

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

AUGUST 11, 2025 MINUTES APPROVED JULY 14, 2025

On August 11, 2025 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 Eric Grendahl at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Trustees Scott Spangler, John Nicolson, Susan Murphy, Kristy Murphy, Heather Grove, Mark Delhotal, President Eric Grendahl, and Clerk Jessica Ford.

Absent: Attorney Considine.

MINUTES

Motion made by H. Grove, seconded by J. Nicholson to approve the Minutes of the Regular and Executive Meetings of July 14, 2025. Passed: 6/0

NEW BUSINESS

RECOGNITION OF VISITOR'S

-Jamie Cooper stated that tree trimming done on a tree on easement was done poorly and will not grow back because of how it was trimmed. Upset that no one discussed the tree trimming of this tree with her prior to doing it. Would like the tree removed and replaced.

M. Delhotal stated that per ordinance, it is the Village responsibility to trim and/or remove problem trees on easement/Village property and to keep right-of-way clear. Per ordinance, encroachment from resident trees/bushes allows a \$75/day fine. However, the Village is working to clean up problem trees throughout the Village.

Ed Hoffman stated that they cleaned up as little as possible on her tree, but that there was also quite a bit of dead under the trimmed area that they removed for aesthetics as well.

-John, Rooney's owner, came to thank Village and employees for help with Harvest Fest Concert at Rooney's. Wanted to be sure that there were no complaints received about clean up or noise following event.

No complaints have been given, and multiple compliments were expressed for quick and thorough clean up.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Jessica Ford brought attention to a bill that was added to the bill-to-be-paid following the distribution of the Trustee packets. Would like this added in for vote to be paid this month.

BILLS & LATE BILLS

Motion made by S. Murphy, seconded by J. Nicholson to pay bills, late bills and make necessary transfers, including bill brought forward by Clerk Ford. Passed: 6/0

POLICE REPORT

Deputy Bailey-Lee County Sheriff's Department- Came to report that the Harvest Fest patrol was without incident. Seemed that everyone was having a great time. Did do a walk-through of concert area instead of parking near event. No complaints, and turned out to be a good event.

LEGAL ISSUES

(Attorney D. Considine)

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS & ALLEYS

(M. Delhotal, Chairman)

M. Delhotal stated Ed H. has been catching up on maintenance and compliance issues. Street weeper done, storm sewers cleaned out and draining better, tree trimming by Pacer's started. 5 dead removed, saving what trees he can. Hoping to have it done by end of August. Catch basin in alley has a hole, getting a quote to repair/replace. Others have also been check and are being repaired as needed.

WATER & SEWER

(K. Murphy, Chairman)

K. Murphy stated that EPA was here last month. They were impressed with work that has been done. Still working on pending violations for 2020, 2023 and 2024. There are 2 houses not cooperating for water collection testing. Well house 1 and 2-getting chemical for clean-up, rusted/broken doors, windows, locks, etc. are being replaced. Part swapping with Dixon to get updated/needed parts and getting out things that are not needed. Still need new scales and bigger air pumps (overheating and blowing oil).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(J. Nicolson, Chairman)

J. Nicholson shared that there were two bus tours at the Lincoln Highway Memorial.

PROPERTIES

(S. Spangler, Chairman)

S. Spangler stated that our tractor is not safe. Looked into some of a similar size. Approx cost to get a new one would be \$50,000-we may qualify for programs to save some money. We should also consider a new dump truck.

FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

(S. Murphy, Chairman)

S. Murphy is still going through to combine CD's and get best rates. Looking over Village insurance with IML, and IMRF account for employees.

TOURISM

(H. Grove, Chairman)

Trustee H. Grove stated that Harvest Festival was a success. Now starting to plan event/activities for Halloween.

GENERAL ISSUES

President Grendahl brought forward Legion Façade repairs. New door, paint, etc. Receipts total \$3,728.41. Grant would allow \$1,864.20. Previous board approved full reimbursement. Would current board like to approve full or half? Discussion and agreement that we should stay consistent with reimbursement to allow more to be given to other businesses.

Motion to approve Façade grant of \$1,864.20 to the Legion made by M. Delhotal, seconded by H. Grove. Passed 6/0

Trustee Nicholson previously discussed splitting the gaming tax revenue for "People" and "Business" accounts. This seems to be part of the Property Distribution Plan. Will continue to look into this and bring for consideration. Also, spoke to someone about cost for electric Village sign. FGFD sign was about \$30,000. Trustee Grove stated that he should look into ComEd grant for adding sign.

H. Grove proposed that we purchase tablets for trustees. This would be for trustee email and documents. Eliminate printing costs, etc. Brought tablet options for consideration and would like to have on the agenda for discussion next month.

President Grendahl stated that he has not found any previous board minutes showing that the park updated/additions were voted on/approved. M. Spangler said that there were

previous discussions during board meetings and committee meetings that mentioned these updates. It was noted that these were discussion only, and no votes were had.

S. Spangler brought discussion about seal coating the existing tennis court to make it a parking lot. Discussion had about making sure the depth of existing material would uphold as a parking lot.

President Grendahl requested approval to make committee chair updates and changes. Appointing K. Murphy to Solid Waste/Garbage, Appointing S. Murphy as Properties Committee Chair, and Appointing H. Grove as Park Committee Chair.

S. Spangler asked to go into Executive Session. President Grendahl requested a motion. **Motion** made by S. Spangler to go into Executive Session, seconded by J. Nicholson. Motion failed: 2/4.

S. Spangler stated that there need not be a vote to enter Executive Session. J. Nicholson agreed.

Public was asked to step out of meeting. Executive Session entered at 8:07pm. **Motion** to end Executive Session made by J. Nicholson, seconded by M. Delhotal. Passed 6/0.

Motion to approve President Grendahl's Committee chair updates and changes made by H. Grove, seconded by M. Delhotal. Passed 4/1 (1 abstained).

As no further business was brought before the board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by J. Nicholson, seconded by M. Delhotal and carried by unanimous vote at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Ford
Village Clerk