

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

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 MINUTES APPROVED MARCH 14, 2022

On February 14, 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, Kydreel Green, Nick Sprague, Paul Erisman, Shantel Schafer, Mike Crofton, President Atkinson and Clerk Stephanie Sprague

Absent: Attorney Considine

VISITORS

Matt Hansen with Willett Hofmann stated the guys did a great job getting the well house back up and running and that it looks nice. He informed the board we did not qualify for the emergency grant program; since the pump did not get damaged, we do not qualify. Matt informed the board we do qualify for the regular program options:

USDA Rural Development 75% grant, 25% village responsibility with 1.25% interest rate

EPA offers .83% interest rate will full responsibility on the village.

Matt feels the best option is the USDA Rural Development grant/loan option and if we were considering doing both well houses, they would stagger the project.

Motion made by M. Crofton, seconded by P. Erisman to go with the USDA Rural Development grant/loan option for both well houses to be replaced. Passed: 6/0

John Nicholson approached the board regarding 4 village properties of nuisance concern that he is hoping to have pressure put on them to get them cleaned up, listed in order of concern:

- 1) 106 N. Spring St.
- 2) 137 N. State St. (alley to Headwaters, 8-10 violations)
- 3) 119 S. State St.
- 4) 308 N. Elm St.

John stated the county recently formed a committee to get similar properties cleaned up.

Trustee Schafer stated ordinance violations not being enforced was the top concern she received as feedback from residents, the enforcement of ordinance violations would increase economic development, residence and property value. She stated she realizes the zoning officer is responsible for enforcing the ordinances. President Atkinson stated our chief is also able to enforce them and it would be hard to keep a zoning officer if they were expected to enforce them. Trustee Schafer stated she would like to move forward with a committee for this and would like it added to the next agenda. John Nicholson stated in the past there was a code enforcement officer specifically for this. President Atkinson stated it did not go over well. John Nicholson stated he had friends come to visit that used to live in the area and they were considering returning but felt there was too much junk around. President Atkinson stated he heard the same story 6 years ago and

feels we are moving in the right direction. Trustee Schafer stated we may be moving in the right direction and feels we could do more to continue moving forward.

Sharon Fore addressed the board concerning her huge water bill and supplied copies of the correspondence. President Atkinson stated the water committee will review and come up with something.

MINUTES

Motion made by N. Sprague, seconded by M. Crofton to approve the meeting minutes of December 21, 2021 and January 10, 2022. Passed: 6/0

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT

Motion made by S. Schafer, seconded by M. Crofton to pay bills. Passed: 6/0

POLICE REPORT (Chief Harney)

Complaints/Calls for Service – 21
Traffic Stops – 3
Traffic Arrests - 5
Traffic Warnings – 4
Other Arrest – 1 (warrant issued)
Ordinance Warnings – 2
Motorist Assist – 1
Investigation – 1 (credit card fraud)

LEGAL ISSUES (Attorney Considine)

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS & ALLEYS (N. Sprague Chairman)

Trustee Sprague advised the board the bid letting for street repairs will be held at village hall March 9, 2022 at 3:00pm.

WATER & SEWER (M. Crofton Chairman)

Trustee Crofton informed the board they are moving along good and the wells are up to snuff.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (S. Schafer Chairman)

Trustee Schafer informed the board plans are coming together for Harvest Fest in August. She stated perhaps with the \$63,000 ARPA money the village received we could maybe do something similar to what John Nicholson/Lee County is doing.

Trustee Schafer asked Trustee Thompson about the well house being underinsured. Trustee Thompson explained the well house was not underinsured, it was insured for what the building was worth. The new specs require \$600,000 well house but that old building was not worth that much so we couldn't insure it for more than it was worth. Trustee Schafer stated that makes sense and thanked Trustee Thompson for his explanation.

PROPERTIES

(P. Erisman Chairman)

Trustee Erisman stated the new street light bulbs are in and waiting to be installed.

FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

(S. Thompson Chairman)

Trustee Thompson stated he is working with the insurance company on the well house claim.

TOURISM

(K. Green Chairman)

Trustee Green informed the board a generator for village hall would be \$11,000 (which is less than battery back-up) and \$31,000 for pump house. Dan Hoffman stated their generator is at Altofer and it is \$13,000 for voltage regulator. President Atkinson stated to just bring it back. Trustee Green advised when they run it, to put it under a load because they won't know if there is a problem with the windings unless it is under a load.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/EARLY WARNING

None

Dan Hoffman informed the board we need to get something worked out with the plow. President Atkinson stated to get with Trustee Erisman.

Marilyn Spangler informed the board things are great with the park board. Car show will be on May 7th. Library hired a new director, Amy Runkle has accepted the position.

Trustee Sprague asked Trustee Erisman to get the old AC unit removed from the village hall office and possibly replace with a window.

As no further business was brought before the board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by M. Crofton, seconded by S. Schafer and carried by unanimous vote at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Sprague
Village Clerk