

Village of Franklin  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 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, March 12, 2024 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, Lauren Whalen, Sarah Carter, and Vickie Adkins. Trustee Amanda Ahlers was absent.

Guest, Dave Tannahill was present to discuss the idea of placing a sign on the Woodson-Franklin Blacktop regarding the semi's jake braking. He said at times it shakes and rattles his house. Mayor Turpin told Mr. Tannahill the Woodson-Franklin Blacktop was not a Village Road, but he could reach out to the county.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for February. 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 February. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for February. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-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. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. He handed out pricing from Coe Equipment, Inc. for a vac truck and a vac trailer to purchase. He said most vac trucks do require a CDL, but there is one truck at Coe Equipment that does not need a CDL because of its weight limit. Andy expressed his concern about not having a vac truck or trailer with the new fiber lines coming into town. He said the Village could have spent \$35,000 to split one with Waverly a while back, but chose not to and now are looking upwards of \$130,000 to purchase one. If you rent a vac trailer, you are looking at approximately \$4,500.00 per week. Unfortunately, Coe Equipment cannot guarantee there will always be a trailer in-stock to rent. Vickie Adkins asked Andy what his plan was for Dahman Road. Andy said it is at the top of the list when the weather permits. Wyatt Smith asked him about Lake Road and how he plans on smoothing the patch jobs from last summer. Andy suggested the Village hire the work out if they are not happy with it. Wyatt said his concern is the rough transition between the three large patches and that we need to smooth those out. Andy said he does not know what to do or if they have a concrete grinder to help fix it. Vickie also asked about the hole on Wyatt near the Post Office. Mayor Turpin said he is concerned that if they fill it with concrete, the traffic will go closer to the pole that is near it and slide into it. He said rock may be the best idea, but it is difficult to keep the rock in it with the heavy semi and tractor traffic.

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

Finance/Payroll – Mayor Turpin presented the budget and reviewed it with the trustees. Andy’s salary will come out of Municipal for four months out of the year and Nick’s salary will come out of Municipal for three months out of the year. Moving their salaries around, should help balance the other businesses that do not always stay balanced in the off season (i.e. gas in the summer is not as used as much as it is in the winter). Abby Flynn made a motion to approve the budget. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Personnel – Mayor Turpin informed the board that the office needs part-time help due to Mrs. Johnson resigning last month. It could take upwards of two full years to train them. It will be approximately 10 hours or more per week while they are training. Afterwards, it is at their discretion. The most important part is that they get enough hours to keep up their ability, skill level, and knowledge within the field. LeAnn continued approximately 10 hours per week and always filled in for Reitha if she was unable to work.

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

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

### **Old Business:**

The Village is still waiting on an update regarding the burned trailer property. A company who buys properties for taxes in Morgan County is who purchased it for taxes.

Andy has not heard back from Ameren in regards to the old cable wires.

Mayor Turpin said the printer approved last month is not compatible with the cardstock paper needed for billing. He is looking into other options. Lauren Whalen said she found a Xerox C315 that copies, scans, prints, and faxes. It was on sale recently for \$415. Mayor Turpin was also looking at Xerox, but one he found was \$900-\$1,000. He said his would withstand more usage and number of connections. He said the ink was expensive, but should last a long time. He would also like a laser copier because the data on the bills would not be wiped off as easily as ink printer’s data. Wyatt suggested looking into Dells as well.

There is a grant for children through IDOT that could potentially help in getting a sidewalk from Osage down Highway 104, but it runs from August to October. Stefanie from Benton & Associates would know about it and Mayor Turpin plans to ask her about it.

### **New Business:**

Mayor Turpin will have Andy review the list of sidewalks that still need repaired and contact Slabjackers.

Ashley Turpin, clerk, handed out the Statements of Economic Interest for the trustees to complete in April. They are due at the beginning of May.

The Royell contract renews every two years and is up for renewal. The Village plans to continue moving forward with the renewal.

The trustees discussed the idea of purchasing or renting a vac truck or trailer. Abby Flynn was curious as to why the new fiber line played a crucial role in the need for a vac truck or trailer. Mayor Turpin explained that the purpose would be to use it if something needed examined or fixed, then they could dig a small opening to find the problem without hitting anything else. He said possibly the cost of the permits could go towards one or the other. Wyatt Smith asked how often one would be used in a year. Mayor Turpin said prior to this year, hardly ever. However, now probably more often because of the fiber lines. Wyatt does not like the idea of spending \$130,000 without knowing exactly how frequently it would be used. He also suggested looking into the requirements for a CDL for our employees and equipment. The trustees stated they were more interested in renting a trailer at this point, if one is needed. Lauren Whalen also asked if the Village could reach out to Waverly and see if they would still be interested in splitting the cost of their vac truck with Franklin. Mayor Turpin said he'll reach out to the mayor of Waverly.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.