

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2022
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, March 1, 2022 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Wyatt Smith, Abby Flynn, Lauren Anders, Sarah Carter, and Vickie Adkins. Trustee Amanda Ahlers was absent.

Carrie Ward from Republic Services presented to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Ward is aware some residents in the area have experienced issues since the changeover from Flowers Sanitation. She assured the room that is not how Republic handles service and hopes the quality of service will increase again soon. Ms. Ward provided the board with a bid, if they would choose to use Republic Services as the sole provider within the Village limits. This means the contract would be an all-inclusive, city-wide contract, only allowing them to provide services within the Village. The Village would be responsible for billing. The contract was written for three years: year 1 would be \$13.40, year 2 would be \$13.94, and year 3 would be \$14.50. The contract states each resident would be given one cart and if they chose to have a second, it would be an additional \$4 per month, but billed directly to Republic Services rather than the Village. Dumpsters would also be billed directly to the company. There are several sizes available. Currently their business has approximately 70% of the Village residents as customers, so the majority already have a cart. Replacements could be provided at no cost, if needed and there is no additional cost to have carts picked up. Republic would also provide extra dumpsters for special community events and community recycling could be looked into. City-wide clean up would also be offered once a year, at no additional fee. Guest, LeAnn Johnson asked why Republic could offer a lower rate than what she is paying currently, if the Village chose the services offered. Ms. Ward explained it is a guaranteed customer base. She also explained that some towns have an opt out option for current residents if they do not want to switch, but require any new residents to use Republic.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for February. Susan discussed each businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances and check details. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report for February. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for January. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Anders-yes. The motion was carried. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for February. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the trustees with minutes from February. Vickie Adkins made a motion to approve the minutes from February. Lauren Anders seconded the motion. The

voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. Andy will most likely attend court in May for a four-wheeler incident. The resident is currently on a payment plan for a previous offense and was riding illegally again. Andy is having difficulty getting anyone to give a bid for the Village Hall roof. The company that came previously and said they had a bid to drop off, still has not provided the bid and is no longer returning Andy's calls. Nick and Andy are now reaching out to companies in Springfield. He is aware the Village roads are not in great condition and plans to start laying patch as soon as possible. He is waiting on patch to come in and will take hot or cold patch. Andy also wanted to touch base with the board regarding the GIS system. The Village qualifies for 1st Net services at AT&T which takes the monthly bill down to \$35, and no taxes would be charged. This service includes the internet. The Village would need to make a one-time purchase to get an iPad. Andy verified that a 128GB iPad would work because the data would be stored in the online cloud. The iPad is \$1299.99. Andy is attending a training on March 8th for 8 hours to learn how to use the system. The system would be used for gas, water, and sewer. Mayor Turpin said the board would like to see how the gas business is doing before making that decision. Vickie Adkins asked Andy if the trucking company for the park mulch delivery has reached out. Andy said no, but it shouldn't be a problem. The hardware for the Christmas lights and banners has been received. Lauren Anders mentioned the curb near the Post Office on Wyatts is in bad shape and full of mud and debris. Mayor Turpin and Andy will look into seeing if there is a more permanent fix, as it's been an ongoing issue for years. Although it is worse from recent digging, at the moment.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Finance/Payroll – Mayor Turpin presented the yearly budget. He reviewed each company and their expenses and incomes. He explained that some expenses are divided up amongst multiple accounts, such as insurance. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the budget for 2023. Lauren Anders seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried. The discussion regarding the wind farm funds will be discussed at the next meeting.

Insurance – There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Personnel – There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Utility Reconnect – There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Utilities – The board reviewed the current utility rates and discussed how each of the businesses were doing financially with the current rates. Water was a big concern with the upcoming project to move and replace the pipes parallel with 104, and coming into town. It is a \$400,000 project that has to be done before IDOT begins their work. COVID funds will help with some of the project, but certainly not all as they amount to approximately \$80,000. The grant from the State of Illinois has not moved forward in years and the Village can no longer wait on it. Wyatt made a motion to raise waster water base charge to .75 cents from \$27.25 to \$28.00 and waste water, excess of 2000, .25 cents from \$5.25 to \$5.50. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried. The trustees then discussed the

Illinois Water Sewer Assistance Charge. Mayor Turpin read the information provided, stating there is a new surcharge the State of Illinois offers if the Village would like to set up an account.

The park benches bid will come in around March.

Kingery Construction has not given a new bid on the town hall roof. Andy discussed his next step in the supervisor report.

The board discussed waiting to see how the gas business does before purchasing the GIS mapping system, as it would be approximately \$3000 per year.

Mayor Turpin explained if the trustees would like to continue forward with virtual meetings, the attorney would need to create an ordinance. Trustees would have stipulations on when virtual attendance would be allowed. Mayor Turpin and Ashley briefly discussed equipping the Village Hall with better equipment if needed. There would also be a regular charge to use Zoom, if they chose to continue with that program. Lauren Anders feels getting better equipment could be beneficial in more than one way. Visitors who may need to present in-person or virtually would have a better system to use during the meeting. Mayor Turpin and Ashley will get a better idea on costs by the next meeting.

Trustees had a long discussion regarding the trash service bids. Several do not like the idea of dictating what service residents must use. Trustees Lauren Anders, Abby Flynn, and Vickie Adkins would like a letter to be sent out thoroughly explaining the ordinance it would require and ask for resident's feedback. Trustee Wyatt Smith is opposed to any ordinance regarding what service a resident must use or one requiring resident's to have trash service.

Sarah Carter made a motion to donate \$250 to the South County Drawdown event hosted by the Boosters Club. Lauren Anders seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Anders-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin stated that last year trustees discussed all of the sidewalks in town that needed some repair should be broken into three groups or so to break up the cost. Last year a large portion of the list were completed, but there are still several more to be completed. Lauren Anders made a motion to pay up to \$2,000.00 for Slabjackers. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

In addition, Mayor Turpin said the renter in the Quonset Hut did not pick up the certified letter that the attorney tried to serve him until later than expected. Therefore his 30 days just started. The renter reached out to Trustee Wyatt Smith to explain his side of the situation.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Anders-yes, and Sarah Carter. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.