



Franklin Express Line

Volume 2, Issue 5, 09/23/11

Welcome

Welcome to this month's Express Line. We welcome all opportunities to bring your local government to you, to answer questions, address rumors, and explain our financial situation. Feel free to contact me any time to schedule a time to chat or to set up something more formal.



Spotlight

Update from the High School Building Committee -



In March of 2011, Architect Kaestle Boos brought four options for a new/renovated high school to the School Building Committee. **Option One** was a limited renovation and addition of 8,400 sf of space for a total of 317,000 sf. The projected cost was \$73,100,000 with a cost to the town of \$30,800,000. **Option Two** was a gut renovation and addition of 14,800 sf of space for a total of 325,600 sf. The projected cost was \$96,400,000 and a cost to the town of \$40,800,000. **Option Three** was a new construction with 305,000 sf and with renovations to field house. Total project cost was \$97,900,000 and a town cost of \$45,600,000. **Option Four** was to choose a model school from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Model School Program that would be a 305,000 sf new building. The project cost would be \$98,000,000 with a cost to the town of \$42,000,000. The School committee choose **Option Four** and petitioned the MSBA to be allowed to participate in the Model School Building Program.

Public Interviews

On September 7 and 8 at the Municipal Building, the High School Building Committee held public interviews with four architectural firms representing each of the program model schools. The four firms were invited to present the model schools proposed for Franklin's needs. The architects were asked to identify how the model schools could best be adapted to fit Franklin's needs and the current High School site. The four model high schools chosen were the Ashland High School building design, the Hudson High School building design, the Shrewsbury High School building design, and the Whitman-Hanson High School Building design. The Committee unanimously voted to select Ai3Architects, LLC and the Whitman-Hanson High School building design model school.

What's Next?

The Town Council will vote to appropriate \$1,800,000 on September 28 to commence the design. The target is to have the schematic design approved by the MSBA in January 2012. Once approved, we will request the Town Council vote to place a Debt Exclusion question on the Ballot of a Special Election next Spring. With an estimated project cost of \$98,000,000 and an expected reimbursement rate of slightly less than 58% from the MSBA the town's cost would be approximately \$42,000,000.

What is a debt exclusion?

A community can assess taxes in excess of its levy limit (Proposition 2 ½ Override) for the payment of certain capital projects, or in this case, the capital project would be a school. A two-thirds vote of the Town Council is required to place a ballot question before the voters. A majority vote of approval by the voters is required to pass. Debt exclusions do not become part of the tax base and only last until the debt is paid. So when the school is paid for the tax base goes back down. The town has passed three debt exclusions: one for the Remington Jefferson School, one for the Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller School, and one for the Horace Mann and Oak Street School and FX O'Reagan Early Childhood Development Center Complex. A debt exclusion usually lasts for twenty years.



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Biennial Town Election - November 8, 2011

Spotlight



The race is on! In almost every town opening there is a challenge. Beginning with the **Town Clerk seat**, challenger, former Town Councilor Deborah Bartlett is looking to unseat incumbent Deborah Pellegrini. In the **Town Council race**, twelve candidates are jockeying for nine available spots. Incumbents, Glenn Jones, Matt Kelly, Joseph McGann, Judith Pfeffer, Tina Powderly, and Bob Vallee are seeking re-election, while challengers local realtor Andrew Bissanti, former Planning Board member Ronald Calabrese, Recreation Advisory Board member Robert Dellorco, School Building Committee member Tom Mercer, Finance Committee member Juan Rivera, and School Committee Chairman Jeff Roy all want a shot at one of the nine seats. Other races include: Incumbents Edward Cafasso, Cynthia Douglas, William J. Glynn, Paula T. Mullen, Susan T. Rohrbach, Roberta D. Trahan are running against challengers Sean L. Donahue, Dr. John S. Jewell, and Pamela B. McIntyre for the seven **School Committee seats**. For the **Board of Health**, Incumbent Donald G. Ranieri Jr. is running against challengers Richard P. Aucoin and Phillip M. Brunelli for two available seats. There is a race for the **Constable seats** with Incumbents Phillip M. Brunelli, Richard P. Delfino, and Robert Jarvis facing challengers Charles F. Delfino Jr. and John S. Power for the three available seats. **Planning Board** has three running for three seats. Incumbent James P. Dacey is facing challenger Mark S. Denomme for the **Treasurer/Collector seat**. **Board of Assessors** has two running for two seats and No one is running for the **Associate member of the Planning Board**.

Your government is not a spectator sport - it needs your participation!

There will be a Candidates Night held on Monday, October 24 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 355 East Central Street.

**All precincts vote at the High School Field House on Oak Street
6:00 AM and 8:00 PM.**

Downtown Roadway & Streetscape Project - Phase 1

Construction that began in early May is on schedule for substantial completion this fall. You will notice the new pedestrian friendly sidewalks, crossings, and parking, and the new lighting, bike racks, meters and plantings as well as the new roadways on Emmons Street (East of Main) and portions of Dean, Depot, and Ray Streets and the Municipal Parking Lot (Commuter rail lot on Depot Street). The construction is scheduled to be substantially completed by the winter season. Funding for the project was a \$1,000,000 Public Works Economic Development grant (PWED). A larger part of the project, the \$5,000,000 High Priority Project grant (HPP) that will encompass West Central Street between Union and Main Streets, East Central Street between Main and Ruggles, Main Street between East Central Street and Moore Ave, and Emmons Street between West Central and Main Streets is expected to begin in 2013. Stay tuned for more information.

Solid Waste and Recycling News

Since beginning the automated solid waste and single stream recycling system in July of 2010, the town's per household trash usage has been reduced by 22% and the Town's recycling rate has increased to 32.8%.

[Hazardous Waste Collection Day - October 1, 2011](#)

Town of Franklin will host a Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Franklin Recycling Center at 455 Beaver Street from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pre-Registration is required. Tickets are \$10 per vehicle and can be purchased at the DPW office at 257 Fisher Street. Franklin Residents Only. This collection is intended for household hazardous waste only. For a list of acceptable items visit the DPW website at www.franklin.ma.us/departments/publicworks.