

Village of Franklin  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 5, 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, December 5, 2023 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 November. The board discussed each businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances, and check details. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November. 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 November. Abby Flynn 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.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the trustees with minutes from November. Sarah Carter made a motion to approve the minutes from November. 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.

**Committee Reports:**

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. The tree removal near Highway 104 is complete. Terry Treece stopped in the Village Hall to let Andy know he'll be starting the concrete work within the week. Everything is completed for FEMA regarding the derecho that occurred in June 2023. The Village reported \$29,504.77 in costs from the derecho. FEMA is expected to pay back approximately \$22,000.00. Andy has the Corpro contract for the water tower cathodic protection plan. The cost is \$685.00. Andy also received a bid for the new street signs, no parking signs, a new pole, and hardware for all of them from ID Signs. He presented the bid to the board. He also received a quote for new welcome signs from ID Signs. That bid was \$10,901.00. Andy informed the Trustees that he has 28 comp hours built-up because he has not had the opportunity to take time off. He asked the Trustees if they would be willing to pay him for 24 of those hours. Mayor Turpin told him the attorney said the Village must buy the time back from him.

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 – There is nothing new to report from this committee.

Personnel – Amanda Ahlers led the board into closed session to discuss employee reviews and pay increases. The board entered closed session at 7:14 pm and returned to open session at 7:22 pm. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to accept the pay raises as discussed in closed

session. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to accept the employee gifts as discussed in closed session. Sarah Carter 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.

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

Utilities – The committee had nothing to report, however, Wyatt Smith raised a concern regarding the status of the water account on the financial report. Mayor Turpin agreed and is concerned there could be a leak. Andy has reached out trying to get someone local to come inspect the system, but was unsuccessful as discussed during previous meetings. The company the Village used previously is very expensive and travels from Missouri. In addition, Mayor Turpin reminded the board that Andy's payroll was moved to another business account until water stabilizes. Another hinderance to the account was the Highway 104 water project. Fortunately, the Village was able to pay for the project outright and not take out a loan, but it took a lot out of the account. In addition, the water rates have not increased in about five years. The board will discuss the utility rates in more depth in February.

### **Old Business:**

The burned trailer property will hopefully be complete in the next month.

Andy discussed the disaster declaration status in his report. The Village is expected to get approximately \$22,000 back from the derecho that came through in June.

Ameren was supposed to remove all the old cable wires on the electric poles around the Village. They did not get to all of them when they came. Andy will get ahold of them to see if they are coming back. If not, the Village will need to find someone who can help remove them.

### **New Business:**

Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the bid to purchase all the street signs. Amanda Ahlers 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 motion was carried.

Lauren Whalen made a motion to accept the Corpro contract for the water tower in the amount of \$685.00. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. 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.

Mayor Turpin reviewed the report from the audit regarding payment for comp hours for the Village employees. He will rediscuss the policy with the employees as well. Employees are supposed to carry 12 hours, after the 12 hours it switches to overtime pay. One employee is currently carrying 28 hours, and will need to be paid for 24 of those hours.

Mayor Turpin reviewed the tax levy with the trustees. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the certified copy of the Tax Levy notice. Sarah Carter 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.

The Board of Trustees discussed the meeting dates for 2024. Sarah Carter made a motion to move the regular monthly meetings to the second Tuesday of every month, except for July 2024, when it will be on Monday, July 8. Lauren Whalen 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.

Mayor Turpin read the bounced check letter aloud to the board. The letter will be sent to anyone who has a NSF check returned.

The company that the Village purchased a copier from years ago went out of business. The copier has been with the Village since the Village purchased the building that it currently occupies. Ray White from CDS provided a quote for a lease on a new copier. The company would provide color printing. After discussing the board does not want to rush into a lease. All the trustees agree the Village should check into pricing on purchasing a copier and then decide. They are also unsure that there is a need for a color copier. The employees have access to one color printer already. The board will discuss further at the next meeting.

Mayor Turpin explained the new Workers Paid Leave Act, enforced by the state, and how that affects the Village because we have a part time employee. Mayor Turpin read the act aloud. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Ordinance No. 2023-08, regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for all Workers Act for the Village of Franklin. Amanda Ahlers 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.

The Village has had several cases in the last couple of years where the board accepts a bid for a job. Frequently the companies do not show up when they state they will and do not return phone calls to follow-up. The jobs are not completed in a timely manner and occasionally companies have retracted their bid. Mayor Turpin reached out to the attorney to discuss what options the Village has in those situations. After talking with the attorney, he'll update the board.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Lauren Whalen 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 meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.