

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

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 MINUTES APPROVED OCTOBER 19, 2020

On September 14, 2020 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, Nick Sprague, Scott Spangler, Shantel Schafer, Michael Crofton, Attorney Considine, President David Atkinson and Clerk Stephanie Sprague

**Absent:** Trustee Karmen Sage

**MINUTES**

**Motion** made by S. Spangler, seconded by N. Sprague to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2020. Passed: 5/0

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**Motion** made by M. Crofton, seconded by S. Spangler to accept the Lee Ogle Enterprise Zone Ordinance 770-20. Passed: 5/0

Marilyn Spangler suggested we see about getting volunteers 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up for a work day to paint the playground equipment for silver cord hours.

Marilyn informed the board the park committee was informed the village insurance does not want the village to sponsor Trick-or-treating. It will be left up to the residence, if they leave their front porch light on they can expect to see trick or treaters.

**VILLAGE CLERK'S REPORT**

**Motion** made by S. Spangler, seconded by N. Sprague to pay bills and make necessary transfers. Passed: 5/0

**POLICE REPORT**

Miles on the police car – 566  
Complaints/Calls for Service – 13  
Traffic Stops – 5  
Traffic Arrests – 1  
Traffic Warnings – 4  
Other Arrest – 1, 2 misdemeanor counts  
Ordinance Warning – 1, no permit for atv  
House Check – 1  
Assist other Agency – 1, ambulance  
Investigation – 3, domestic disturbance, burglary, death

Trustee Spangler stated trees/bushes need cleaned up at Walnut and Lahman and the south end of the library ally to be able to see. If it's village property, let them know and trim it up.

Trustee Schafer asked about the weeds inside the fence at State and Lahman. Chief Harney said he talked to the contractor and they are not paid to maintain that portion of the property. Trustee Spangler said we need to send them a ticket. President Atkinson said he will check with Dana about our employees cleaning it up and sending them a bill that we could attach to a lien.

## **LEGAL ISSUES** **(Attorney Considine)**

Trustee Crofton asked Attorney Considine about the Suski property, GIS indicates it is owned by someone. Attorney Considine said it looks to be a tax deed, which would wipe out a lien. We have an estate claim. December 1<sup>st</sup> is the next probate court date. Trustee Schafer discussed the library being part of the village. Trustee Schafer talked to WIPFLI and they indicated they could see how it would negatively impact the village. She asked Attorney Considine to look into what steps would need to be taken to proceed. Attorney Considine said she would outline what the next steps would be.

Trustee Schafer asked about the status of the property north of the old middle school. Dave said he has discussed with Dwayne Harvey and Chad Murphy, he would prefer to have the property agreement in place and have the responsibility of running the water line to the concession building rather than them outsourcing someone else to run it, which would cost around \$22,000. Dave hasn't heard anything back and he believes they are going to take care of it.

## **GENERAL ISSUES**

**Motion** made by N. Sprague, seconded by S. Spangler to pass the Lee County Hazard Mitigation Committee Resolution. Passed: 5/0

Dan Hoffman was hired as our full time employee September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Clerk Sprague will get him a copy of the handbook. President Atkinson asked if there was any way we could get him signed up for a class. Ron will check.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **STREETS & ALLEYS** (N. Sprague Chairman)

Trustee Schafer asked about the work that is to be done at the intersection of Walnut/Hughes. Trustee Sprague said the repairs have already been approved, just waiting for the contractor to complete the work. President Atkinson asked Ron to find out what cable is running off the old pole located behind village hall. A new pole has been put up, but the old pole was left since there is a cable running from it. It would be nice to find out and have it taken down before the ally is black topped.

**WATER & SEWER**  
(M. Crofton Chairman)

Trustee Crofton advised he is meeting with Fehr Graham.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
(S. Schafer Chairman)

Trustee Schafer asked if the Treasurer/Clerk is one or two separate positions during election. President Atkinson advised it is one position. Trustee Schafer would like to see something done since it is brought up as the auditor's recommendation. President Atkinson stated he talked to WIPFLI at length when he first started as mayor and they stated it is not uncommon in a small municipality and if we were to remediate this issue, they would have another. Trustee Crofton stated IML may have something and he will talk to Trustee Schafer about it.

Trustee Schafer stated Barb Hilliker is upset about the roads and suggested we make a big deal out of new business' in Franklin Grove similar to the ribbon cutting that Ashton has recently done with the new business. President Atkinson stated we do participate in ribbon cuttings and more than likely they were invited to attend, just as we have in the past with the Bed and Breakfast and the nursing home.

**PROPERTIES**  
(K. Sage Chairman)

None

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE**  
(S. Thompson Chairman)

Trustee Thompson said he has received complaints about the hours of the post office. He called Adam Kinzinger's office and they called back in a quick manner to inform him they are trying to hire someone, then get them trained.

Trustee Thompson asked if the tile behind Rich's house has been repaired. Ron stated it has not been repaired yet and he will call them and see what's going on.

Trustee Thompson asked if the rest of the playground equipment is going to be installed. Ron stated they would like to get it moved from the township/farmer easement and asked if they could move it to the tennis courts. Marilyn Spangler stated that is going to be a parking lot, President Atkinson stated we don't want to plug up the parking lot. Marilyn stated it takes time to get the equipment installed because get all volunteers together and at the moment they are waiting for the park committee to let them know a couple suggestions on where it can be installed. Trustee Spangler asked how many pieces are left to be installed. There is one piece that needs to be installed, the other three have been installed. Trustee Schafer stated we wouldn't want to move it down to the park un-installed as kids could climb on it and it would be a hazard. Dan suggested when it comes time to install to reach out to the FFA and Trustee Schafer suggested the football players too.

**TOURISM**  
(S. Spangler Chairman)

Trustee Spangler informed the board he attended a library board meeting and they approved funds for new banners for the village. There will be three series of 15 banners with a different pic on each side, total of 45 banners close to \$3,000. Will see them in March.

Trustee Thompson asked if we are still putting up the sidewalk lights at the park. Yes, we are. Clerk Sprague will advise Rich Bartlett that his bid was accepted.

Trustee Spangler advised Chaplain Creek has a meeting 9/15 and they are really hurting for membership and funds. It is an ideal place for an event, maybe different clubs and organizations come together for a huge event, split their money with the different organizations that attend. Suggestions were advertising as a wedding venue, try to get turkey shoots there.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION/EARLY WARNING**  
(S. Spangler Chairman)

None

President Atkinson informed the board now is the time to consider increases for board members and asked the board to bring recommendations written down to be voted on at the October board meeting. Currently if all meetings are attended, trustees earn \$1,560 annually and it would be nice to see it around \$2,500.

Ron Miller stated they need to figure out something to do with the chips and compost, the landfill or Timber will not take them. Trustee Spangler will ask Chaplain Creek if they would like some. Trustee Sprague suggested reaching out to Orchard Hill. Ron Miller said we need to tell Martin not to dump any more. Trustee Sprague said it shouldn't be a problem since we have a big ravine that needs to be filled in.

Trustee Schafer asked about the restrooms at the park. Trustee Spangler stated the car show has been raising money for the new restroom(s) and they need to raise more in order to get them installed.

**Motion** made by S. Spangler, seconded by S. Thompson to go into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. to discuss Personnel Matters in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Passed: 5/0

**Motion** made by N. Sprague, seconded by S. Thompson to come out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. Passed: 5/0

As no further business was brought before the board, a **motion** to adjourn was made by M. Crofton, seconded by N. Sprague and carried by unanimous vote at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie M. Sprague  
Village Clerk