

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

August 14, 2023 MINUTES APPROVED SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

On August 14, 2023 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, John Nicholson, Nick Sprague, Heather Grove, President David Atkinson and Clerk Stephanie Sprague

**Absent:** Trustees Paul Erisman, Amanda Lanning, Attorney Considine

**MINUTES**

**Motion** made by N. Sprague, seconded by J. Nicholson to approve the meeting minutes of July 10, 2023. Passed: 4/0

**VISITORS**

Marilyn Spangler stated there are a few issues with the Atlasta Park women's shelter building; the back door and a gap between the floor and the wall.

\*Note Trustee Amanda Lanning arrived at 7:02pm.

Marilyn inquired about the possibility of getting wifi to the park shelter.

She advised the Haunted Zombie Ride is set for September 29 & 30 with a rain date of October 6 & 7 so they would like the concession stand moved to Chaplin Wednesday September 27.

**VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT**

**Motion** made by N. Sprague, seconded by H. Grove to pay bills and late bill for BJ Harney insurance reimburse for \$200.15. Passed: 5/0

Clerk Sprague advised Village Books is no longer supported and she is currently looking at alternative programs.

Clerk Sprague advised there seems to be an issue with USPS in regards to water bills as 6 people called to say they didn't receive their bill until after the due date. She suggested we either need to send them out earlier or make the due date later. Marilyn advised the library was also having issues and have seen success with taking them to Ashton post office.

**POLICE REPORT  
(Chief Harney)**

Trustee Nicholson stated he gave Chief Harney a list of properties that were out of compliance July 11<sup>th</sup> and no improvements have been made. President Atkinson stated one property on the list is Atkinson Trucking and he knows for a fact his dad has been working on it so it's no true to say there has been nothing done.

**LEGAL ISSUES**

**(Attorney Considine)**

None

**GENERAL ISSUES**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**STREETS & ALLEYS**

(N. Sprague Chairman)

None

**WATER & SEWER**

(A. Lanning Chairman)

None

Trustee Nicholson recommended looking into sewer plant improvement grants and Greg Gates is a successful grant writer.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

(H. Grove Chairman)

None

President Atkinson commended Heather on a great job with the Harvest Fest.

**PROPERTIES**

(P. Erisman Chairman)

None

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

(S. Thompson Chairman)

None

**TOURISM**

(J. Nicholson Chairman)

Trustee Nicholson stated it was a very nice Harvest Fest, kudos to Heather for doing a fantastic job. The parade needs improvement but glad to have it back. He also complimented Rooney's as Sunday following the Harvest Fest downtown looked amazing, couldn't even tell there was an event the night before.

John stated the house at the end of Walnut St has been turned into an Air BnB without proper zoning and they need a variance. Trustee Lanning believes it would be no different than any other rental property and suggested he talk to Attorney Considine.

John advised there needs to be a change in the hotel/motel tax, not to increase the tax but to change the recipient of money as it currently goes to the county since the village doesn't have a tax ordinance.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION/EARLY WARNING**

None

As no further business was brought before the board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by N. Sprague, seconded by S. Thompson and carried by unanimous vote at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Sprague  
Village Clerk