

Village of Franklin
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024
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 13, 2024 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Wyatt Smith, Sarah Carter, Vickie Adkins, and Amanda Ahlers. Trustees Abby Flynn and Lauren Whalen were absent.

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

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

Committee Reports:

Andy Fairless presented the Utility Supervisor Report. He does not have an update on the cable wires. He did receive an update on the water violation. Everyone who uses the same water was in violation. They suggested that Andy flush the hydrants twice per year, rather than once. He said there is a pothole on Wyatt that is an on-going issue. They have scraped rock and put it back, but it is close to a telephone pole. Mayor Turpin asked Andy to get measurements and report back. The equipment for the fusion machine would cost the Village of Franklin is \$1,755.03. That would be half and Waverly would pay the same amount. The machine would fuse the ends of pipes. Franklin has used Waverly's in the past, but theirs is not working anymore. Andy received a bid from Jim Brown at Rainbow Seamless Gutters to replace the office gutters for \$684.00. The bulk water roof is metal and steep so it came in higher at \$1,010.00. Jim Brown recommended that the Village not replace the pavilions gutters at this time. Andy suggested, on behalf of Nick Speaks and himself, that the Village Board consider a covered structure for the salt. Right now, they cannot load the salt without both employees being present and there is nowhere to store the truck preloaded. It would help save on overtime pay if they had somewhere to store the truck. Mayor Turpin asked Andy to look into the structure Joe Woods has. The GPS receiver from Benton & Associates is just under \$1,900.00 for the pole, receiver, and two power banks. It is compatible with the Villages system and would help locate utility lines, man holes, main breaks, gas meters, and more. Wyatt Smith made a motion to purchase the GPS receiver, conditionally based on satellite GPS rather than tower GPS, in addition to 100 hours for a total cost of approximately

\$1,900.00. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Finance/Payroll – Mayor Turpin presented the budget layout thus far. The last water increase was in 2019 and the cost has gone up over \$2 since then. Water is in the negative at approximately \$47,000.00. The gas income is estimated to have a negative \$2,800.00. The O&M has not been raised in years. Sewer should have a profit of approximately \$21,000.00. Municipal is looking to profit \$95,000.00. MFT is looking to profit about \$11,800.00. Wyatt Smith asked if moving an employee's salary to Municipal, permanently, would help the accounts that seem to be struggling. Mayor Turpin explained that with the 104 Water Main project, sewer loan pay off and some of those big payments have caused the accounts to go down significantly, but they should bounce back. It will just take time.

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

Personnel – Mayor Turpin read a letter of resignation from LeAnn Johnson. Wyatt Smith made a motion to accept LeAnn's resignation with regrets. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried. Vickie handed out notes from the personnel committees meeting regarding employee discipline. The committee agreed there should be a documented process and coaching first. After following that process, if the issue is not resolved, then a written warning could be given. The committee also agreed that the community member needs to pay their gas loan amount in full, which was the employee's concern from the beginning. All of the Trustees agree.

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

Utilities – Mayor Turpin led the discussion regarding utility rates. The water rate was last increased in 2019. The water tower needs repainted on the inside which will not be cheap. Currently water has a base cost of \$27.36. As for gas, the O&M has not been increased in a long time. The equipment used to run the gas system has increased significantly in price. Gas billing is a \$5.00 meter charge and the cost we are charged for gas plus Operations and Maintenance (O&M) fee. The Trustees discussed the rates and the best approach to increasing costs to cover the inflation of equipment, services, and maintenance. They all agree it is important to stay viable as a business, but are also not here to make money per say. Wyatt Smith made a motion to raise the water base rate by .50 cents and water over 2,000 gallon base by .50 cents per 1,000 gallons. Sarah Carter second the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried. Wyatt Smith made a motion to raise gas O&M by .50 cents. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried. In addition, Mayor Turpin said in 1998, the water and gas mains were put in for the Franklin Outing Club. It was supposed to be paid off in 15 years, but was not. As of now, they owe approximately \$3,000.00. In April or May of 2024, the Village will drop the loan rates for the Franklin Outing Club and bring their rates down to the same rates as the Village residents.

Old Business:

The Village received a letter stating that the burned trailer property was sold for delinquent taxes. Mayor Turpin said the Village will try to buy it from the company or people who bought it for taxes.

The Disaster Declaration was turned over to the state and they are going to pay out 75% of the amount the Village asked for. The timeline for receiving the money is unknown.

Andy has not heard back from Ameren in regards to the old cable wires.

Mayor Turpin presented a printer he found on Amazon. The only contingency is he has to make sure it will fit the paper used to make the utility bills. Wyatt also asked if there was an option to purchase one with more than one paper tray. Mayor Turpin said he'd look into it. Amanda Ahlers made a motion to purchase the Brother MFC-L8905CDW Business Color Laser All-In-One Printer, with 7" touchscreen display, duplex print/scan wireless, printer, as long as it can use the cardstock paper for billing. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Amanda Ahlers-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin has not found a grant yet for the sidewalk on 104, but is still looking.

The Board of Trustees is not interested in new welcome signs at this time.

New Business:

The lot next to The Green Wall was appraised for \$6,000.00. There is a sewer main that runs through the middle of the lot, meaning that whoever would purchase the lot must make sure the sewer main is always accessible.

Sarah Carter made a motion to end the Queen of Hearts insurance for the Lions Club. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, and Wyatt Smith-yes. The motion was carried.

The MCC Network Services are planning on coming to the Village on March 15, 2024 to add fiber lines to the Village. This would give residents another option for high-speed internet and it is supposed to be low cost. The concern is, the cable company that just came through tore a lot of things up around the Village. MCC Network is expecting to use our Right Away even though they are not a utility. Our attorney informed Mayor Turpin that other towns are getting ordinances to protect the Village and dictate what, when and how they can conduct their installation. It would cost the Village approximately \$1,500.00 to get an ordinance. In some municipalities, they have had to pay a significant amount of overtime and it took employees away from their typical duties a lot of the time. Vickie Adkins made a motion to purchase the ordinance to dictate the rules and regulations regarding these services. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Amanda Ahlers-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin added that Panhandle has the case in the Appellate court and the court has put the groups who have complained to FERC into one group for the court to review the case. The group is concerned that calculations were done wrong and at a lower interest rate. This means two possible things: 1. They low-balled and owe everyone more money or 2. The

Appellate court says the money must be paid back. Mayor Turpin is going to move the money into a CD to make money for now.

Wyatt Smith made a motion to adjourn. Amanda Ahlers seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Amanda Ahlers-yes, Wyatt Smith-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.