

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2025
7:00 pm

Mayor Paul Turpin called the special meeting of the Village of Franklin Board of Trustees to order at 5:40 pm on Monday, August 25, 2025 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Craig Miller, Lauren Whalen, Sarah Carter, Vickie Adkins and Kendra Marcel.

Mayor Turpin informed the Board that some municipalities are combining businesses to help eliminate the need for so many positions. The Village has only received one application for the utility supervisor position. The current utility employee does not want the position. Mayor Turpin is meeting with Auburn tomorrow to discuss them helping with the Village's gas business. Mayor Turpin cannot be the acting supervisor for gas, as originally thought because he is not certified. The Village used Benton Engineering the in the past for water and sewer when situations like this arose. While meeting with Auburn, Mayor Turpin will ask if they want to help with water and sewer as well to keep it under the same management. Mayor Turpin informed the Board that in 2007 a law was passed allowing municipalities to sell their businesses by the vote of the Board. A few years ago, the Board looked into selling the gas business and received a bid from Libert and Ameren. Mayor Turpin asked the Trustees what their thoughts were about selling the businesses. Trustee Sarah Carter asked Mayor Turpin, "Is there a specific reason we need to sell the businesses, such as profit and losses?" Mayor Turpin said, "No." He explained the Village does not need the money. However, the businesses do not profit a lot. Part of that is because the Village keeps the rates low for the customers. It is getting more difficult to get and keep employees. Mayor Turpin explained the Village had several utility supervisors and employees in the last several years. Each time the Village hires a new employee, the Village pays for their trainings and certifications. There is also a holding period before the employee is fully certified and can be used to handle the different businesses. Trustee Lauren Whalen asked if the Village would keep two utility workers if the businesses sold. Mayor Turpin responded there would not be a need for any utility workers if the businesses were sold. All the jobs could be hired out. He added there would not be a need for office help either. Trustee Kendra Marcel asked if the Village would still take possession of the Franklin Fire Station. Mayor Turpin said the plan as of now is for the Fire Department to get land from Jason Fuchs. The Village attorney suggested letting the Fire Department and Jason Fuchs make the trade and the Village stay out of it. Adding a third party complicates the process. In short, the Village will not receive the fire station. Clerk Ashley Turpin asked what annual funds the Village received that would continue to come in annually if the businesses were sold. Mayor Turpin said the Village receives \$150,000 per year in municipal funds, \$50,000 from the windfarm, MFT funds and has CDs in the bank. Trustee Craig Miller asked how the debt owed to the Village would be handled in the sale. Mayor Turpin said that would be something to workout with the attorney, the Village, and the buyer. It would be settled before the transaction is completed. Trustee Vickie Adkins said the biggest drawback is losing control over the utility rates. Trustee Sarah Carter asked if the companies would be able to provide a year of rates so the Village could compare them. Mayor Turpin said they will and did last time in a very informative presentation. Trustees Craig Miller and Kendra Marcel said they would both like to look further into it to better decide what the best decision is

for the Village. Trustee Lauren Whalen expressed she has mixed emotions about it and can see the pros and cons in both options. Mayor Turpin said he will reach out to Liberty first because they can potentially purchase all three businesses. If they are not interested, he will reach out to companies like Ameren for gas, Waterworks for water, etc. Trustee Craig Miller asked what the likelihood would be of the Village getting the businesses back in the future if interested. Mayor Turpin explained that most likely that would not happen. The Trustees agreed to continue the conversation and Mayor Turpin to reach out to Liberty. The discussion will continue at next months regular meeting.

Sarah Carter made a motion to adjourn. Craig Miller seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes and Craig Miller-yes. The meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.