

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 13, 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, August 13, 2024 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, Lauren Whalen, Vickie Adkins, and Kendra Marcel. Trustee Sarah Carter was absent.

Stefanie Ballinger from Benton & Associates was present to discuss MFT. She will most likely be back in January to start setting up a plan with the Board to use the MFT funds. IDOT prefers that the plans are approved prior to using MFT funds. The plan is simply a loose budget. Stefanie also presented the Resolution for Maintenance. Wyatt Smith made a motion to approve the Municipal Expenditure Statement. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Kendra Marcel-yes. The motion was carried.

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

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

Committee Reports:

Andy Fairless provided the Utility Supervisor Report. There have been some issues at the odorization station on Harts Prairie. The blow off valve has been inoperable for the past two years. Nick and Andy believe it is rusted out. They also discovered there is not enough odor when the valve is opened completely. After digging, they found the valve is also inoperable. The peerless tank continues to read at 0 usage. The quote USDI gave to replace everything and move the valves above ground is \$17,980.00. It is crucial that it gets fixed because the lack of odor is a huge threat to knowing and/or finding a gas leak and needs fixed as soon as possible. Mayor Turpin said the Board could choose to use money from the gas account, but there is also a CD that could be used, if need be, Andy added that USDI believes it can be fixed by the end of September. Eventually the building will be gone and everything above ground will be fenced in. Morgan County came in and worked on Lake Drive. They also worked over a couple of areas where valves were replaced. The court reseal will be done next March. Andy spoke with Midwest Asphalt and they are coming this week to look at it and provide a bid. Andy reached out to Royell to ask about more cameras in the

park, but he has not heard back yet. Andy spoke with Joe Woods and Mike to ask for their suggestion on Dahman Road. They both agreed that what needed done was going to cost nearly \$47,948.00 in total. Therefore, Mayor Turpin made the executive decision for Nick and Andy to start fixing it themselves. The amount for the work that needed to be done was more than the Village has in the MFT account. Andy said they started the work and have more they would like to do, but wanted to ask the Trustees their thoughts first. Nick and Andy also went to look at the playground at East Grade. It will require a lot of disassembling and concrete that will need removed. Vickie complimented Andy and Nick on the burned trailer lot. Both sides of the ditch on Mill Street were cleaned and shredded. By reshaping both ditches with the new culvert, Mill Street water will flow better.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – The new tenant in 114 Main asked the Village if they would be willing to spruce up the side of the building at 114 Main. Ashley Turpin said she could reach out to the lady who painted a mural at the school or possibly the art department. Lauren Whalen made a motion to paint the side of the 114 Main building. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Kendra Marcel-yes. The motion was carried. In addition, the tenant would like the flooring replaced in 114 Main. The current flooring is old and worn out. The Village Hall could also use new flooring in the Board room. Mayor Turpin said vinyl flooring would be cost effective and easy to maintain. Lauren Whalen made a motion to approve the new flooring in 114 Main. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried. Lastly, Franklin CUSD #1 has a playground set at East Grade School that needs removed to meet the State of Illinois pre-k grant mandates. The school reached out to the Village to see if the Board would be interested in taking it for the Village Park. Abby Flynn made a motion to remove the playground equipment at East Grade School to place in the Village Park. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Insurance – Mayor Turpin reminded the Trustees that there is a special meeting regarding insurance next week. It will be a short meeting because one company is unable to attend.

Personnel – Mayor Turpin informed the Board that Lincoln Hill will no longer be part-time help at the Village. After speaking with him, he decided it was not going to work with his current job hours. Barb Barber was interested and is now training with Reitha. Abby Flynn made a motion to hire Barb Barber for part-time help in the Village office. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Utilities – Mayor Turpin explained that the Board will re-visit the idea of using a flat rate for gas again next Spring. Doing so will give the Board a better look at the colder season and how it would affect rates.

Old Business:

Mayor Turpin spoke with Stefanie from Benton & Associates regarding the sidewalks from Osage to Route 104. Unfortunately, regardless of how the sidewalk connects to allow pedestrians to cross Route 104 it poses a huge liability on the Village. There are two curves on each side that would be a threat to pedestrians with the heavy and fast traffic flow that comes through that area. At this time, it does not seem as if the project will happen.

Mayor Turpin emailed the Trustees with a letter from the attorney sent to the County Board. The County wants the Village to approve a noise ordinance. The attorney said the County should put up a sign.

The backboards on the basketball court were supposed to be replaced last year and were not. They need to be done before July 2025. Mayor Turpin found they run approximately \$1,500 each and come with a lifetime warranty. He will continue to research and bring more to the Board in September.

Andy touched on the basketball court re-seal in his report.

Lauren Whalen read an example to the Board of what she would like to see written on the memorial plaque in the park. She suggested mounting the plaque to one of the existing benches so that it is secure. She has a couple of businesses online that could make it, but would prefer to use someone local if the Trustees have any suggestions. Abby Flynn suggested businesses in Jacksonville, Carlinville, and Pittsfield. Lauren will provide bids for the September meeting.

Mayor Turpin provided ideas regarding the time clock. The programs he presented use thumb print or eye recognition and Susan would simply pull the thumb drive at the end of the week to collect and download all the data. They cost approximately \$1,500.00. Mayor Turpin will check with the attorney to be sure it is all okay and if so, the Board can approve it next month.

New Business:

Susan Smith and Mayor Turpin discussed putting \$15,000 from gas into a CD. The money is from the Panhandle settlement and will eventually be returned to the Village customers. The Village is still waiting on the next court date for the latest appeal from FERC. Once it is complete, the refunds will be dispersed.

Vickie Adkins made a motion to purchase parcel 14-36-200-005 for \$830.00. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

Stefanie from Benton & Associates presented the Municipal Maintenance Expenditure Statements earlier in the meeting.

Mayor Turpin explained to the Trustees that the odorizer that the Village currently has was put in place around 1950. It has been having a lot of issues and needs replaced. Abby Flynn made a motion to spend \$17,980.00 to replace our odorization station with USDI. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

The Village would like to put an enclosed building on the lot to store the plow. Flatlander Trailers has buildings that range from \$8,000 to \$12,000. It must have a 12x12 foot door to fit the plow. Wyatt Smith suggests not purchasing one that is too narrow. Mayor Turpin will work with Sam Fromme to get a bid. The interior would just be gravel.

Andy has not been successful in reaching Royell to install additional cameras. Mayor Turpin is going to try to reach out. The Board believes it is crucial to get better coverage.

Metro is looking at coming into Franklin within the next few weeks. Their attorney contacted the Villages' attorney and wants to discuss the possibility of lowering the bond. The bond is currently set at \$250,000.00. Mayor Turpin said that unfortunately their reputation precedes them which is why the large bond was put into place. Mayor Turpin has a meeting set up with the Village's attorney and Metro's attorney. He will update the Board in September.

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, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.