

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 14, 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, May 14, 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.

Mayor Turpin read a resignation letter from Amanda Ahlers. Sarah Carter made a motion to accept the resignation from Amanda Ahlers, with regrets. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-no, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for April. She presented each of the following: businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances, and check details. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for April. Lauren Whalen 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 April. Abby Flynn 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 April. Vickie Adkins made a motion to approve the minutes from April. Abby Flynn 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 was unable to attend the meeting to provide the Utility Supervisor Report. Mayor Turpin informed the Board that the level Andy and Nick uses no longer has batteries available on the market. A new level can be purchased for \$1,400.00 or battery packs can be purchased for \$250.00 each. Mayor Turpin suggested they purchase battery packs for it.

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 – A Village employee received a high bill after going to the emergency room and asked if the Board would look further into the plans available for employee's health insurance. Unfortunately, all plans' costs are increasing, but specifically the gold plan is by 7%. The Board discussed other plans and the pros and cons of each. All Village employees have AFLAC as well. The employees are interested in possibly adding dental and vision, but the Board recently voted against adding to the plan as of now. Mayor Turpin told the Trustees that he would get more information regarding the platinum plan so they can compare it with the gold, fully. The Board will discuss again later in the month or at the next meeting.

Personnel – Mayor Turpin stated that Lincoln Hill reached out about taking the part-time office help position in the Village office. He stated that his current job allows him the flexibility of being at the Village when needed. Mayor Turpin said his main concern is training someone on the billing system so that when Reitha is gone, billing can continue. He believes Lincoln would pick up on it well. Abby Flynn made a motion to hire Lincoln Hill as part-time office help. 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.

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

Utilities – Mayor Turpin led a discussion regarding the gas meter charge. He suggested the Village could keep the meter rate charge, but rather than it fluctuating with the market, it would be a set rate unless the market price increased significantly. Several gas companies have moved to this and it is working out well for them. The Villages' rates are low already and if market rates would happen to drop, it would help the Village. If the market rates increased, it would not hurt the Village either. Trustee, Wyatt Smith said that an advantage he sees is having a set cost locked in already helps the Board know that the price will not increase over the next few years. Mayor Turpin asked the Trustees to think about it and it will be discussed again in June. Mayor Turpin added that the Franklin Lake water contract is down to the last \$1,500.00 and he suggests switching them over from current contracted rate to just the out-of-town water rate. This would help eliminate the third billing rate and only have two rates – out-of-town and in-town. Wyatt Smith made a motion to change the rate for the lake to out-of-town rather than the agreed upon rate currently in place. Lauren Whalen 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 motion was carried. Before moving onto old business, Abby Flynn asked Mayor Turpin if the Village has even considered having a summer rate or having a small meter for people who are using a lot of water for pools, gardens, or other summer water usages. Mayor Turpin said the Board talked about it, but has not ever agreed on anything. He believes they could make it work and then people would not be charged for sewer usage for it as well.

Old Business:

The current owner of the burned property said he would sell the property for \$750.00, plus any recording fees. The court date is July 18th.

Ameren was out looking at the wires on the poles the other day, but Mayor Turpin has not heard back from them.

Stefanie from Benton & Associates has not been out to investigate the sidewalks from Osage to Route 104. Mayor Turpin will reach out to her. Trustee, Vickie Adkins asked if the Village could extend a sidewalk from the school by placing on West Street, near the park and then go towards Osage. Mayor Turpin said he would run it by Stefanie.

The Royell contract renews every 5 years and Mayor Turpin wants to make sure it is on the agenda each year to remind the Board that the renewal is coming. Mayor Turpin read through the old contracts' bullet points. Royell used the water tower for their services. Lauren Whalen made a motion to accept the collocation agreement for the Franklin water tank with Royell. 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.

Mayor Turpin said the county is going to have signs put up regarding the jake braking. He is unsure if they are going to put an ordinance in place at this time.

New Business:

Sam Fromme, owner of Flatlander Trailers, Inc. has agreed to rent a portion of Boyers Lot from the Village. The contract between the Village and Sam Frome is set for one year. It will be changed to a two-year contract. The rent is \$170.00 per month. There are a couple of trees that need to be removed, which is why the rent is \$170, rather than \$150. Mayor Turpin had two bids for the Trustees to have the trees removed. The first bid was from Greenworks for \$9,800.00. The second bid was from T&K for \$2,000.00. Sarah Carter made a motion to accept the bid from T&K for \$2,000.00 to remove two trees on Mill Street. 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. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept the commercial lease for a portion of Boyers Lot for \$170.00 per month, for two years, to Flatlanders Trailers, Inc. Vickie Adkins 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.

Reznicek Insurance is moving out of the Village rental property and Ed McKinnon would like to rent it for \$450.00 per month. That would include the entire building. Curt Reznicek and Ed discussed possibly switching prior to August. Trustee, Abby Flynn asked if the Village would offer utility rates at the Villages' cost. Mayor Turpin said if he opens a store front that is available for the community to use, then yes. The Board will discuss that when the time comes. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept the commercial lease for the Village of Franklin and Ed McKinnon at 114 Main Street for \$450.00 per month. 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.

Mayor Turpin asked if the Village would have heavy trash pick-up this year. The Trustees agreed that the Village would not have a pick-up this year.

Mayor Turpin said the Village was asked to sponsor the face painting booth at the Franklin 4th of July. The Trustees agreed to do so. Lauren Whalen made a motion to sponsor the face painting at the 4th of July for \$500.00. Abby Flynn 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 motion was carried.

The Board received three candidates' names to fill the Trustee position. The following were interested in joining the Board: Steve Trout, Kendra Marcel, and Jim Hughes. Jim Hughes was present and provided the Board with some personal and professional experiences that could be helpful as a Trustee. The Board discussed their candidates and chose Kendra Marcel as the new Trustee. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept Kendra Marcel as the new Trustee for the Board. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-present, Lauren Whalen-present, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-present, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

The Board discussed the increase in costs for impounding vehicles and the Village ordinance 2005-1. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept ordinance 2024-03, an ordinance amending ordinance no. 2005-1, an ordinance controlling abandoned, inoperable, unlicensed, and junk motor vehicles and vehicle accessories. 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.

Mayor Turpin reviewed the list of activities that will take place in the park during the 4th of July celebration. The Village will discuss lifting the alcohol ordinance for the park next month.

The Farmers Market will take place in June and July. Mayor Turpin said it should take place on Wednesdays to help with the Queen of Hearts. The dates set are as follows: June 12th, June 26th, July 10th, and July 24th. It will run from 5pm to 7pm. Mayor Turpin will have Tammy and Reitha advertise for vendors on Facebook. Abby Flynn made a motion to have the Farmers Market on June 12th and 26th, and July 10th and 24th, from 5-7pm, in the Village Park. 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.

The Village employee time clock is not working. Mayor Turpin would like to replace it with a finger touch or something of that sort. Wyatt Smith will get the information of an app-based time clock that he's used and Ashley Turpin will ask the school what they use.

Reitha's computer is the oldest within the Village office and needs a new one. Wyatt Smith made a motion to purchase a new computer for the secretary. Vickie Adkins 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.

Mayor Turpin will review the Queen of Hearts paperwork with the Board at the June meeting.

Lauren Whalen mentioned a memorial plaque for the park on behalf of a community member who dedicated a lot of time to raising funds for the equipment that is at the park.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Lauren Whalen 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 8:23 pm.