

Village of Franklin  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2024  
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 10, 2024 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Wyatt Smith, Sarah Carter, Vickie Adkins, and Kendra Marcel. Trustees Abby Flynn and Lauren Whalen were absent.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for November. She presented each of the following: businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances, and check details. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Kendra Marcel-yes. The motion was carried. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and To Be Paid for November. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the meeting minutes from November to the Board of Trustees. Vickie Adkins made a motion to approve the minutes from November. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Andy Fairless provided the Utility Supervisor Report. He ordered the parts for the bulk water. A credit card machine would cost around \$1,700 and would also need internet. A dollar bill machine would be around \$2,400, but does not need internet. Andy also received a bid from Vandeventer for the pumps at Lift Station 4. For two pumps, it is \$33,085.18. The back door at the Village Hall is stripped out and needs replaced. Andy received a bid for \$2,700. It does not include the exterior steel door with the frame. He also called two other people for bids and is waiting on their reply. Andy provided information regarding the roadway needed to access the burn pile. It will take about 15,384 square feet away from the spray field and will need to be 12 feet wide for the plow. MFT can be used for the road. Andy also found out that the skid steer can be billed to MFT if it is used on the roads for snow removal and such. The price is \$46 per hour. Gas is up 6.21% for the year. The Village sold more than purchased. The water loss for the year is a little over 4%. If flushing is totaled in, it is just over 3%. Mayor Turpin said he would like to see it closer to 2%. Metro is coming into town. They purchased the bond required and completed the application on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Village is required to respond within 45 days. It is estimated it will be the spring before they can begin.

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

Finance/Payroll – Mayor Turpin informed the Board that the audit showed the gas business had a large profit last year, however, it was the worst year for gas the Village has experienced in a long time. After reviewing the audit more, Mayor Turpin noticed the \$141,881

transportation refund received from Panhandle was put in as income. When everything is settled, it will be reimbursed to the Village's gas customers and therefore should not be considered income. Mayor Turpin reached out to the auditor and they agreed and said they will correct it. The gas, water, and municipal businesses lost money. The water and municipal losses were due to the large water project that nearly doubled in price before it was completed. Sewer made money, but because the depreciation for sewer is so high, the Village really did not make any money. In summary, the four businesses did not have a profitable year.

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

Personnel – Vickie Adkins led the Board into closed session at 7:22 pm to discuss employee reviews and recommendations for raises and bonuses. The Board ended closed session and entered back into open session at 7:25 pm. Kendra Marcel made a motion to give employee raises as discussed in closed session. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Utilities – Mayor Turpin went to talk with the bank about possibly moving a CD. There are two CD's drawing .25% interest. The largest of the two, Mayor Turpin recommends the Board make a motion to move the CD into the gas business account. Later, the Board could choose to move the money back into a CD, at a higher rate. The Trustees discussed penalties, when each CD is due for renewal, and the possibility of unexpected expenses. Wyatt Smith made a motion to move the \$30,998.86 from the CD to the gas account. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

### **Old Business:**

Mayor Turpin said the resealing of the basketball court will be discussed further in the spring.

Lauren Whalen was absent. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

MCC agreed to pay the bond and the Village is going to ensure they follow all of the guidelines.

Mayor Turpin contacted Pam Wall regarding the mural and has not heard back from her.

### **New Business:**

Mayor Turpin read the tax levy to the Trustees. The Village will receive \$23,898 from the amount levied on taxes. The tax levy will be in effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025 through the last day of March 2026. Sarah Carter made a motion to accept the certified copy of the tax levy ordinance. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

The Trustees agree to have the monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, except in July. The July 2025 meeting will be held on Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Mayor Turpin received a phone call from a resident asking if there was a way to fill in some empty lots around the Village with houses, to draw in more families. Mayor Turpin said most of the lots are equipped with gas, sewer, and water, but the Village does not have the means to add houses to the lots. It would be too costly.

Mayor Turpin read Resolution 2024-02, a resolution to move the windmill money to the municipal account to pay for the Vac Trailer. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept the resolution to move the windmill money, that is forth coming, into Municipal for \$53,000. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Kendra Marcel-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin read the letter from West Central ETSB regarding the land usage. One tower on Wyatt belongs to Verizon and the other belongs to Rural Electric. West Central ETSB is working with Rural Electric to enhance their 911 system, which will ultimately benefit the residents of the Village of Franklin. The project will not begin until the spring.

Mayor Turpin read Resolution 2024-03, to increase property in the contract for IREC and WCETSB. Sarah Carter made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-03 for WCETSB and IREC. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-present, Kendra Marcel-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy reported to the Board regarding the back door at the Village Hall. Mayor Turpin said he thought the bid was a little high, especially not including the door. The current door is about 50 years old and really warped and worn out. The Board agreed they would like to wait for the other bids to come in.

Wyatt informed the Board that he will put in his resignation at the next meeting and hopes the Board will accept it.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.