

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 11, 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, July 11, 2023 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Abby Flynn, Wyatt Smith, Lauren Whalen, Sarah Carter, and Vickie Adkins. Trustee Amanda Ahlers was absent.

Benton & Associates was present to give an update on the Route 104 water project. Jim Morris and David Albers said they are making good progress on the project and expect it to be done in a couple of weeks. The weather put a hold on the project for a short time, but it is still on schedule. The contractor was very generous and came into the Village to help with cleaning up storm debris at the park. Jim Morris presented the contractors pay application to the board. Abby Flynn made a motion to approve Pay Application and Certificate for Payment #1 for \$179,244.00. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for June. The board discussed each businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances, and check details. Susan followed up with questions the board had last month. The payment for the roof was \$18,200. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for June. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carters-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the Bills Paid and to be Paid for June. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Committee Reports:

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. The backboards were painted for the 4th of July celebration. Nick and Andy noticed a lot of wear on them. They will need replaced before the next 4th of July. Andy reached out to Darin Seymour and the Lions Club about possibly helping with replacing them. The dump truck spreader needs transferred over to the new dump truck. Andy still has not received a bid for the office repairs. He has reached out and heard nothing in response. Lift Station 2 has experienced some issues, including chunks of plastic backing it up. Nick and Andy cleaned plastic out twice in just a few days. They are waiting on a bid to have someone come inspect Lift Stations 2 and 4. Lift Station 4 recently had an issue with mop heads clogging it. After the recent storm, Andy wanted to present the idea of purchasing back-up generators for the Village office and the shop on Wyatt Avenue. Andy said his concern is

that in a catastrophic event, the Village office would be the liaison for the community, but it would be unusable without power to crucial equipment such as the phone lines, computers, and such. He mentioned the portable generators would be used to keep the Lift Stations running and then the shop and the office would have a whole back-up system already installed. The project on Route 104 is on track and going well. Andy really appreciated the help from the contractor with the park clean-up. Andy said in addition, that the park has several trees that seem to be hollowed out or not in good condition. He and Mayor Turpin spoke about having a tree service come out to give the Village an idea of what needs to be done. There was a neighboring tree that fell on the water tower's fence in the recent storm. Insurance should consider it an act of God, therefore it shouldn't be a problem to get replaced. Nick passed his waste water exam. Andy suggested the board remove his additional pay for training Nick now that Nick is certified in all areas. The wiring at the park for the poles needs replaced. David from Benton & Associates is going to look into grants that the state has for parks. It could possibly cover some of the gazebo repairs, light poles, basketball backboards or rims, handicap ramps for the east side of the park, and more. Lastly, Andy said the rock spreader on the back of the old dump would be \$8,500.00 new. The Waverly Board misunderstood and thought they were getting the spreader with the purchase of the dump truck.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – Mayor Turpin said Andy will get pricing on the basketball backboards, and wait to hear back from David at Benton & Associates about grants. The 4th of July Committee asked the Village board to purchase curtains for the gazebo stage. Mayor Turpin felt like that would be something for the Lions Club to help with, as the Village does not have a need for the curtains. He spoke with a representative of the Lions Club about it. The Village would be willing to help attach the brackets or whatever it needed. In addition, there was an incident in an alley following the storm that left a lot of debris around the Village. The Village employees were going around town pushing the big limbs off of the roadways and alleys. Andy pushed a limb onto the wrong property and the property owner contacted a board member and stopped a county police officer that was driving through town to file a complaint against Andy. Nick was present at the time, also. Lastly, the Methodist Church had some repairs done to the back of their church which tore up the asphalt in the alleyway. The alley is heavily used by local businesses and the school. Mayor Turpin will speak with the attorney and Benton & Associates on how to handle the situation.

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

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

Personnel – Lauren Whalen made a motion to go into executive sessions to discuss employee compensation. The board entered executive session at 8:02 and re-entered into open session at 8:18. Wyatt Smith made a motion to remove the compensation for Andy's training pay, now that Nick is fully certified. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried. Abby Flynn made a motion to give Nick Speaks a compensation bonus of \$250.00 for receiving his sewer license, taxes paid by the Village. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

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

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

Old Business:

Mayor Turpin said there are no updates on the property legal action as this time. Currently, the house that is being foreclosed is being maintained. A resident reported another house in Toler Bend has a family of racoons living in or around it.

Abby Flynn made a motion to assign heavy trash pick-up on the dates of September 5th, 2023 through September 8th, 2023. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

As Andy reported, there were no bids for the office repairs.

The attorney did not get the new ordinances information to Mayor Turpin. The board will discuss them in August.

Wyatt Smith made a resolution to sell the dump truck. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

New Business:

Andy contacted a sewage pumping company to have the four lift stations' holding tanks pumped but they said they need a place to dump. Andy told them we have that but then they said they also do not have a truck at this time. Andy is contacting other businesses currently. The lift stations need to be done. The board will discuss again at a later meeting.

Mayor Turpin does not see a significant need for a whole shop generator to be installed at the Village shop building on Wyatt Avenue. The trustees agree. The board discussed whether the Village office needs one and suggests having an electrician come look into putting a switch in that would hook up to a portable generator if needed. The trustees would like to review bids before agreeing to do so.

Mayor Turpin informed the board that the EPA does not require a municipality to provide a burn site for the community. Residents can burn their debris on their own property. Mayor Turpin understands that not everyone wants to do so and has continued looking into options to replace the old burn pile location. As discussed in January, there is a location at the sewer plant we could put it, but we do not have a road to do so. There are drainage pipes below the ground that could be damaged if the ground was softened and people drove on them. However, the board discussed putting a temporary burn pile by the rocks, near the tower at the sewer property. Trustees agree they would still like to see the burn pile outside of town but it would be nice to help those who have not been able to clean up the debris from the storm by having a temporary solution. Trustees feel it's important to offer a lending hand, but also want to make sure there are set boundaries.

The trustees agreed to allow the public to drop off trees and limbs from the storm at the sewer lagoons. It must be done with a Village employee, during Village hours. If it needs to be dropped after hours, residents can place their debris next to the rock pile at the front of the

sewer plant. The Village employees will also go around town in a couple of weeks to collect limbs and stumps next to the road. Reitha will post the information on the Facebook page.

Wyatt asked Jim Morris from Benton & Associates about taking another approach with the roads. Jim Morris explained that the method asked about can be beneficial, but also can make things worse. It is more of a case-by-case situation, based off the amount of traffic and types of equipment driven on the road. Jim said he would be willing to drive around the roads and discuss whether specific roads would benefit from it or not. Vickie Adkins made a motion to accept the MFT bid proposal of materials and approval of award for \$31,929.00. Wyatt Smith seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.