

Village of Franklin  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 4, 2021  
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 4, 2021 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, and Nicole Fromme. Trustees Lauren Anders and Amanda Ahlers were absent.

To start the meeting, Village Clerk, Ashley Turpin swore in Nicole Fromme as Trustee, Abby Flynn as Trustee and Paul Turpin as President.

Mayor Turpin and the Board of Trustees thanked Tami Thompson for her service on the Village Board.

Guest, Richard Henry visited the Village Board to ask if they would consider closing the alleyway between his house and the property he purchased next door. He is going to tear down the house that sits on the property and also the garage on his property to make one big lot. He would eventually like to put in a new driveway as well. Mayor Turpin explained that the only issue he could foresee was the alleyway that is in the back of all of those lots has a sewer line running with it. If the Village would need to get equipment back there to fix anything then the alleyway Richard would like to close is the only way out. Richard said he'd be willing to legally swap property if there was a way to put in a turnabout. The Village Board will look into it further and speak with the attorney. A second guest, Tami Thompson came on behalf of the 4th of July Committee. She asked if the Village would mind if people from out of town set up at the park on May 15th for the city wide garage sales. The board said no, as long as they are out by 1 pm for another party that reserved the pavilion. Tami also asked if the board would close Wyatt Street in front of the Green Wall and suspend the liquor ordinance in the park for a golf event on June 12th. The board will vote on it during the June meeting.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for April. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report for April. Nicole Fromme seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, and Paul Turpin-yes. The motion was carried. Abby Flynn made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for April. Paul Turpin seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the trustees with minutes from April. Nicole Fromme made a motion to approve the minutes from April. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Andy Fairless presented his utility supervisor report. The Village needs to remove cameras from Ameren poles. Andy called Scott Jess for a bid. They quoted between \$2800 to

\$3500 for 3 new telephone poles. Royell said it will cost between \$500-\$1500 to install the cameras on the new poles. Andy said Mike Cox from Benton & Associates quoted one truck of oil and chip will be \$6088. After the oil and chip, it will need a seal coat which is about \$5000. Mayor Turpin said before the Village can use the MFT funds, it must be approved by IDOT. However the Village could start the first load without IDOT and then be on track for the remaining loads. The Village Board will focus on Main Street this time and complete as much as possible with MFT funds. Andy also reported that a spray nozzle broke off at the spray field. He was able to compile parts from other ones to fix it but would like to have a spare for future issues so it doesn't have to be completely shut down. A spare would be \$1,280.82. He received a new bid from Envirofoam. They normally have several different foams but right now they are only able to get two. The difference in price is \$1158.00. The new bid came in at almost \$5600. Jess Electric is starting next Monday. He also received a bid for new gas valves. The Village tries to replace a couple per year. This year it will cost \$8925.00 for two. These two valves would be for State Street and Centennial, which is leaking now. The other is for Main and Prairie and it's currently inoperable. The new ones do not require as much maintenance. There are only between 5-7 more to replace. Andy said he'll look into how many meters still need replaced. He received a bid for the 192.GIS proposal. It is \$2600 per year to maintain and he believes that is too costly for what it provides. Andy provided the trustees with an updated list on future purchases he will need. The list included the following: new blades for the plow, frame for the plow, a new service truck, bigger dump truck, locator, and a new mower in 7-8 years. Andy explained what happened with a sewer line at a residents recently. It is now taken care of but they found the cause was from MediaCom putting in the Fiber Optic line. The property on West Street is still not cleaned up and set for court again. In regards to the four-wheeler cases, one did not show and did not pay. A bench trial has been set. The second individual over 18, who paid his fine, was caught again and now has a letter to cease or desist. Lastly, Andy received a letter from a customer on Westview that the culverts were backed up. He is getting equipment from Waverly to fix it and will also fix the other property with a backed up drain at that time.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage - Wyatt Smith made a motion to approve the bid for \$6088.00 for Morgan County Highway Department to do the work on Main Street and maybe down to Lake Road and maybe Prairie Road with the extra loads at the prevailing wage. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Paul Turpin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Nicole Fromme-yes. The motion was carried.

