

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN GROVE
LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

APRIL 12, 2021 MINUTES APPROVED MAY 10, 2021

On April 12, 2021 the Regular meeting of the Village of Franklin Grove, held at the Village Hall, 105 E. South Street, Franklin Grove, Lee County, Illinois, was called to order by President David Atkinson at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Trustees Shaun Thompson, Karmen Sage, Nick Sprague, Scott Spangler, Shantel Schafer, President Atkinson and Clerk Stephanie Sprague

Absent: Trustee Mike Crofton, Attorney Considine

MINUTES

Motion made by S. Spangler, seconded by S. Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2021. Passed: 5/0

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Marilyn Spangler stated the Easter Egg Hunt was well attended considering the circumstances. The eggs were spread on the football field by Marilyn, Trustee Spangler and Clerk Sprague. No one went home with empty baskets.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT

Motion made by N. Sprague, seconded by S. Schafer to pay bills, late bill of \$13.44 to reimburse Scott and Marilyn Spangler for the totes for the banners and make necessary transfers. Passed: 5/0

Clerk Sprague advised the board the budget sheets for the first reading of the budget are included in their packets and noted there was a request from Trustee Spangler to increase the amount for Equipment/Early Warning Siren from \$6,000 to \$7,000 to repair/replace electronics and Tourism from \$3,350 to \$5,000 for Lee County Tourism, signage, promos and meetings. Trustee Thompson mentioned to include an additional \$4,000 for new Christmas tree lights. Trustee Schafer questioned why the Health/Life Insurance tripled. Clerk Sprague explained we have three full time employees that are each allowed \$500/month to be reimbursed for health insurance. Trustee Schafer questioned why the police uniform increased to \$850 when we have remained below the \$500 budget. Chief Harney stated he will be getting a new ballistic vest. Trustee Schafer stated she has a whole bunch of ideas or hopefully plans for this coming year and she doesn't have a place for her budget. President Atkinson stated that would be the park budget. Trustee Schafer stated she would get with Clerk Sprague to get something added.

Motion made by S. Thompson, S. Spangler to approve the First Reading of the Budget. Passed: 5/0

Clerk Sprague informed the board last April it was determined by the board to waive late fees on water bills for 4 quarters due to Covid. This water note is designated for the direct link to the Annual Consumer Confidence Report. President Atkinson stated we can communicate that on the next quarter billing cycle. Clerk Sprague will communicate to the customers that are currently delinquent that late fees will resume the next quarter.

POLICE REPORT
(Chief Harney)

Miles on the police car – 784
Complaints/Calls for Service – 17
Traffic Stops – 7
Traffic Arrest – 2
Traffic Warnings – 9
Ordinance Warnings – 2
House Check – 1
Assist other Agency – 2
Investigation – 1

Trustee Spangler stated he hasn't seen Chief Harney watching the stop signs, today at recess he saw someone blow right through a stop sign right by the grade school. We need to make people aware we are stopping them for not stopping at stop signs, need to have a deterrent and that will be when they start getting pulled over for it. He stated there is a trucking company that constantly comes through town. President Atkinson stated not anymore, Trustee Sprague had them reroute outside of town. President Atkinson asked Chief Harney to commit a little time at the stop signs.

Trustee Schafer stated the miles on the car this month is significantly higher so she does believe he is out there patrolling more. She stated President Atkinson told him to write as many tickets as he can. President Atkinson stated that was sarcasm. Trustee Schafer stated nothing is getting better, the excuses are getting tiring, we have more drug problems, crime problems, speeding problems, she joined the board because of speeding and 1-1/2 years later it is still a problem.

Clerk Sprague asked Chief Harney if he did a stop sign study of his own and he stated that he did.

Trustee Sprague stated there are more stops now than with the previous officer, Trustee Schafer stated she looked back and there were more stops then. Trustee Sprague stated there were also two officers then so there should be.

Trustee Schafer stated she spoke to Lee County Sheriff, Ashton officers and Mayor and they all said we have a drug problem here in Franklin Grove.

President Atkinson stated he is Chief Harney's supervisor and we are not going to have this every month. If you want to give someone a hard time, give me a hard time, come to be before the meetings. Trustee Schafer asked shouldn't that be executive session and President Atkinson stated they can come to him before the meeting. Trustee Spangler said it is their job to talk to him. President Atkinson said they should talk to him before the meeting and stated it would be more productive to have Officer Harney sit with him as he was watching the stop signs rather than do a study and bring the statistics to the meeting.

LEGAL ISSUES
(Attorney Considine)

None

GENERAL ISSUES

Motion made by S. Schafer, seconded by K. Sage to approve the electrical aggregation resolution that would allow President Atkinson approve the contract. Passed: 5/0

Trustee Spangler suggested everyone contact congressmen to show support for our nuclear plant because if they shut down rates will really sky rocket.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS & ALLEYS

(N. Sprague Chairman)

President Atkinson suggested we look into getting work done. Trustee Sprague said he is thinking the north end of Spring St, the ally behind the post office, President Atkinson suggested maybe slag on South Elm because of bus traffic. Trustee Spangler stated the library ally is like a street, Trustee Sprague agreed there are a few heavily traveled alleys he would like to do something with, either black top or chip and seal.

