

**FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL
REPORTS OF THE MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF
FRANKLIN FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR, 1941**

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Financial Year, 1941 by Various

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VARIOUS

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Financial Year, 1941



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INDEX

	PAGE
Appropriations	18, 197
Auditors' Report	79, 129
Analysis in Changes in Net Debt	85
General Fund	84
Revenues	86
Appropriations and Expenditures	87
New High School Bond Fund	98
Trust Funds	99
Water Works	107
Balance Sheet	84
Board of Education	17, 164
Financial Report	174
High School Graduation	193
High School Report	168
Junior High School Report	170
Roll of Perfect Attendance	187
Scholarship Funds	189
School Directory	185
School Nurse's Report	172
School Statistics	193
Superintendent's Report	164
Treasurer's Report	164
Board of Health	15
Cemetery Trust Funds	126
Charity Fund	139, 149
City Council	11
City Government	11
Claims for Damages	128
Daniel Webster Memorial Committee Fund	142
Elections and Registration	120
Financial Report	19
Appropriations	18, 197
Auditing	129
Balance Sheet	84
Bonded Debt	84
Valuation	19

	PAGE
Fire Department	13, 130
Apparatus Report	132
Engineers' Report	130
Financial Statement	123
Fire Alarm	125
Fires, Report of	133
Survey and Recommendations	131
Health Department	127
Heating Plant	121
Highway Department	114
Bridges	118
Financial Statement	111
Garbage Removal	117
Highway Commissioner's Report	114
Sewers, (Construction)	117
Sewer Maintenance	116
Snow Removal	117
Street Lighting	119
Town Road Aid	118
Tree Warden	118
W. P. A. Project	118
History Committee	141, 142
Hockey Riots	123
Incidentals	128
Inventory	22-78
Janitor	122
Mayors	17
Mayor Proulx's Inaugural	5
Memorial Day	127
Memorial Hall	120
Odell Memorial Arch Fund	142, 143
Odell Park Cottage Fund	143
Odell Park Trust Fund	143, 144
Old High School	129
Ordinances, 1941	203
Overseer of the Poor, Report	160
City Relief Cases	162
County Relief Cases	163
Park Commission	157
Parks and Playgrounds	127
Police Department	12, 122, 134
City Marshal, Report of	134
Financial	122
Municipal Court	13, 135

	PAGE
Polls, Valuation and Taxes Assessed	20
Public Library	150
Appropriation	123
Library Trust Funds	145, 147
Librarian's Report	150
Treasurer's Report	155
Trustees' Report	153
Ratio of Bonded Debt to Assessed Valuation	109
Red Cross	125
Resolutions	196
Salaries	119
Salaries and Surety Bonds of City Officers	109
Scholarship Funds	189
Daniell Scholarship	191
Franklin Student Aid Fund, Est. by Walter F. Duffy	144, 189
Sanger Scholarship	189
School Money	129
Sewer Department	116
Street Lighting	119
Tax Collector's Report	111
Treasurer's Report	110
Tree Warden	118
Trust Funds	136
Unemployed	126
Unemployment Compensation	126
Vital Statistics	127, 206
Ward Officers	16
Water Commissioners	14
Balance Sheet	107
Public Service Estimate	159
Statement of Operations	108
W. P. A. Expenditures in Franklin	126

ORGANIZATION

of the

CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE YEAR 1941

The city government for 1941 was organized Wednesday evening, January 6, at a meeting held in the main hall of the Opera House and Mayor Henry J. Proulx delivered the following inaugural address:

MAYOR PROULX'S INAUGURAL

Reverend Father Hennon, Members of the City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:

For the second time you have delegated to me your confidence, in permitting me to be here this evening as your chosen Mayor for 1941; for this renewed trust, I am deeply grateful, and in return pledge you my personal efforts for good government, my promise for 1940 which I believe now is a fulfillment.

May I express my appreciation for your testimonial tendered me in our recent City Election in which, although unopposed, became significant due to the sizeable vote I received; I am happy to acknowledge this tribute which I propose to continue to merit, and with your further assistance, by suggestion, constructive criticism, and moral support, urging, I will strive to encourage the tendencies of an administration uncompromising in its freedom of action, frank in its deliberations, and fearless in meeting its responsibilities.

