000.00, which item is now available as revenue from the State of New Jersey, as a grant to the Borough of Frenchtown in the amount of \$2,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$2,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption "Drive Sober Grant"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of a grant of \$2,000.00 from the County of Somerset.

Attest:

December 2, 2015

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

ORDINANCES

Ordinance #762 – Amendment to the 2015 Salary and Wage Ordinance for certain Officials and Employees of the Borough of Frenchtown (Adoption)

On motion by Michele Liebttag, seconded Cathy Leach and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved to adopt Ordinance #762 as follows:

ORDINANCE #762

**AN ORDINANCE
TO AMEND THE SALARY & WAGES
OF THE CERTAIN BOROUGH OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2015**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Frenchtown as follows:

1. The following salaries for the year 2015 are hereby amended for the following designated officials and employees of the Borough of Frenchtown:

Police Patrolman- full time ----- \$35,000.00 to \$62,050.00

2. The following overtime hourly rates for the year 2015 are hereby amended for the following designated officials and employees of the Borough of Frenchtown:

Police Patrolman (full-time OT Rate) -----\$25.23 to \$44.75

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon Final Passage and action as required by law.

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

Ordinance #763 – Amendment to the 2015 Salary and Wage Ordinance for certain Officials and Employees of the Borough of Frenchtown (Introduction)

Mayor Cooper noted that we have to establish a \$50.00 per hour rate for the Sober Driving Campaign. On motion by Michele Liebttag, seconded William Sullivan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Mayor and Common Council approved to introduce Ordinance #763 as follows:

ORDINANCE #763

**AN ORDINANCE
TO AMEND THE SALARY & WAGES
OF THE CERTAIN BOROUGH OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2015**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Frenchtown as follows:

1. The following hourly rates are hereby established for the year 2015:

Drive Sober Patrol -----\$50.00

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon Final Passage and action as required by law.

Warren E. Cooper, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda S. Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Animal Control Services for 2016

Mayor Cooper noted that the County Freeholders decided to no longer provide a shared service for animal control services. The individual municipalities must provide their own animal control services. There are two additional proposals in the Council packets, one from Animal Control Solutions and the other from Animal Control & Investigative Services. The third proposal from Hunterdon Humane was shared with Council last month. The Hunterdon Humane proposal does not include vicious dogs. Borough Attorney Cruz asked that we seek clarification for vicious

animals and we did not get a response from Hunterdon Humane. Subsequent to a brief discussion, Council agreed that Animal Control & Investigative Services has a flat fee of \$2,400.00 which may include veterinary services which would be paid by the animal owner when they pick up their pet in comparison to Animal Control Services where they include other additional fees. With Animal Control & Investigative Services, we are locked in for 4 years, if we choose. Mayor Cooper stated that the Council will have a resolution to approve the 2016 Animal Control Services at the December 30th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility update

Jack Opdyke reported that there are a few items left on the checklist. He added that Victor Gilardi has challenges in fine tuning the new sewer plant.

Hilltop Streets

Mayor Cooper noted that this project will be passed to the next administration. He added that this project falls within the NJEIT program qualifications and NJEIT is eager to help the Borough.

Frenchtown 7, LLC – Redevelopment Plan

Mayor Cooper noted that the Redevelopment Plan has not come before Council yet. The developer is planning to come to the next Planning Board meeting on December 16th.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

William Sullivan reported that Public Works will continue to collect leaves until they are gone. Mayor Cooper stated that leaf pick up is the single greatest source of phone calls and complaints each year. He recommended that Council consider ending leaf pick up as the cost to the Borough is insane. William Sullivan responded that he had made that suggestion before but it is not well received. He would like to see a program implemented as the Borough is suppose to be a green community. Cathy Leach request a presentation of costs, etc. for leaf pick up. Jack Opdyke noted that most communities are going to a drop off area program and he would like to see a program like that implemented although it would probably take 5 years to implement. It is a highly contested topic.

Cathy Leach noted that the Borough received a letter from Betsy Westlake from the Library Board recommending that we hire Melissa DelGaudio as Library Assistant effective December 7, 2015. We need to make sure funds can be certified for that position as there will be an additional \$600.00 needed for salary and wages. The Borough Council will have a hiring resolution at the December 30th meeting.

Cathy Leach also reported the following:

1. Librarian Sara Heil was invited to join the Library Board and she can come back as a volunteer.
2. Jim Meade from Environmental Commission is willing to post meeting minutes and agendas. It is much appreciated.
3. The Environmental Commission purchased tools with Environmental Commission funds and would like to store them in the Borough's shed. They will need a key. William Sullivan recommended that they mark their tools.

Mayor Cooper reported that he was hoping to get the Ridge Road Improvement Project out to bid this year. Engineer Burr was trying to work out the traffic detour details with Chief Kurylka. He will wait until after the New Year to open bids and award the contract.

Mayor Cooper provided copies of the Hunterdon Living magazine from the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce and note that a lot of the photos were done by Bill Brokaw who has a studio in Frenchtown. He read the article on Frenchtown.

As to the archeological dig that was done at the old sewer plant, Mayor Cooper provide a copy of the brochure that was produced by the NJDEP. It provides the name of the company who did the dig, Tomar, and Omni. It mentions the funding of the project by NJEIT and USDA but nowhere does it say that the people of Frenchtown are paying for it. The artifacts will be brought to the Borough of Frenchtown when we have a place to house them.

Mayor Cooper reported the following:

1. The Business Association's annual Christmas Tree Lighting and caroling will be tomorrow.
2. The Menorah Lighting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th at 5:00 pm.
3. The Frenchtown Fire Department Christmas Tree lighting is Friday, December 11th at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Cooper wished everyone Happy Holidays and reminded the Council of the December 30th Year End Council meeting at 7:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm on motion by John Hindman, seconded by Cathy Leach and carried by favorable voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Shepherd, RMC
Borough Clerk