

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

JULY 10, 2023 MINUTES APPROVE AUGUST 14, 2023

On July 10, 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 John Nicholson, Nick Sprague, Amanda Lanning, Heather Grove, Paul Erisman, Attorney Considine, President David Atkinson and Clerk Stephanie Sprague

Absent: Trustee Shaun Thompson

MINUTES

Motion made by N. Sprague, seconded by H. Grove to approve the meeting minutes of June 12, 2023. Passed: 5/0

VISITORS

Owner of the Colonel Nathan Whitney house, George Breust addressed the board concerning the possibility of a solar farm surrounding their property which is on the National Register of Historic Places (the only such home in rural Lee County). George Breust's daughter stated Scott Spangler had advised her he saw a badger on the property which is an endangered species. Trustee Nicholson advised they let Lee County Zoning Board know about the endangered species and gave them a list of recommended people to talk to. Trustee Sprague advised a badger is no longer an endangered species. Attorney Considine advised it is not a good idea to have a pre-conceived blanket ordinance stating something is not allowed within 1-1/2 miles from village limits. Mark Forrester advised if it is a local landmark, it would be exempt from wind turbines and solar farms. President Atkinson asked Attorney Considine to look into this.

Rich Bartlett addressed the board concerning ethical issues with the purchase of 302 E North St. with the purchaser having inside information. He also stated ethical issues regarding picking which properties to protect. Third issue being his office next to the village clerk's office and hearing the conversations without anyone knowing he is next door listening.

Brandon Hudson asked for his water shut-off be raised at 352 W Lahman. Trustee Lanning will have it taken care of.

Scott Spangler addressed the board to see about the possibility to keep from pitching tents and such on village property. For starters a park closes at sundown signs will be placed at the park as there was an out of state vehicle parked over night for a couple nights.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT

Motion made by H. Grove, seconded by N. Sprague to pay bills and late bill for BJ Harney insurance reimburse for \$188.94. Passed: 5/0
The minutes will also reflect President Atkinson called board members for bill approval for street sweeping in the amount of \$7,625 paid to Trucks In Motion Inc on 6/21/23.

POLICE REPORT (Chief Harney)

Complaints/Calls for Service – 15
Traffic Stops – 2
Traffic Arrest - 2
Traffic Warnings – 2
Ordinance Warnings – 8
Accidents – 1
House Check – 2
Assist other Agency – 1

Trustee Nicholson inquired if tickets are on carbon copy paper, why code violations aren't handled the same way to follow-up on properties that have received warnings. Trustee Nicholson will supply Chief Harney with a list of properties that are currently non-compliant.
Chief Harney asked if our employees could mow Currier's and Hardy properties on N. State St.

LEGAL ISSUES (Attorney Considine)

Attorney Considine supplied the board with a contract to purchase real estate for \$0.00 for 236 N State St.

GENERAL ISSUES

Motion made by N. Sprague, seconded by A. Lanning to approve the Final Reading of Appropriation Ordinance 786-23. Passed: 5/0

Motion made by H. Grove, seconded by A. Lanning to adjust the Fee Schedule to increase the Large Dump Truck from \$85.00/hour + \$2.00/mile outside village to \$100/hour + \$3.00/mile outside village and the Small Dump Truck from \$60.00/hour + \$1.00/mile outside village to \$100/hour + \$3.00/mile outside village. Passed: 5/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS & ALLEYS (N. Sprague Chairman)

None

WATER & SEWER (A. Lanning Chairman)

Trustee Lanning informed the board the clarifier has been ordered. There is a 10 week lead time with an estimated arrival for the week of September 18th. The tank needs to be drained to get a look at the trusses and asked if this is a job Marcelo should be doing on

his own. President Atkinson advised all village employees will need to assist with this job and have the contracted wastewater operator explain the procedure to them. The wastewater contract operator, Josh, advised DMR's for May have been posted, June's were posted this month and this month will be posted in August. The past DMR's will be caught up this month.

Trustee Lanning informed the board she credited Susie Murphy for the pool fill as she was having issues with her water clogging her new filter.

Trustee Nicholson asked about the possibility of grants for a replacement sewer treatment plant. Trustee Nicholson and Scott Spangler offered to assist Trustee Lanning with the grants.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(H. Grove Chairman)

Motion made by J. Nicholson, seconded by A. Lanning to purchase the fencing material for \$1,421.33 for a fence the park committee will pay to have installed at the south end of the Women's Club building. Passed: 5/0

Trustee Grove informed the board 1,000 Harvest Fest flyers have been distributed and the event is being shared on Facebook. The village board thanked Heather for taking on this project as it is a lot of work. When the parade route is determined Trustee Sprague will get with a tree trimming company to get the streets cleared.

PROPERTIES

(P. Erisman Chairman)

None

FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

(S. Thompson Chairman)

None

TOURISM

(J. Nicholson Chairman)

Trustee Nicholson discussed Hotel/Motel tax with the board and stated he will look into an ordinance as we need to take advantage of tourism.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/EARLY WARNING

None

Marilyn Spangler informed the board the park committee will be meeting Wednesday. She advised the Summer Park Program starts tomorrow.

As no further business was brought before the board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by P. Erisman, seconded by H. Grove and carried by unanimous vote at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Sprague
Village Clerk