

# **TOWN OF FRANKLIN: Town Board Minutes**

**Date:** October 21<sup>st</sup>, 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:** (9)

## **Minutes:**

September 2024 minutes were read by Clerk

Motion to stand as read: Matt 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion: Kurt Motion carried: x

## **Treasurer's Report:**

<u>September 30, 2024</u>	Book Balance =	\$24,138.30
	Outstanding Checks =	\$ 7,455.76
	Bank Balance =	\$31,594.06

Checking as of today: \$65,729.84. Money Market acct: \$1012.73 Line of Credit payoff: \$199,213.28

Grader Loan Balance: \$387,500.00 Firehouse Loan Balance: \$300,000.

On 10.7.24 we received our WI 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Pmt in the amt of \$45,001.64.. Hannah also shared the 2024 tax insert w/the board for review.

Motion to stand as read: Matt 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion: Kurt Motion carried: x

## **Other:**

~Driftless Humane Society Animal Control Contract: the board decided not to do anything with it at this time.

~Levy Discussion. Board would like to adopt a resolution to increase the levy limit for 2024, payable in 2025 to help cover the cost of the new grader & firehouse payments. Resolution of the Town Board proposing to exceed the levy limit being Resolution NO. 2024-2 was adopted by the board. Motion to accept Resolution No 2024-2 by Matt, 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion: Kurt; Motion carried. The Resolution was signed by the Town Chair & Clerk and will be posted as needed. Item shall be placed on the agenda for the special town meeting to be held on November 20, 2024.

~Smrcina State Building Inspector contract renewal. Motion made to accept the renewal for the 2024-2025 year made by Matt, 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion: Kurt, motion carried.

~Patrolmen Update: grader is back. They found that it was a metal rod in a return hydrlic rod causing the issue. Otherwise all was good.

## **Public Questions & Concerns:**

~ Ridgeview Estates residents: The Board is ok with Bordy plowing on major snow events to make a pass thru once all the other area roads are done. Berent has been back & forth with the Clarks a little bit. Basically waiting on the Clarks to have an agreement drafted and presented to the board. Berent checked w/the Towns Association & Attorney on snow plowing. Waiting on response. Where we are right now: 1<sup>st</sup>: agreement of intent with the Township & Clarks, 2<sup>nd</sup> residents & Clarks Agreement, 3<sup>rd</sup> then once roads are all up to specs for seal coat the town will proceed with getting ownership of the now private roads. Berent will continue to work with the Clarks.

~Fire Department: Mayor Justin Running attending meeting for any questions/concerns. One thing brought up was the "rent vs utilities". Board feels like we basically shifted from paying rent to now paying utilities. When we were told there would be no rent for the first few years. Understandable for the first 6 mos or so we'll have for both locations so the "rent" is still a thing for the time being. Justin basically said that the towns will be responsible for the utilities. Council still needs to discuss how it will be split. Justin said he & Chief Buros are hoping for City 60%, Towns 40%. The new building will potentially have more for city use then what the towns would ever use. Example potential office space for zoning dept use. Hannah asked about insurance. Mayor said another alderman had asked too. IT was looked into and Mayor was told there wouldn't be much of an increase.

~Viroqua Schools Tom Burkhalter was in attendance to discuss the new referendum coming up on the Nov 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. Its for operational use now (salaries, transportation maintenance etc). Fed & State revenue just are not enough. If the referendum fails now in Nov, they will have to bring it back in April at a different amount most likely.

## **Bills:**

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

Motion to stand as read: Matt 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion: Kut Motion carried: x

## **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn meeting: Matt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Kurt Motion carried. Meeting adjourned: 9:18pm