As a City Government the year 1940 has come to a close, time has deemed it so, and as we look back, we are proud of the progress made, regret omissions committed, and apologize for the mistakes, . . . all of these factors which should affect and influence our policies and resolve for 1941.

I think you will agree with me that the 1940 Council might be called a "Wide Open Council," and very generally signifying freedom of action. The record of public attendance at these meetings, some of which were held in the main hall, bears out this statement and this manifestation of interest has been encouraging, and I hope will continue.

However, facing a year unlike any year in our history, the milestone of 1941 telescopes a hazy uncertain outlook, which is probably the psychological influence due to world events, which have an immediate effect on our nation and "our way of life" in this community. This calls for caution, in word, deed and action, this calls for a unity which alone can challenge the future, and which has done so well and has so often characterized this nation, in times of disturbances and trial. I am conscious that as a community we have had three elections this year, that have been intensely and bitterly contested. The impact of these elections has been severe and high, with the natural consequences of bitter reaction and unhealed scars, that cannot be overcome in a moment. As Americans we have had these experiences before and have always abided by the decision of the majority. I am confident that we will do it again, and that we will be united in a program, upholding all traditions that have made this nation glorious, allowing us to present a united front, which will play an important part in casting the die of the future of this nation, and the policies it shall embrace to meet any eventualities, any emergency and any sacrifice.

An increase in tax rate of \$2.80 over 1939 was as unpleasant an experience to the Administration as its realization was to the taxpayer, and I am doubtful if it was necessary or justified. Although a determination of "Pay as you go" was the attitude of the Council. I submit the following information in an attempt to clarify the analysis of my supposition.

1. The amount of cash in the Treasury at the close of 1940 was \$53,000.00, probably the largest balance in the City Treasury at the termination of any business year, in the history of this Government. (\$27,000.00 of which was left as a balance by my predecessor January 1, 1940).
2. The general and flagrant inequality of application of valuations for taxes.

Although previous to determine whether the balance of cash on hand is the result of the appraisals of the receipts of anticipated income, too uncertain to rely on for the application of a tax rate, or whether this has been a commission of purpose intended to promote a high tax rate, only the audit can prove. In the meantime, regardless of its true causes and the behavior of the evidence, this amount in our Treasury remains as a resource which should alleviate any possible immediate worry or concern.

I am satisfied that the factor responsible for the tax rate in 1940 was the reluctance and the determination of the Chairman of the Board of Assessors to disregard the appeal made by the Finance Committee to adjust the inequalities in valuation of property that were existing and that are now prevalent in the City of Franklin, N. H.

Responsibility in part can be assumed by the City Council to whom the Finance Committee reported and finally this responsibility can be shared and rested squarely on the shoulders of the highest Board of Appeals available in this State, The N. H. State Tax Commission, to whom I reported when interviewing its Secretary, Mr. John Marston, on no less than two occasions.

I in no way want to invoke any apology or use any subterfuge for the excuse of the tax rate, but I want to submit that I have performed my duty in using every means to alleviate it in face of facts that were impelling, and I challenge anyone to refute these allegations.

When it became imminent that our cost of meeting our budget and appropriation would involve a non-recurring Capital cost of \$16,000.00 (School equipment \$4,100.00, Bridge \$9,000.00 and a bond retiring amount of \$20,250.00) if we were to "Pay as you go," and obtain a reasonable tax rate, a hasty survey was necessary, and made by the Finance Committee. This had to be done to determine if all efforts had been exhausted to raise this amount. Specific instances of inequality were reviewed to sustain our findings, and in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, we had the promise of an effort to rectify this situation. Although in no way surprised with the result and after a review of the same question with the City Council, I did feel that as a representative of the people, there was another avenue open for recourse. I did interview Mr. John Marston of the State Tax Commission twice, and he promised to cooperate as a service to our city, and believe it or not, the circulated rumored prediction, that I would get nowhere did come true. To this date I have not been extended the courtesy of even a letter from Mr. Marston, Secretary of the State Tax Commission, explaining his actions. He probably made his bow to the combine who were striving to defeat our aim and purpose; this combine reputed as the "Untouchables" but who, nevertheless, are screaming the loudest for a Tax Association—you know—"The one for all and all for one"—"The Three Musketeers." This is far from being a closed chapter and I am thankful that the General Court is in session.