

Village of Franklin  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2025  
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 11, 2025 in the town hall. Trustees present in Village Hall were Lauren Whalen, Sarah Carter, Vickie Adkins, and Kendra Marcel. Trustee Abby Flynn arrived at 7:40 pm.

Lauren Whalen made a motion to select Craig Miller as the new trustee. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk, Ashley Turpin, swore in Craig Miller as new Village Trustee.

Mayor Turpin opened the waste water farming bids and read them aloud. The bids are for 18 acres of farm land. Jason Fuchs bid \$190 per acre, totaling \$3420.00. Andrew McQueen bid \$275 per acre, totaling \$4950.00. Jackson Smith bid \$210 per acre, totaling \$3780.00. Josh Adkins bid \$149.72 per acre, totaling \$2694.96.

Treasurer Susan Smith presented the Treasurer's Report for February. She presented each of the following: businesses profits & losses, current balances, year-to-date balances, and check details. Kendra Marcel made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for February. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, and Craig Miller-present. 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, Kendra Marcel-yes, Craig Miller-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

Clerk Ashley Turpin presented the meeting minutes from February to the Board of Trustees. Vickie Adkins made a motion to approve the minutes from February. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Craig Miller-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

Andy Fairless provided the Utility Supervisor Report. There is no update regarding MCC. They have not contacted Andy. The big dump truck's cylinder is leaking. Andy took it to Sam Fromme at Flatlander Trailers, but it is not something they can fix. Sam reached out to a guy in Jacksonville who can fix it for \$3,500 to \$5,000. The cost difference depends on the extent of the damage after they begin the repair. Vickie Adkins made a motion to get a bid on the dump truck cylinder repair for up to \$5,000.00. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Craig Miller-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Kendra Marcel-yes. The motion was carried. Next, Andy said the two pumps at Lift Station 2 went down. Richards Electric put in a new pump. Nick and Andy were able to work on one that broke and get it into working condition. Andy said they do need back-up spare parts. The spare parts are estimated at \$4,106.91. Lauren Whalen made a motion to purchase the repair parts for lift station

2 pumps. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Craig Miller-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The motion was carried. Andy also told the Board that he and Nick started laying patch with Joe Woods roller, however, it broke. Andy took it in to be repaired. Joe is aware and knows the Village will take care of it.

Buildings, Roads, and Drainage – Mayor Turpin read a letter to the Board from the Morgan County Animal Control. The rate is increasing from \$3 per person to \$3.25 per person. The total comes to \$495.63 per quarter or \$1,982.50 per year. Morgan County contributes a yearly fee of \$14,667.00. Mayor Turpin then read the agreement that they require the Village to complete if the Board chooses to deny the services. If so, Animal Control will only respond to calls regarding animal bites. In addition, Mayor Turpin informed the Board that Slabjackers comes every year to repair as many sidewalks as possible with about a \$2,000 budget. Sarah Carter made a motion to have Slabjackers come in and repair as many sidewalks as possible, for up to \$2,000.00. Lauren Whalen 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 motion was carried.

Finance/Payroll – Mayor Turpin presented the budget to the Trustees. He discussed the budget with the Trustees while reviewing each business. Abby Flynn entered the meeting. Lauren Whalen made a motion to approve the budget. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-present, Craig Miller-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Personnel – Vickie Adkins led the Board into closed session at 7:46 pm to discuss employee raises. The Board returned to open session at 8:33 pm. Abby Flynn made a motion to give Andy a \$2 per hour increase, after the \$1,000.00 bonus is complete; and a semi-annual evaluation and annual cost of living evaluation, and no back-pay. Sarah Carter seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Abby Flynn-yes, Craig Miller-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, and Kendra Marcel-yes. The motion was carried.

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

Utilities – Mayor Turpin said he is not sure that doing a natural gas prepayment is the best route at this time. When he received the agreement, it was provided last minute and with little explanation. He opted out. However, the Village can always agree to sign-up next time. Last month the Board discussed the idea of a flat rate for gas. In the summer months, the Village would have a little more profit to help the businesses. There are times in the spring and summer that the bills are barely met. Lauren Whalen suggested doing a hybrid system so that residents do not get hit so hard with the new rates right away. The flat rate would start in April and go through October, then switch in November to O&M charges through March. The Board discussed the negatives and positives with using a flat rate. Mayor Turpin said the Board could always go to just a flat rate or back to O&M, if needed. Abby Flynn made a motion to implement a hybrid gas billing rate with a flat rate from April through October, and an O&M rate from November through March, and the Board will re-evaluate at this time next year. Vickie Adkins seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Craig Miller-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, and Abby Flynn-yes. The motion was carried.

**Old Business:**

Mayor Turpin said the resealing of the basketball court will be finalized at the April meeting.

Trustee Whalen presented the plaque for the Board to see.

Mayor Turpin said he is still waiting on a proposal and plan for the mural on the Village wall.

**New Business:**

Mayor Turpin read the ordinance to vacate the alleys. The Village will receive \$5,000.00 to close the alleys, and the Village will bear the expenses. Lauren Whalen made a motion to accept ordinance 2025-01, an ordinance vacating alleys between the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad and State Highway 104, and from that property west to an unnamed alley. Abby Flynn seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, and Craig Miller-yes. The motion was carried.

Sarah Carter made a motion to accept the bid from Andrew McQueen for \$275.00 per acre for the waste water farming. Craig Miller seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Sarah Carter-yes, Vickie Adkins-present, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Craig Miller-yes, and Lauren Whalen-yes. The motion was carried.

Mayor Turpin read a flyer from the South County Viper's Trap Team asking for sponsorships. Sarah Carter made a motion to provide a \$100.00 donation to the Viper's Trap Team. Kendra Marcel seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Vickie Adkins-yes, Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Craig Miller-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, and Sarah Carter-yes. The motion was carried.

Lastly, Mayor Turpin said at one time Hamilton's wanted to purchase the lot between The Green Wall and the old extended stay building. Someone recently came to Mayor Turpin, interested in purchasing it. However, the concern is that there are sewer lines running through it and two manholes. The Trustees agreed they are not interested in selling or renting the lot at this time.

Craig Miller made a motion to adjourn. Lauren Whalen seconded the motion. The voting was as follows: Kendra Marcel-yes, Abby Flynn-yes, Craig Miller-yes, Lauren Whalen-yes, Sarah Carter-yes, and Vickie Adkins-yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.