

 **Business Blogs**



Land and Space

Journal Sentinel business reporter Tom Daykin talks about commercial real estate and development, including stores, hotels, offices, condos, apartments and industrial buildings.

Port Washington company moving headquarters, adding jobs

By Tom Daykin of the Journal Sentinel

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Franklin Energy Services LLC, which utilities hire to operate energy efficiency programs, is moving its headquarters to a larger site in Port Washington, and plans to add jobs there.

Franklin now has 32 employees at its offices at 403 W. Foster St., Chief Executive Officer Paul Schueller said. The company is moving to the second floor of the former Smith Bros. Fish Shanty restaurant building, at 100 N. Franklin St., and hopes to be there by July 15.

Franklin's current headquarters is in a converted church on three floors, where the company uses around 10,000 square feet. The new headquarters will have 12,000 square feet on one floor, which will be more efficient, Schueller said Tuesday.

Franklin, which has 220 employees in Wisconsin and four other states, will immediately boost the number of employees in its new headquarters to 40 by shifting workers from other locations, Schueller said. He said the company expects to eventually grow the headquarters workforce to around 50 employees.

The Franklin St. building is owned by Milwaukee-based Lighthouse Development Co., and has a coffeeshop on the first floor. Lighthouse is negotiating to lease additional street-level space to a prospective restaurant tenant, said Tom DeMuth, of Lighthouse.

Meanwhile, the Port Washington Common Council will consider leasing the Foster St. building once Franklin Energy moves out. That building would be converted into a new senior citizens center, said Mayor Scott Huebner, and replace the current center, which has just 5,000 square feet and needs more room.

The council could take action on the proposed lease at Tuesday night's meeting, Huebner said. The proposal includes an option for the city to buy the building for \$550,000, he said.