

TOWN OF FRANKLIN: Town Board Minutes

Date: March 18th, 2024 Call To Order at: 7:00pm by Town Chair

Present: Berent Froiland x Kurt Lucey x Matt Connelly x Hannah Aspenson x Tracy Thelen x

Observers: (17) Brody Rudrud, Danny Solverson, Bob Solverson, Steve Solverson, Beau Schroeder, Wayne Keenan, Richard Running, Brenda Torgerson, Judy Thompson, Brandon Larson, Josh Brown, Todd Sandwick, Wayne Robson, Mike Leis, Matthew Allbright, Brenda Corr, Mike Corr

Minutes:

February 2024 minutes were read by Clerk

Motion to stand as read w/correction: Kurt 2nd to the motion: Matt Motion carried: x

Treasurer's Report:

<u>February 28, 2024</u>	Book Balance =	<u>\$ 65,0078.64</u>
	Outstanding Checks =	<u>\$ 255,091.12</u>
	Bank Balance =	<u>\$320,099.76</u>

Checking as of meeting date: \$62,215.58

Money Market acct: \$1009.78

Line of Credit payoff: \$112,213.28

Motion to stand as read: Matt 2nd to the motion: Kurt Motion carried: x

Public Questions & Concerns:

~Fire Station: Josh Brown and Todd Sandwick, Representatives of the Fire Dept, were here to answer any other questions the residents may have. They also were here to get a decision from the board on supporting/financing part of the new station. They let the board know that Town of Viroqua agreed. Bids will be back by April 11th. Will open/review at the City Council level. Most residents agree that we need to do it. Main questions were how we will come up with the funding. Berent explained it will become a debt service and we'll most likely have to raise the Tax levy. Residents asked about cutting back on road maintenance for a couple of years to pay for it. This wouldn't be a good idea, as then we'll just have that much more to maintain/fix after a couple of years go by.

A motion was made by Kurt to approve funding for our portion, which will be \$300,000, for the new fire station. 2nd by Matt, motion carried. Board discussion continued as far as loan rates from the bank. 3-5 yrs vs 5=10yr. Keep the rate lock at a shorter term, then review it each year.

Upcoming Equipment changes/needs will be Engine 1 (city's turn to purchase & pushing off a year), Tanker 2 (was due in 2020 but was pushed off), Airpack's in 2032, Bunker Gear (10-15 years expectancy/always revolving).

It was asked who approves all the purchases made by the Fire Department, no clear answer given.

~Beau Schroeder was here to speak on behalf of the Kickapoo Area School referendum coming up on the April 2024 ballot. Described why the school is asking for the money & why is in such a need. Will be operational money only, not construction, will be recurring for next 4 years if referendum passes. If it doesn't pass, then they will have to look at budget cuts.

~Vernon Co Administration Plan info: Matthew Allbright was here to explain the plan being worked on. Explained about the survey that is currently being done. Left a few paper surveys with us for those that would like one.

~Wayne Robson was here asking the board about his 89 acres of property in Franklin that is landlocked with no good access point except to maybe extend Melvin Rd. If we could extend Melvin, then he could go out across Erickson property. He is wanting to log some of the property and needs to gain access somehow. Wayne is asking how he goes about getting access. Does the Township have any say so on what residents need to do? Berent said we can check w/the Towns Association and maybe county and see if there is anything.

Other:

~Gravel Bids: need to add published and have ready to open at next board meeting. Tracy will work with Berent on wording and getting it to the paper for publication.

~Culvert Inventory Project: Brody did the online training and He and Jeremy already have all the culverts inventoried and ready to submit for this project. He will reach out to Phil at the county and see what next steps are. We have a total of 18 that are the 6-20ft length.

~Patrolman Update by Brody – Berent asked Bordy what roads are the “highest” needed maintenance. Used to always plan 10 miles need maintenance yearly, then revolves where we would be redoing about every 6 years or so. Brody asked do we just keep calling for gravel & fill in mud spots etc as needed until we figure out the fire station, then push hard again on the roads? The board will have discussion on plans.

~Clean Up Days: set for April 19th & 20th as that is when we can get the dumpsters. 8a-3p each day, or until the dumpsters are full. Berent will work on getting some help. Friday Brody can be around to run the end loader.

Bills:

Bills are prepared by the clerk & reviewed by the town board.

Motion to stand as read: Matt 2nd to the motion: Kut Motion carried: x

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting: Matt 2nd by: Kurt Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50pm