

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023
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, March 7, 2023 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, Sarah Carter, Vickie Adkins, and Amanda Ahlers. Trustee Lauren Whalen was absent.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for February. Susan discussed each businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances, and check details. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report for February. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for February. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the trustees with minutes from February. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to approve the minutes from February. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. One of the slides at the park has a hole in it. Andy has spoken with the company it was purchased from and is waiting on a quote. The whole slide will need replaced. There is an alleyway on Wyatt that now has a permanent fence installed beside it. The Village may need to have it surveyed, which Benton & Associates can do. The other alleyway in town has vehicles parked in it that are blocking other residents from using it, causing them to drive in yards to get around the vehicles. Andy reported that tapping fees are currently \$1,500.00 each, for water and gas. Materials for water are \$1,387.00, and that does not include everything. Gas materials are \$1,668.00, which includes a \$900.00 fee for USDI to come out and fix a steel main. If it is plastic, USDI does not need to come and \$900.00 can be deducted from the cost. In addition to his report, Andy spoke about the electrofusion machine. The school district is wanting to provide gas to the concession stand and restroom building near the ballfields. The machine is \$5,400.00. The city of Waverly is also looking into getting one and would be willing to go in half with the Village of Franklin. The Waverly employees are trained in using it, but need to re-certify. Therefore, the Franklin and Waverly employees can take the training together. Next, he discussed the water meters in the country. It was \$10,000.00 for touch read meters in all the rural locations. The touch read meters will help eliminate pipes from freezing, can help the customers pipes not freeze, and ensures the safety of Village employees in high traffic areas such as Highway 104. The price includes the meters, a touch read device, lids, and any other materials. There is no monthly charge for this system. OSHA audited recently and it was concluded that the Village can no longer use the lift

we have for Christmas lights, banners, and other similar projects. The Village is still waiting on the technician to come set-up the new remote camera. The FFA class is grinding the old bolts off of the old boards because they are rusted out, but overall, the project is coming along well. Andy stated the lead service line survey is waiting on about 40 surveys to be completed. Reitha is keeping a list of who is completed them. Joe Wood called Andy and offered to sell a dump truck to the Village. It has a plow on it that is made for city roads, and a stainless-steel salt spreader on the back. He is willing to sell it to the Village for \$10,000.00. The value is near \$15,000 to \$20,000. It is a 2001 International with 57,000 miles. The cost of a new one is \$42,000.00. There is a hole in the back of the truck, but Joe knows of someone who could fix that if the Village is interested. The Village would then be able to sell the larger dump truck that is currently used. Andy brought to the boards attention that there is a semi that keeps parking near the church and the park. A letter needs to be sent to the owner. Lastly, the backhoe is at Sievers and they are waiting on parts to fix it.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – Trustee, Vickie Adkins stated that she'll have Reitha put a notice on Facebook asking residents to call in reporting any potholes that need fixed within the Village limits. If Reitha keeps a list, Vickie will complete a work order for Nick and Andy. Vickie hopes this will help identify where they are quickly so the employees can fill them in as soon as possible. In addition, the Village is still waiting on the gentleman from Sunley Roofs to come in. If he does not show by the April meeting, the board will need to decide if the job should be put out for another bid. The office space within the Village Hall is not usable until the roof is repaired correctly.

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

Insurance – The dental insurance quote came in at \$124.00 per month for a family, and \$34.00 per month for an employee only. It would be a separate policy than the Blue Cross Blue Shield policy, but the billing would be the same on the Village's end. Vision insurance quoted \$6.00 glasses for an employee and \$24.00 for a family. There is no waiting period. The trustees agree to give the numbers to the employees and let them decide if they want to pay for it.

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

Utility Reconnect – Trustee Abby Flynn said there was a resident that had not paid since October, but did come in to pay half of the amount owed. They are expected to pay the rest of the bill by the time agreed upon, or their services will be shut-off. Mayor Turpin is also waiting on further information from the attorney regarding gas shut-offs.

