

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 6, 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, September 6, 2022 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, Lauren Whalen, Sarah Carter, Vickie Adkins, and Amanda Ahlers.

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

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the trustees with minutes from August. Vickie Adkins made a motion to approve the minutes from August. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. The half-ton truck will need to have new tires soon. It is not immediate but the bid was \$985.15. The trailer clean-up is complete and the total for labor, dumpsters, and the lien is \$2,250.00. The water way in the spray field, near the sewer plant, has a washout occurring. Andy believes he can fix it but would need a new implement for the John Deere tractor. They have one at Farm and Home in Jacksonville for \$899.00. The snow plow is in the shop for repairs. The repairs will pro-long needing a new blade for a couple of years. Vickie Adkins, trustee, said the corner of East and West Street is puddling up with water and gurgling but never drains. She believes it's about six inches deep. Andy will take a look at it on Wednesday.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – The roadwork scheduled with MFT funds was cancelled due to the dramatic increase in costs for oil, labor, etc. Due to the inflation, the funds would've only covered one-third of the project. The county is going to come and finish the patching on Toler Bend and Centennial.

Finance/Payroll – There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Insurance – Curt Reznicek asked if the Village wanted proposals from different companies again or if they wanted to renew with him. After discussion, the trustees decided to continue forward with Curt Reznicek due to the guaranteed gas insurance, which has been difficult to find in the past.

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

Utility Reconnect – Abby Flynn reported there were some payments made and some made payment plans.

Utilities – Mayor Turpin explained the Village board could use some of the windmill money, in December, to pay off the sewer loan. By doing so, it would eliminate the surcharge that is on the customers' bills each month. The windmill money will be at least \$50,000. The cost to pay off the loan is \$23,000. Wyatt Smith made a motion to pay off the sewer loan from gas with the funds received from the windfarm. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

Old Business:

There are several sidewalks around town that need replaced. The main priorities are the two sidewalks in front of the Village and Transitions Hair Salon. They need a concrete ramp put in to help elderly and handicap in and out. Lauren Whalen did provide the list of sidewalks that need replaced to Andy so he could work on them when possible or if he has leftover concrete from the ramps.

Mayor Turpin explained Utilipay and how it could benefit the Village. Right now, the Village pays \$300 to \$500 per month, in fees accrued by their customers who pay their utility bills with a credit card. Utilipay would charge the customer the fee and not the municipality. If the trustees chose to go with Utilipay, the company would send a letter to the customers informing them of the changes and charges. A link would be added to the Village webpage for customers to access. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept Utilipay contingent on the contract with USB. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes.

The Village has not received the signed easement from the two sisters for the Route 104 Water Project. The adjustments they requested were made by the lawyer. Mayor Turpin is hoping they will complete it within the next week or two. The Village did not receive the water grant that was applied for.

Lincoln Hill reached out to Mayor Turpin about the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program. He mentioned it could help put in sidewalks, signs, and more for local towns. Mayor Turpin said he plans to talk with Lincoln about it more.

New Business:

Mayor Turpin informed the trustees the Village Board has worked very hard in the past seven years, or so, to have houses removed that were violating the ordinances. The Village has torn down and cleaned up five houses. Mayor Turpin suggested the trustees stay on top of this and to provide any information on houses that need improvement.

The half-ton truck needs new tires as Andy explained in his report. The bid was from CheckPoint in Chatham, Illinois. The price for four Yokahama tires was \$985.15. Mayor Turpin

noticed the bid included sales tax which would need removed. The trustees would like Andy to get more bids to compare.

The county will come and work on some of the roads mentioned earlier, for all the patch work done by the county the cost should be in the range of \$10,000-\$15,000.

Andy requested a box blade implement for the John Deere tractor in his report. Typically, he borrows from Waverly. The trustees do not want to purchase one for one or two projects and suggest he borrow for the issue in the waterway at the spray field.

Mayor Turpin received a letter from the owners of the AM/PM asking the board to reconsider gaming for their facility. Mayor Turpin went in to talk with George Hamilton about the gaming at The Green Wall and how it was going. Mayor Turpin provided a chart for the trustees to see how much income the machines have brought in the last four months. Like many businesses, The Green Wall is having a hard time keeping and finding people to work to keep the facility open more than four days per week. They feel if they lose too much money on gaming, they will not be able to keep the doors open at all. Mayor Turpin does understand the Village is losing some money by having the doors closed three days out of the week. He suggests that two trustees go talk with Kyle and George Hamilton from The Green Wall and two more speak with GoPaul and Everest from the AM/PM. Abby Flynn and Amanda Ahlers will talk with GoPaul and Everest. Sarah Carter and Lauren Whalen will speak with Kyle and George.

Mayor Turpin read the resolution to sell the surplus property and any additional property in surplus that the Village may have aloud. Wyatt Smith made a resolution to sell the surplus property and any additional property in surplus the Village may have. Lauren Whalen seconded the resolution. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

Amanda Ahlers made a motion to make the Halloween trick-or-treat days Sunday, October 30 and Monday, October 31, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin presented the Appropriations Bill to the trustees. If the water project is done this year, the bill may need amended. The current total is \$1,372,800.00. Vickie Adkins made a motion to approve the annual appropriations bill for April 2023 to March 2024. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

Wyatt Smith suggested the board discuss purchasing gas reserves next month.

The Franklin CUSD #1 Trap Shooting Team would like to put a sign up at the Villages entrance for their success this year. All trustees agree that is a good idea.

The elevator called asking about prices for natural gas also. Reitha will provide the gas prices when she receives them from IMGA.

Wyatt Smtih made a motion to adjourn. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.