

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

MAY 10, 2021 MINUTES APPROVED JUNE 14, 2021

On May 10, 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, Mike Crofton, Attorney Considine, President Atkinson and Clerk Stephanie Sprague

Absent: None

MINUTES

Motion made by S. Spangler, seconded by N. Sprague to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2021. Passed: 6/0

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT

Motion made by S. Schafer, seconded by K. Sage to pay bills and make necessary transfers. Passed: 6/0

Motion made by N. Sprague, M. Crofton to approve the Final Reading of the Budget. Passed: 6/0

POLICE REPORT
(Chief Harney)

Miles on the police car – 728
Complaints/Calls for Service – 17
Traffic Stops – 6
Traffic Arrest – 7
Traffic Warnings – 3
Other Arrest – 2
Ordinance Warnings – 3
Motorist Assist – 1
House Check – 1
Assist other Agency – 2

Trustee Spangler commended Chief Harney on a good arrest of an individual with warrants from down south, good job. Trustee Schafer stated she was in a situation where she had to take her kid to school to and from school for a couple weeks and she saw him out and about every day.

LEGAL ISSUES
(Attorney Considine)

None

GENERAL ISSUES

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREETS & ALLEYS

(N. Sprague Chairman)

None

WATER & SEWER

(M. Crofton Chairman)

None

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(S. Schafer Chairman)

None

PROPERTIES

(K. Sage Chairman)

None

FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

(S. Thompson Chairman)

None

TOURISM

(S. Spangler Chairman)

Trustee Spangler informed the board there was a meeting a couple weeks ago for a summer harvest festival of sorts. It was mentioned the Harvest Fest has run its course and it may be time to rebrand the festival. The Big Rig will be Aug 7th, park committee will have the duck derby and a movie night, the garage sales will be that weekend. He stated there isn't an official committee, probably won't be a parade. There may be music and a beer garden at Rooney's. Trustee Schafer stated she and Kelly Reagan will take it over.

The Antique Equipment will still be the July 31-Aug 1st date.

Trustee Spangler stated Chaplain Creek is bleeding to death and the Historical Society is down to about 3 people, need younger people to join.

Trustee Spangler stated this year's car show was one of the best car shows. They didn't have the most cars but it was the most attended, people were glad to get out, they had a great variety of cars and the trophies went over very well. He wanted to publicly thank Trustee Karmen Sage and her son for all their help. They came early, stayed late and were a great deal of help and it is greatly appreciated. The streets looked great, no complaints there.

President Atkinson thanked Trustee Scott Spangler for his service as Village Trustee. Scott has probably made the biggest strides as far as the betterment of the town in his years of service. He implemented the golf carts, updating of the fire ordinance so that it's actually legal to have a campfire, the car show, Harvest Fest, the new Covid station board tables to name a few. Scott has easily been the busiest board member going back the last 12 years. President Atkinson stated he can't safe enough good about his service and someone has some big shoes to fill!

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/EARLY WARNING
(S. Spangler Chairman)

None

ADJOURNED SINE DI

As no further business was brought before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by S. Thompson, seconded by S. Schafer and carried by unanimous vote at 7:25 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Village Clerk Stephanie Sprague administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Village President David Atkinson, newly elected Village Trustee Paul Erisman and re-elected Village Trustees Karmen Sage, Shantel Schafer and Nick Sprague.

ROLL CALL

Present: Trustees Shaun Thompson, Karmen Sage, Nick Sprague, Paul Erisman, Shantel Schafer, Mike Crofton, Attorney Considine, President David Atkinson and Clerk Stephanie Sprague.

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

RECOGNITION OF VISITOR'S

Marilyn Spangler informed the board the park committee will meet Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 7:00p.m. at the Atlasta Park community building. President Atkinson advised he has a new recruit that would like to join the park committee, Heather Grove. Marilyn asked who the board representative would be. Trustee Karmen Sage will be our liaison. Marilyn asked if the projects/improvement for the park would come before the park committee and President Atkinson stated it absolutely would. President Atkinson stated the doors at the building open in rather than out. He asked Trustee Thompson to check with insurance to see what they have to say about it and asked Trustee Paul Erisman to work on getting them switched out.

VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT

None

POLICE REPORT

None

LEGAL ISSUES
(Attorney Dana Considine)

Attorney Considine stated there are no updates on the Suski estate, the bills exceed the assets on the estate.

GENERAL ISSUES

The meeting schedule will remain the second Monday of the month. It will be posted on the website and published in the newspaper.

