

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2023
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, November 7, 2023 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Lauren Whalen, Vickie Adkins, and Amanda Ahlers. Trustees Wyatt Smith and Sarah Carter were absent.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for October. The board discussed each businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances, and check details. Lauren Whalen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for October. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Lauren Whalen-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 October. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Committee Reports:

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. Andy recently received news regarding the odorometer that the Village has currently. The company is no longer calibrating that model. It is at least 15 years old. The odorometer is required by the ICC and used every month. The Village will need to purchase a new one. A Heath Odorator 2 is what Andy suggested the Board approve for purchase. It is \$5,500.00. The turnaround time is about 2-3 weeks. The current one is calibrated until May; however, Andy is concerned that if we wait too long, several municipalities will be ordering and could cause delays in receiving one. If we do not have one by May, the Village risks being in violation. Therefore, Mayor Turpin informed the Board that they already ordered it. If the Board decided against purchasing one, it could be returned. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the bid to purchase the odorometer suggested by Andy, in the amount of \$5,500.00. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried. Andy told the Board of Trustees that if they wanted him to get an updated bid from ID signs for the welcome sign coming into town, he would. Next, he handed out a packet from USDI for the regulator station bid. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to accept the updated bill from USDI for \$27,821.15. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried. Andy also received bids for the trees that need removed. Connors Tree Service from Talula, Illinois provided a bid of \$4,600.00 for the two trees to be cut down and then dumping the debris on the Village burn pile. T&K provided a bid of \$2,800.00 for the trees to be cut down and they will dispose of the debris. Abby

Flynn made a motion to accept the bid from T&K for the three trees to be removed on Highway 104 and West Street for a total of \$2,800.00. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried. Andy will discuss the water contract for the water tower inspection during the December meeting. It is also too late to paint the water tower this year, but Jim from Benton & Associates said he'd like to discuss completing the project next year. USDI also just raised their prices. The Village uses them as our gas engineering company. Mayor Turpin suggested asking Benton & Associates if they do gas engineering. FEMA was at the Village office to meet with Andy. Everything went well and should be lined up. The next meeting is on November 17th. The lead service project is almost complete. There is only one more removal left and Andy's goal is to have it completed before the end of the year. Abby Flynn had a resident ask her if the Village could widen her driveway culvert. The resident said they are willing to pay for it. Andy said he has investigated it and worried there is no great way to expand it. There is a box and a pole next to it. In addition, the Village would need to purchase a new culvert which is going to be roughly \$600.00. Mayor Turpin suggested calling Ameren to see how close we can get to the box or pole. The Trustees agreed, if the resident is willing to purchase the entire culvert, then they do not mind. It would not be effective to cut the culvert and add sections to each side of the driveway. Dahman Road is still being used by farmers to haul chemicals. With the weather turning, it will probably be spring before it is complete. Nick Speaks is leaving Saturday for his cruise and will be gone for a couple of weeks. The concrete approaches at the fire station and for the handicap ramps are not complete yet. Andy reached out to the company but has not heard back. Lauren Whalen asked Andy about cleaning up the exterior of the Village shed. Andy said it cannot be power washed because it is painted tin, but it can be repainted in the spring. The road signs were ordered. The no parking signs need to be ordered.

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

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

Insurance – Mayor Turpin discussed the possibility of changing the deductible and premium for the insurance to help save money. After discussion the trustees came to an agreement that it is not enough savings to change the deductible. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the insurance quote with ICRMT, including workman's compensation for \$26,902.00. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

Personnel – Mayor Turpin will send out employee reviews. The personnel committee will then meet to discuss the reviews. The Board will review in December.

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

Utilities – Mayor Turpin handed out a copy of the spreadsheet for the gas transportation costs. He explained the spreadsheet and will talk with the attorney about how to handle refunds for some residents who received LiHeap, moved out of the Village, or that are deceased.

Old Business:

The burned trailer property does not have an update at this time.

Mayor Turpin read the ordinance for materials on the Village Streets. The ordinance included tree limbs, liquids, and other materials. The fine is no less than \$50, but no more than \$100. However, it also included reimbursement to the Village for any costs for clean-up. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept Ordinance 2023-07 an ordinance prohibiting dropping or placement of limbs, vegetation, trash, debris, or any liquid or semi-liquid materials on Village streets. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy already discussed the disaster declaration status in his report.

The bid for the tree removal was also discussed in Andy's report.

Ameren should have removed some of the old cable wires from the poles around town, but there are a few remaining.

New Business:

Mayor Turpin read through the profits of each business from the audit. Water had to borrow \$30,000 from Municipal due to the water project. Overall, the year was not great. Mayor Turpin said the Board will have to discuss how it will affect bonuses this year.

Trustees Amanda Ahlers and Lauren Whalen will judge the Christmas lights this year. The contest will run on December 19th and 20th from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Amanda Ahlers made a motion to approve the Christmas parade for December 2nd. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

Lauren Whalen brought a concern to the Board last month from a resident who had excessive burning at a nearby residents. Lauren has since noticed there is a camper and shed that are looking rough. She is concerned those are the materials that are being burned. Mayor Turpin will look into it.

Vickie Adkins made a motion to adjourn. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.