

Village of Franklin  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 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 Monday, July 8, 2024 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, Sarah Carter, Vickie Adkins, and Kendra Marcel. Trustee Lauren Whalen was absent.

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

Clerk Ashley Turpin was absent, but presented the Trustees with minutes from June via email. Vickie Adkins made a motion to approve the minutes from June. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

Andy Fairless provided the Utility Supervisor Report. Andy received the bill from Treece's for the sidewalk repairs and handicap accessibility points around the Village square. The total came in \$7,000 less than the original bid, even with Treece's doing some extra work in the process. The final bill was right around \$14,000. Mayor Turpin and Andy spoke about getting a sidewalk in the park from the bank's side to the pavilion. It will be discussed later in the meeting. The backboards at the park need replaced. They have been up for between 30 and 40 years. They were supposed to be replaced last year, but it fell through. Therefore, Nick and Andy are going to start working on the project now to ensure it is complete before the next 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. The gutters on the office and the bulk water building will be replaced. There was a leak found in the ICCA audit and that will be investigated so it can be repaired. Nick and Andy put in a service line at the Preston's residence. USDI had to come in and weld the tap to disconnect a service line that was connecting the house to the nearby apartments. Now they are on separate lines. The Village is going to start on Prairie Street and go down to Church Street, digging the ditches out to help with water flow. They will also work on Mill Street. Andy's Uncle Mike, who works for the Morgan County, is going to bring a crew out to help smooth out the patches on Lake Drive. They will then go around town and smooth out a few other areas where valves were put in. Mike will look at Dahman Road and give Andy his suggestion on what would be best for a more permanent repair. Andy also spoke with Joe Wood and Terry Treece about Dahman Road. They suggested ripping the whole road out, resurfacing, laying oil and chip. Mayor Turpin asked if the county crew would be fixing the spot on South Railroad that they couldn't do last time. Andy said they just need to trim the trees and

then it will be on their list as well. Andy has not heard anything from the internet company that is supposed to be coming into town to lay fiber optic. They are currently in White Hall. The last time they sent Andy their paperwork, they did not submit their plans or permit fees so Andy denied their right. Once they submit everything to the Village correctly, the Village has 30 days to respond. Several municipalities are adopting the same ordinance that Waverly put into place.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – Mayor Turpin explained there are four big pieces of sidewalk that needs replaced in the park and a sidewalk needs to be added from the bank side of the park, up to the pavilion. There is currently not a sidewalk and is not handicap accessible. The Village will do the work in the park rather than calling for someone to come in. This will help save on costs. Vickie Adkins made a motion to fix the sidewalks in the park and add a new sidewalk to provide wheelchair accessibility to the pavilion. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Insurance – Mayor Turpin spoke with two of the three parties that are interested in coming to provide information about their policies and quotes to offer the Village for insurance on the municipality. Mayor Turpin suggested setting up a day for the meeting, other than the regular monthly meeting date, because it will be a long meeting. The Trustees agreed to check their calendars and unofficially set the date for August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. In addition, Vickie Adkins asked what the response was from the Village employees about the insurance policies. Mayor Turpin said all employees did not like the idea of raising their cost, but they did not make a final decision. He will reach out to them again closer to the end of the year since it would be best to switch at the beginning of the year.

Personnel – Vickie Adkins said Lincoln Hill started training with Reitha today. He is working around his full-time job at IDOT. He is in the office two days a week and works from home three days a week. Reitha did say there are tutorials on the computer that help walk Lincoln through parts of the program when needed.

Utility Reconnect – There is nothing new to report from this committee. Vickie Adkins asked Mayor Turpin if customers were called before their services were disconnected. Mayor Turpin said no, the customer calls afterwards and asks for it to be reconnected. The dates vary each month for disconnects because the Village does not want to disconnect on a Friday and make customers wait all weekend to get ahold of someone. Therefore, it might wait until a Monday so they can reconnect immediately. It is \$75 to reconnect.

Utilities – Mayor Turpin is working on a spreadsheet, computing numbers to compare the utility rates as they are versus using a flat rate. Thus far he has found the following information: Two years ago, the Village would have made less money for 5 months of that year and for 6 months the Village would have made more money with a flat rate. This year the Village would have made a substantial amount. Mayor Turpin said it was way too much for the Village to make standing on the belief that the Village is not here to make a large profit but to provide services and amenities to the Village. Now he is going to look at the totals if the flat rate were just applied to the summer months and not the winter months. The Board will receive a spreadsheet with the information once it is finalized.

## **Old Business:**

The court date for the burned property is July 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be \$750.00 to purchase.

There are a lot of cables still left on poles around town. Mayor Turpin has not been able to find someone who would be able to come in and remove the cables. The search continues.

As the Board discussed last month, Benton & Associates is looking into other options for the sidewalk across Highway 104. Unfortunately, there are curves coming from both directions making a sidewalk a dangerous addition and a big liability to the Village.

Mayor Turpin said the Village's attorney spoke with Brad Zeller, commissioner. Brad would like to know which trucking companies are causing the issue with jake braking so that they can address it with the companies. The county is going to prohibit it on the Woodson-Franklin Blacktop and the Village of Franklin will need to put an ordinance in place.

Wyatt Smith said his work uses a webpage called Uattend for time clock services. Mayor Turpin will investigate it.

## **New Business:**

The basketball backboards at the park need replaced. Rick Smith has some at his house with lifetime warranties that he suggested. They are clear with a larger backboard for the kids to use. Mayor Turpin will get more information on them. The Trustees agree they need done soon as they are used almost year-round.

In 2021, the basketball court in the park was resealed for \$1,640. It will probably cost twice that but we need to get bids. It must be done to keep up with the regular maintenance.

Mayor Turpin sent an email update to the Trustees. The Village is going to receive some more money from the Panhandle case. Another group complained that the numbers provided by Panhandle were incorrect and after FERC investigated, it was said to be true. The case is in federal court.

Lauren Whalen brought the idea of a memorial plaque forward to Mayor Turpin. It would be in honor of the late Kim Costello and the countless hours she put in for the new playground at the Village Park. Kim raised money in various ways, one of which is a popular cookbook that she put together with locals' favorite homecooked recipes. Kim applied for grants and took a lot of pride in providing a place for the kids to play. Lauren would like to see a plaque purchased and placed in the park on her behalf.

The bid for new gutters on the Village Hall was \$684.00. There was a \$75 increase due to material costs, making the new total \$759.00. The bulk water building bid for 6-inch gutters came in at \$1,085.00. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the gutter bids for the Village Hall and bulk water building, from Rainbow Gutters. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes.

Mayor Turpin let the Board know he received a letter from Mr. George Hamilton regarding the no parking zone on West Street, during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. Mr. Hamilton appreciated how it helped the flow of traffic and thought it was a great idea. On another note, Mayor Turpin informed the Trustees that there were a few incidences at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July that were concerning and possibly an endangerment to kids in the community. Unfortunately, after reviewing the cameras in the park, a lot of the incidences took place in blind spots. Therefore, the Board will discuss adding more cameras for security, in hopes it will prevent or help these types of cases during future events in the park.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.