Wyatt added that he had a couple of residents approach him recently asking why the concrete trucks from Pawnee were coming down Reinbach and Prairie before leaving town. Mayor Turpin said he will call to find out and remind them to use the truck route only.

Finance/Payroll - Abby Flynn presented the information regarding the options to refinance the USDA-RD Water Loan. There were three options the Board reviewed. Nicole Fromme made a motion to refinance with CSB with their rate of 3.74% or close to. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, and Paul Turpin-yes. The motion was carried.

Insurance - The employee health insurance will increase about 5%. Mayor Turpin talked with all of the employees and they said it was fine and they wanted to keep what they had already.

Personnel - Abby Flynn made a motion to replace the laptop. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

The Board also discussed whether or not to hire summer help. It would be at \$11 per hour, but they do not see the need at this time.

Utility Reconnect - Mayor Turpin said there were 5 people shut off. All of them are back on except one and they are gas only.

Utilities - Wyatt Smith said he thought about selling the gas business for some time, including when the gas business was struggling and numbers were negative. While things have not always gone perfectly, if the Village sold the gas business it would be to a non-local company. Currently the Village gas connections are local and if someone needs a gas check at their home or business, the Village workers can be there within minutes. That would not be the case if they were no longer local. If the Village had to call Waverly, it would cost the Village more money. Eventually the Village would not be able to afford two employees anymore since the gas business pays for one employee. Mayor Turpin spoke with an Ameren customer and they said their rates were higher than most of the Village of Franklins. Ameren did raise their rates after the high price increase in February, but they did not start until March. They plan to slowly increase each month, overtime, and they are raising it the same for everyone. Mayor Turpin said he will continue to look into selling the business for each of the Trustees and him to have as much information as possible before making a decision. The discussion will continue in June. Also the Board discussed the gas loan pack back status from February. The Village has collected approximately \$150,000 to pay back. There are a few people that have not paid anything towards their bill. The Village will end up putting approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 towards it as well.

The Village attorney is sending a letter to the owner of the Prairie Street property to collect reimbursement for the Village's time and money for tearing the house down.

Panhandle Municipal Defense case is continuing on. There are a couple of things being challenged now.

Andy reported on the quotes for the maintenance building in his supervisor report. Nicole Fromme made a motion to approve the \$1158.00 difference in the Envirofoam Bid. Paul Turpin seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Abby Flynn made a motion to approve the IDOT MFT Expenditures. Nicole Fromme seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Paul Turpin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Nicole Fromme-yes. The motion was carried.

There is no update on the new Village webpage at this time.

Wesley Koehler found Text-Em-All and Ashley Turpin will send out a mass text to try the system out on a trial basis. More will be discussed in June.

Nicole Fromme made a motion to have Slabjackers raise 20 sidewalks in the Village. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, and Paul Turpin-yes. The motion was carried. It will cost approximately \$100 per area.

Nicole Fromme made a motion to have trash pick-up on June 14 through 18 by sectioning parts of town on specific days. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

A resident in town approached Wyatt Smith about abandoned cars on Walnut and Prairie Street. Mayor Turpin said a trustee and Andy Fairless will compile a new list and the attorney will get letters out immediately to start enforcing clean up again.

Abby Flynn made a motion for Jess Electric to put up poles and Royell to hook the cameras up, totaling up to \$5000.00. Nicole Fromme seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to replace the gas valves for \$8925.00 at Prairie and Main and also Centennial and State. Nicole Fromme seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Paul Turpin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Nicole Fromme-yes. The motion was carried.

Nicole Fromme made a motion to buy a new sprayer head for \$1280.82. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, and Paul Turpin-yes. The motion was carried.

There was no movement on the USDI Gas 192.DIS proposal.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to purchase new board chairs and one office chair for the amount not to exceed \$1500.00. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Nicole Fromme seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Nicole Fromme-yes, Paul Turpin-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.