

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2020
7:00 pm

Mayor Paul Turpin called the regular monthly meeting of the Village of Franklin Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Lincoln Hill, Nicole Fromme and Amanda Ahlers. Trustee Tami Thompson was present via Zoom. Trustee Wyatt Smith entered the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for September. Susan provided profits and losses, balance sheets, current banking numbers, and copies of each check written from each account. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for September. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lincoln Hill-yes, Tami Thompson-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried. Susan Smith presented the Bills Paid and to be Paid for September. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for September. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lincoln Hill-yes, Tami Thompson-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the Trustees with minutes from September. Lincoln Hill made a motion to approve the minutes from September. Nicole Fromme seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Tami Thompson-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lincoln Hill-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy Fairless presented his Utility Supervisor report. He said that the property on Blaine and Reinbach is now cleaned up. There are a few things that the owner plans on removing still, some items he is uses for work and a stack of shingles he's going to put on his house, but overall it looks really nice. Andy talked to the USDI for on-call training for Nick. They will not have in-person classes until November at the earliest. Andy then called Courtney at Energy World and she registered Nick for the online classes. After he has completed the courses online, someone will come to the Village to test him so he can be on-call certified. Andy said he will not be on-call by himself at that point, but he can at least go out and get some training. Andy said Nick is doing well on the job. He's self-motivated and picks up things quickly. He does a good job staying busy. Andy said the IDT Satellite head cost the Village \$25. They gave the Village a credit for the one returned and put it towards this purchase. Andy recently talked to the Village Attorney, Dan Beard, regarding the abandoned property on Prairie Street. He checked for a return receipt and then filed a complaint. Pictures were given to Mr. Beard showing raccoons going in and out of the house. Then regarding the illegal 4-wheeler violations, there have been several more. One of the reoccurring kids did not show in court. The next hearing is November 2nd. The kid told the court that he didn't attend because his class was in quarantine from COVID. That is not true. He was also seen driving a golf cart recklessly, around the Village. He was also pulling a power wheels toy behind it with a passenger in the power wheels and on

more than one occasion was seen whipping it around recklessly. The golf cart's permit is now revoked. Another kid who had an agreement with the attorney was caught riding again also.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage - Trustee Abby Flynn asked Andy to move the Veteran's Day banner to the corner where the monument is near the Lion's Den. He said he will do that soon.

Finance/Payroll - Lincoln said the Finance/Payroll committee needs to schedule a meeting to discuss the 40 hour work week. Lincoln, Nicole and Amanda will find a time and let Susan Smith know what their decision is.

Insurance - Mayor Turpin asked if there was any way the Village could lower the cost to employees. Especially those with kids on the policy as it is extremely expensive. He said that previous years the rates were high due to employees ages and health conditions, but possibly since it has gone down some there might be something the Village can do to help. Tami Thompson said the insurance committee can meet and discuss the matter. Mayor Turpin said possibly the Village could pay over half of the costs until employees receive all of their trainings and increases. Tami, Wyatt and Abby will meet next week.

Personnel - There is nothing to report at this time.

Utility Reconnect - There is nothing to report at this time.

Utilities - Mayor Turpin said when the discussion regarding the gas pressure increase came to the board from the elevator, the board thought it was going to be a \$4,000 job from USDI. It was unknown that Panhandle had to do a bunch of work too. The total for Panhandle is \$16,000. Therefore the job went from \$4,000 to \$20,000. Andy Fairless reached out to the elevator asking if they'd be willing to help. If they would the job could be completed this year, if not then the job wouldn't be done right away. The elevator declined to help. Their business is the only reason the Village was considering the increase. Mayor Turpin said at this time, the Village cannot spend that amount of money for the increase. The Village will start saving up for the expense and do it in a year or two.

Mayor Turpin presented a chart that showed years ago the Village was paying approximately \$15 per dekatherm but with all the work the Village has put into the gas lines and such the rates have decreased significantly. It has stayed consistent at \$2-\$3 per dekatherm. Mayor Turpin uses the chart to figure out how much to purchase from IMGA each year.

As heard from Andy Fairless, Mayor Turpin said the owner of the property on Prairie asked the judge for an extension to fix up the property. The property has not been touched in 6 months or more. The owner hasn't even mowed. Abby Flynn also asked about the property on 104 that burnt down. Mayor Turpin told the Trustees the hard part is when the Village takes over a property and cleans it up, the Village loses money. There is no gain besides aesthetics. It is also paid for out of Municipal which doesn't always carry a high balance and we must be cautious. The better scenario would be if someone would buy it for taxes and clean it up.

The Panhandle Municipal Defense case could go well past the end of the year. The Village is losing \$200-\$600 per month for the attorney fees. The Village is looking to get reimbursed on the transportation fees charged by the pipeline which went up 400% but should have decreased by 15%. Everyone in town using gas is paying this fee and it is being tracked.

There is not update on the abandoned vehicles at this time.

The Village received three new quotes for a heater in the maintenance building. Both are 90% efficient in-home heater that will run \$6000-\$8000. The third is an 80% efficient for \$3000-\$4000. A 90% efficient shop unit is way too expensive. Mayor Turpin said he'd like to have the bids complete by next month. There was also a quote for the two windows to be replaced by Window World and it came in at \$1000. The trustees agreed that seemed really high. Mayor Turpin asked Andy to get another quote.

Andy Fairless already discussed four wheeler legal action in his supervisor report.

Property Clean Up was also discussed in closed session

Trustee Nicole Fromme has a list of some sidewalks that need repaired and Andy will have more to add. Slabjackers will only fix the ones that need to be raised up.

Andy reported earlier that the IDT Satellite Head was sent back and credited towards the new one. The Village only paid \$25.

Tami Thompson asked if anyone knew what other towns were doing for Halloween. Abby and Amanda said Jacksonville just announced they will have Halloween as usual. Tami also asked if the Village should have some guidance on how to hand candy out. The Trustees agreed to share the information from the IDPH guidelines but leave it up to the residents on how they'd like to handle it. The trustees agree that Halloween will continue in the Village.

Nicole Fromme made a motion to keep the closed session minutes closed. Lincoln Hill seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Nicole Fromme-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lincoln Hill-yes, and Tami Thompson-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin read the resolution to appoint the Village treasurer, Susan Smith, as the authorized agent for IMRF. Tami Thompson made a motion to make a resolution appointing an authorized agent with respect to the Illinois Municipal Retirement fund. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lincoln Hill-yes, Tami Thompson-yes, and Nicole Fromme-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin read the MediaCom ordinance to the Trustees. MediaCom is coming to provide internet and cable to the Village residents. The ordinance will allow the Village to collect 5% from each cable subscription. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the MediaCom ordinance. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lincoln Hill-yes, Tami Thompson-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

The attorney and Mayor Turpin were trying to think of more ways to enforce the Village ordinances. They are costing the Village a lot of money at this point. Nicole asked if the Village

should post information on the webpage, Facebook and at the gas station reminding people to register their vehicles and state what is legal and illegal. Amanda asked if there has been an increase in permits because she's seen a huge increase in side-by-sides and golf carts around town. Mayor Turpin said he'll ask Susan Smith. The Trustees feel a lot of it is the kids are continuing to do these things because their parents don't see the kids at fault. The blame is coming back to the Village.

Mayor Turpin mentioned the November meeting is scheduled on Election Day and a meeting cannot be held on an Election Day. Wyatt Smith made a motion to change the November meeting to Monday, November 2nd at 7 pm. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lincoln Hill-yes, Tami Thompson-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Lincoln Hill seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lincoln Hill-yes, Tami Thompson-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.