MEMO FROM THE MAYOR
RE: DOMINION NOISE AND NATURAL GAS PRICING

I want to address two issues. First, complaints have been received regarding loud noises emanating from Dominion facilities in our City. On January 6th we met with several Dominion representatives. We were advised that the facility on West Caston Road is referred to as a “Withdraw Station.” Consistent with their requirements to deliver natural gas as inexpensively as possible, Dominion purchases gas during the summer months and stores it in well fields. They refer to this as the “Injection Season.” There are approximately 800 wells in an area bounded by Green, Jackson, North Canton and Marshallville, and there are nine Withdraw Stations in that area.

In the Winter months (the “Withdraw Season”), they withdraw the gas from the storage fields and proceed with distribution. At the Withdraw Stations this process involves reducing the pressure from 800 lbs. to 200lbs. prior to distribution, and it is the pressure release that causes the high-pitched sound. In late December (the first real cold snap), they released the pressure from two groups of wells simultaneously, thus resulting in a louder and longer-than-usual noise event. Based on our discussions they have agreed to do their best to limit the releases to one group at a time, and to schedule the releases during the daytime hours. I am advised by the residents that there has been improvement in that regard. We are also following up to see if some effective sound buffering can be installed.

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The second issue involves natural gas aggregation pricing. Recently the City of Tallmadge announced a program for residents to enroll at a fixed rate of $3.09/mcf through November, 2021. This is less than the rates some New Franklin residents have selected through the NOPEC aggregation program. NOPEC acknowledges that the Tallmadge rate is a good deal, but they reminded me that our residents have a choice of different rates as follows:

**Program Rate:** Currently $3.429/mcf, but adjusts with the market;

**Monthly Variable Rate:** Currently $2.67/mcf. A good rate for those who follow the gas market;

**12 Month Fixed Rate:** $3.199/mcf

**24 Month Fixed Rate:** $3.429/mcf
NOPEC has no early termination fee to switch between fixed/variable/program rates, or early termination fee to exit the program altogether and enter your own agreement with another provider.

For questions, or to help with selecting the rate best for you, contact NOPEC at:

1-(855) 667 – 3201 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week), or at their website: www.nopec.org.

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We hope this information is helpful to you on both issues addressed.
Further questions or concerns can be directed to City Administration at (330) 882-4324, or directly to me at mayor@newfranklin.org.

Paul F. Adamson, Mayor
January 15, 2020