

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2025
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, February 11, 2025 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Lauren Whalen, Vickie Adkins, and Kendra Marcel. Trustees Abby Flynn and Sarah Carter were absent.

Mrs. Ginny Walsh was present to talk with the Board about her upcoming endeavor. Mrs. Walsh and her husband, Mr. Matt Walsh, recently bought the building directly across from Hamilton's on Wyatt and Main. It is currently an extended stay, but the Walsh's are going to convert it back to some of its original preservation. There is a historic preservation company in Springfield who is interested in helping the Walsh's restore the building. In addition, a company from Jacksonville will help provide music lessons at the facility. They will hold performances for the students to showcase what they have learned. There will also be a coffee shop on the main floor. Mrs. Walsh said they are hoping to get grants to help student workers earn money for college if they work at the coffee shop. Mrs. Walsh wanted to ask the Village if there was anything she needed to know before beginning the restoration process. Mayor Turpin and Andy Fairless told her to keep in touch if there is anything she needs. They told her she can use the lot behind the building to set dumpsters as well. The Trustees wished her good luck with her new endeavor.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for January. 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 January. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and To Be Paid for January. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Paul Turpin-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Committee Reports:

Andy Fairless provided the Utility Supervisor Report. He has not heard back from MCC. Waverly is taking them to court for the permitting fees. Andy believes MCC is working in Divernon right now. Mayor Turpin said they will not come to Franklin until after they finish in Waverly. Waverly is having issues with them which could delay them coming into Franklin a while longer. Andy said the bulk water station is working again. The furnace in the back shop gave out. Nick and Andy were able to replace it. There was an issue at the Josh Adkins rental home with the grinder station. Andy had to call for help and get the connector hooked up. There was something

stuck in the double valve. It is running again. In addition, a house off of the Woodson-Franklin Blacktop had something similar happen, but the valve was blown off of that one. The pump was overheating. Andy said there is a confined space training in Auburn that he and Nick will attend. The adapter for the pump was \$325, with delivery. He added that lift station 2 had both pumps go out at the same time. Richards Electric came and unwired them, re-wired a new one. When Nick and Andy checked the pump recently, it was running on less time than the two pumps ran combined. The new pump is efficient. Next, Andy found the parts list, took the parts apart and found the ones that needed replaced. He thinks he and Nick can fix it. The only issue is he is unsure how much the parts are, plus it is difficult to take the pump in and out. Mayor Turpin said it would be better if we hired someone to do the job because it is very difficult to take the part in and out. Lastly, Andy said the back door did not need formed and they were able to get one from Home Depot and install it without any issues.

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

Finance/Payroll – Mayor Turpin presented the budget to the Trustees, but said the Board will not vote on it this month. Mayor Turpin would like more Trustees in attendance when voting on the budget and he does not want to be one to vote.

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

Personnel – Vickie Adkins led the Board into closed session at 7:51 pm to discuss a concern regarding employee raises. The Board ended closed session and entered back into open session at 8:47 pm. Mayor Turpin informed the Board that the secretaries for the Village have both been out of work. Nick and Andy are working in the office to keep the doors open for residents. When the weather changes, they will not be able to continue working the desk. Mayor Turpin suggested that the Board hire Brenda Suter as a second, part-time secretary. Brenda is retired and offered to help when needed. Barb will continue being part-time help and should be back in the office soon. Trustee Kendra Marcel said if needed, she is available after 1 pm each day and can also help. Vickie Adkins made a motion to hire Brenda Suter as part-time help. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Paul Turpin-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

Utility Reconnect – Mayor Turpin reported that there were 8 or 9 people who were going to be shut-off, but after contacting them the majority paid within a day. LiHeap has helped some people throughout the community if needed in the last few years. The Village tried helping LiHeap, but they cannot accept the donation. Vickie Adkins said there is also a group of churches that have a service called Franklin Area Service Association. They help those in need as well.

Utilities – Mayor Turpin provided a copy of the gas utility rates from 2019 to present. The spreadsheet compared Ameren rates versus what the Village of Franklin's gas rates were. The Village's rates are low compared to Ameren. The lower rate is great for the residents, but puts the Village in a bind if rates increase suddenly and significantly, like they did a few years ago. IMGA is talking about doing flat rates. The Village also does not want to lose the gas company to a large company that will cause rates to increase significantly. Mayor Turpin suggests that the Board consider doing what IMGA suggests and have a flat rate. There are several municipalities that are starting the flat rate this summer to help ease customers into it. Mayor Turpin suggested \$13.00 per dekatherm. Trustee Whalen said she likes the idea of a hybrid system. Possibly even for the first year to see how it goes and ease customers into the flat

rate. She suggested a flat rate of \$13.00 for March or April through October and then go back to O&M in November. Trustee Marcel is still concerned about the flat rate for the warmer months due to some residents already having their bills budgeted out. Mayor Turpin said eventually the Village will put in meters that can be accessed from the utility truck by using a handheld device that reads the meter wirelessly. To do so, it will cost around \$70,000.00.

Old Business:

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

Trustee Whalen is having trouble finding a company to make the plaque for the park memorial. The other Trustees offered ideas that she will try.

Mayor Turpin said he is still waiting on a proposal and plan for the mural on the Village wall.

New Business:

Mayor Turpin read the ordinance regarding vacating the alley to the Board of Trustees. However, the address was listed as Cheyenne Circle and it is not, therefore Mayor Turpin will ask the attorney to fix it before the Board votes.

The Village's spray field is rented for farming. The contract is typically for five years. It must be advertised in the Waverly Journal for two weeks prior to accepting bids. Some of the land is going to the tower for the new emergency system, therefore the map will need redone. Lauren Whalen made a motion to approve the advertising for the waste water farming contract. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin added there are potentially three people interested in the new Trustee position. The Board will choose a new Trustee at the March meeting.

Lauren Whalen made a motion to adjourn. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Paul Turpin-yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.