Utilities – The board discussed utility rates. Water seems to be sufficient in income and expenses. However, water and gas are not doing well. The board has reviewed the numbers each month and noticed a downward trend. After reviewing the billing process, Mayor Turpin realized any additional income, that exceeds the water billing amount, is going into the water account. This includes if people are paying additional amounts on their gas bill. Mayor Turpin created a new form to use when billing that should keep this from happening in the future. Also, the billing company has some issues with cash entries. It seems to be showing up as a double entry. Mayor Turpin is trying to come up with a way to avoid this from happening as well. Due to these issues, the utility rates will be tabled until these problems are resolved so the board can have a more accurate view of the businesses profits and losses. Andy updated the trustees on the tapping fees in his report.

Old Business:

Mayor Turpin received an update on the Route 104 water project. The state of Illinois discovered three pipes they must go over, or move. Panhandle and the state disagree who is responsible for the costs of moving them. The project was expected to start in April, but could be pushed back up to two years because of these pipes. Our attorney is looking into the legality of the gas company easements for the Village as well.

Property legal action will move forward as Mayor Turpin sends a list to the attorney.

Mayor Turpin received an email from the attorney regarding the options for the burned trailer. It stated that a lien is recorded on the property for \$10,975.00. The Village will have to bid that amount. If the Village gets the bid, the Village will own the property and the money will also be returned. If someone out bids the Village, the money will still go to the Village.

Andy Fairless provided an update on the picnic table repairs in his report.

Andy also reported on the remote camera installment.

The Village Hall roof was discussed in Andy's report.

Mayor Turpin provided an update on the Panhandle case. The Village's attorney may ask for the amount owed to the Village be paid by Panhandle. Mayor Turpin calculated around \$200,000.00. If the settlement goes in the Villages favor and the amount is paid, the Village will then figure out how much is owed to each resident as reimbursement. This data will be provided by the billing software used at the Village.

The budget will be put on hold until the utility issues are settled.

Village trustees discussed the electrofusion machine. They agree splitting the cost with Waverly would be helpful and a benefit to both communities. Wyatt Smith made a motion to purchase the electrofusion machine for \$5,600.00, with the agreement that Waverly and Franklin split the cost in half. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

Trustees discussed purchasing additional Christmas lights for the Village. After reviewing the costs, the trustees agreed to forego purchasing additional lights this year and review the idea again next year. Trustee Amanda Ahlers will look into the costs of the banners to see about replacing some of those this year.

Mayor Turpin spoke with the attorney about renting or selling a section of Boyers lot. It is a 105 by 120 section for a neighboring resident who would like to expand their space for business purposes. Mayor Turpin asked the trustees to think about if they would want to sell the section or rent it and for how much.

New Business:

Trustees agree to continue moving forward with the list of sidewalk repairs this year. Abby Flynn made a motion to spend \$2,000.00 on Slabjackers. Amanda Ahlers seconded the

motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

Reminder the April meeting was moved to Tuesday, April 11th due to elections.

Trustees will need to complete a Statement of Economic Interest in April, after elections. They are due in May.

Andy reported there are approximately 40 surveys left. Any residents who are unsure of what their pipe material is, Andy has checked. So far, everything is plastic. There are grants we can apply for if any need replaced.

The supervisor report also discussed replacing rural meters with touch reads. Wyatt Smith made a motion to purchase replacement water meters with touch reads for \$10,000.00. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

All four businesses would pay \$2,400.00 and the village would sell the 1993 International dump truck. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to purchase the dump truck for \$10,000.00 from District #9. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Sarah Carter made a motion to sponsor two kids for the Walk to Memphis, in the amount of \$500.00 total. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin stated the IMGGA annual meeting is March 28th at the Northfield Hotel in Springfield. Lunch is provided if anyone wants to attend with him.

The village signed a contract for the Aggregation Program Constellation Agreement and is currently waiting until June to see what the populus choses in their letters. It is a 2% savings.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.