Motion made by S. Schafer, seconded by N. Sprague for the Fee Schedule to remain the same. Passed: 6/0

Motion made by S. Thompson, seconded by M. Crofton to approve the Committee Assignment, updating the Harvest Fest to Shantel Schafer and Kelly Reagan. Passed: 6/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President David Atkinson advised we will be looking for a new Zoning Board President since Gary Mason has been elected as Village Trustee.

STREETS & ALLEYS
(N. Sprague Chairman)

Motion made by N. Sprague, seconded by S. Schafer to change the sidewalk reimbursement for downtown are to split the cost 50/50 with the owners, excluding stoops and stairs. This change will be retroactive to the bank and Rooney's. Passed: 6/0

Trustee Schafer asked about the post on Facebook about free trees. Trustee Sprague informed her if residents would like a tree on village property, the village will pay for it. If it's for their property, they get them at village cost.

Trustee Schafer asked about the repairs on Maple St. where it was dug up. Ron Miller stated now that the gravel has settled, they will get it repaired.

Trustee Erisman informed the board the township is having some holes filled and while they are here if there is left over material they will get some of the village street holes repaired as well. President Atkinson mentioned we should check on possibly getting slag on Elm St, south of the tracks to the school.

WATER & SEWER
(M. Crofton Chairman)

Trustee Crofton stated things with the treatment plant are going good, he is talking to engineers to help out with some things. Trustee Schafer asked what the status is of the letters we received for the EPA. Trusted Crofton stated we are all in compliance.

Ron Miller stated his 15 hours of continuing education will be completed 5/11/21.
Trustee Schafer stated it could be beneficial for everyone to walk through the plant.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(S. Schafer Chairman)

Trustee Schafer informed the board she would like to plant flowers around the stop signs. The board stated there was such a project called Stop and Smell the Flowers. She stated she went to the library meeting to discuss the separation; they were missing someone so they weren't comfortable voting on it. She was wondering if we should switch payroll now. Attorney Considine advised we would have to pass a resolution, suggested talking to the auditor first and the board would have to vote on it. President Atkinson stated he plans on moving forward with IMRF for our employees. Scott Spangler recommended the village explore other retirement plans as it has changed and it is not what it used to be.

Trustee Schafer stated the feedback she received of the residents greatest concerns were ordinance enforcement, street and sidewalk improvements and speeders/law enforcement.

PROPERTIES

(P. Erisman Chairman)

President Atkinson asked Trustee Erisman if he thought the New Holland was sufficient for the village needs. Trustee Erisman did not think it is.

Trustee Schafer asked about the basketball hoops at Atlasta Park. Marilyn Spangler stated it is still on the agenda, still waiting to get the driveway put in for the parking. After discussion it was determined the backboards may just need repainted.

Marilyn reminded everyone the park committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the community building.

Trustee Erisman asked about the remaining playground equipment that needs to be installed. Trustee Sprague stated there is just one piece remaining to be installed and it is just a matter of being about to get all hands on deck. Trustee Erisman stated he would be able to get some additional help as well.

FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

(S. Thompson Chairman)

Trustee Thompson informed the board the flag light replacement, Hilliker Electric stated its ComEd and he will check with ComEd about a sensor. Trustee Thompson reminded the village employees to shut off lights and overhead doors when they leave the shop, and make sure it is secure.

TOURISM

(K. Sage Chairman)

President Atkinson advised Karmen she has big shoes to fill as chairman of tourism, but Scott has agreed to stay on the committee and advised she keep tapping that tree as much as she can.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/EARLY WARNING

None

Motion made by M. Crofton, seconded by K. Sage to go into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. to discuss Personnel Matters in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Passed: 6/0

Motion made by K. Sage, seconded by M. Crofton to come out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. Passed: 6/0

Motion made by N. Sprague, seconded by P. Erisman to increase the village employees hourly wages; BJ from \$23.30 to \$25.00, Dan from \$15.00 to \$18.00, Ron from \$24.89 to \$26.00 and Madlyn from \$13.39 to \$15.00. Passed: 6/0

Motion made by M. Crofton, seconded by S. Schafer to increase the part time help hourly salary from \$12 to \$13. Passed: 5/0 (Note: Trustee Thompson abstained from voting as his son Matt will be the summer part time help)

As no further business was brought before the board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by S. Schafer seconded by K. Sage and carried by unanimous vote at 9:12 p.m. respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Sprague
Village Clerk