Trustee Spangler stated the car show is on May 8th if we could get the streets cleaned from the bank to the post office. He stated the banners are supposed to be every other one and some are not. He will get the guys a list of where the barricades need to go for the car show.

President Atkinson reminded everyone the clean up day is Saturday April 17th, Shaun got the dumpsters ordered.

WATER & SEWER

(M. Crofton Chairman)

Trustee Schafer asked about the progress on the list at the plant. President Atkinson stated it sounds promising, they are solving little problems before they become big problems. He stated he has some project for perhaps a new sewer plant, somewhere between six and eight million dollars which would require a loan but they are heavily forgivable. Trustee Spangler suggested grants. President Atkinson said EPA loans would be the way to go for this kind of project with the low interest rates and like 60% is forgiven. He stated everything down there has like doubled its life expectancy. We will need to do a rate study and probably need to increase the rates.

Clerk Sprague stated with that in mind Northern Illinois Disposal informed her when our garbage contract has to be renegotiated, they are anticipating we will need to either go down to one pick up per week or our rates will nearly double. President Atkinson suggested we might need to send it out for bids.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(S. Schafer Chairman)

Trustee Schafer advised she attended the library board meeting and she gave them a letter from the auditor and a letter from the attorney. She said the library board members listened to what she had to say and Jeff was very against the separation because it would create a lot of extra work for him. She stated the Intergovernmental agreement has expired and was supposed to have been renewed in 2006. President Atkinson stated we

can get benefits for our guys through IMRF and they can do the same. Shantel stated she will be attending their next meeting as well. Marilyn Spangler stated it will be April 27th at 6:30pm. President Atkinson stated he did not want to wait to see what happens for the IMRF, this is something he would like to get going soon. Marilyn asked if Shantel could send her the letters from the auditor and attorney as the board members did not get them.

Trustee Schafer stated she sent out letters to everybody in town asking for feedback, three items they thought we could do better, more of, less of, whatever and she is hoping to get feedback from everyone. She stated some were sent by mail, some were delivered in person, as she gathers the information, she will bring it to the board. President Atkinson stated in the future instead of acting alone, lets come up with questions as a group so we are all on the same page. Marilyn asked if everyone got one. Trustee Schafer stated everyone is supposed to have gotten one, some were sent in the mail so not everyone may have gotten them yet. She was going to also post on AFC Area Facebook page and asked if everyone thought it would be okay to do so. President Atkinson stated he didn't receive one either so he isn't sure what it even is. Trustee Sprague stated he didn't think anyone on the board got one. Trustee Schafer stated they are probably in the mail. President Atkinson stated it would be a good idea to see what kind of feedback she gets without posting on Facebook because that would turn into a disaster.

Trustee Schafer asked if there is liability insurance for the board. President Atkinson stated there is a barrier between the personal and the village. Trustee Thompson stated there is for Dave as the mayor.

Trustee Schafer would like to contact the postmaster because of the numerous issues we have. President Atkinson encouraged her to go for it.

Trustee Schafer mentioned there are things she would like to do for the youth in the area. She asked if we have ever had bingo or anything like that for the elderly. Trustee Spangler stated they have looked into but you need to get a permit from the state, and it got into money and paperwork because it is considered gambling. Clerk Sprague suggested since she originally stated something for the youth, candy bar bingo is a big hit with kids and it would be exempt from the gambling aspect since they win candy bars rather than money. President Atkinson stated there is a committee for youth activities and maybe Trustee Schafer can chair that committee when committee assignments are assigned next month. He asked her if she has ever attended the Haunted Zombie ride and she indicated she hasn't. He stated it is extremely successful and what you don't see is a matter of circumstances.

Trustee Sage inquired about potential gambling machines creating revenue. Trustee Sprague stated there will be gambling machines when Rooney's opens.

Trustee Schafer stated Dan Yates said he has been trying to purchase the property on State and Lahman but they are ignoring him. She said the door was shut, then it was open again. Marilyn stated she noticed the cat houses were gone today.

PROPERTIES (K. Sage Chairman)

None

FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE (S. Thompson Chairman)

Trustee Thompson reminded everyone the town clean up is Saturday. He warned everyone if you do get a new street light installed on your road it will be LED and will light up your house.

TOURISM
(S. Spangler Chairman)

Trustee Spangler informed the board the car show May 8th, if it doesn't rain, they are looking at a big show. The biggest show had 93 cars and they are looking to beat that. There are 7 categories and he showed the board a sample trophy and they are awesome. They need volunteers to help with the 50/50, taking entries, park cars and judges. He said judging is on appearance and there is a list for points so it is pretty easy. Back Alley BBQ will be selling food, 3D Sound is providing the entertainment. We need things looking good for the event.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/EARLY WARNING
(S. Spangler Chairman)

None

Motion made by S. Schafer, seconded by S. Spangler to go into Executive Session at 8:54 p.m. to discuss Personnel Matters in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Passed: 5/0

Motion made by S. Schafer, seconded by S. Thompson to come out of Executive Session at 9:08 p.m. Passed: 5/0

As no further business was brought before the board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by S. Thompson seconded by K. Sage and carried by unanimous vote at 9:09 p.m. respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Sprague
Village Clerk