

TOWN OF FRANKLIN: Town Board Minutes

Date: September 15th, 2025 Call To Order at: 7:00pm by Town Chair

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

Observers: 3 residents (Kay Wienke, Adam Bangston, Brody Rudrud)

Minutes:

August 2025 minutes were read by Clerk

Motion to accept Meeting Minutes: Matt 2nd to the motion: Kurt Motion carried: x

Treasurer's Report:

August 30, 2025 Book Balance = \$16,374.31

Outstanding Checks = \$20,891.03

Bank Balance = \$37,265.34

Checking as of meeting date: \$14,981.83 Money Market acct: \$1017.39

Line of Credit payoff: \$211,882.53 Grader Loan Balance: \$354,775.30 (\$51,609.94 due each Jan, paid 1/6/25)

Firehouse Loan: \$275,768.83 (\$39,952.00 due each Sept., paid 8.27.25)

ABT Mail Company – town has received bill/quote for the processing/mailling the 2025 Tax Bills. \$1,050.00 estimated postage cost. The board agrees to accept and have ABT mail the tax bills again.

Also, Hannah said the new online software system will be good – residents can pay online if they wish. If they use a credit card, there is a percentage fee charged by the card company, not by the township.

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

Public Questions & Concerns:

None.

Bills:

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

Motion to accept bills: Kurt 2nd to the motion: Matt Motion carried: x

Other:

~Ridgeview Estates update: all paperwork has been submitted, and things are complete. Fortney payment was made. Residents in attendance were happy to hear the approval and thanked the board members again for all they did. Resolution for the official adoption of the roads was presented to the board by the clerk. Motion was made to accept the resolution. All board signed & Tracy will get it filed at the Register of Deeds office. One resident asked if there is any type of speed limit, can sign be posted? Berent explained typically township roads are 45, unless otherwise posted. However, the township does not patrol roads.

~Fire Dept: update from the most recent meeting w/townships:

- 1) insurance question had come up. We pay it with the towns of Viroqua & Jefferson on equipment. City pays the building insurance. Chief Buross said they are going to talk w/insurance company rep on costs/premiums etc.
- 2) Tanker – need to be thinking of this on our radar – takes about 3 years to get once it is ordered. Franklin board feels the 3 towns need to discuss more on when we can look at ordering. All are still trying to recover from the new firehouse building.
- 3) Old Firehouse: going to try & sell it. This is nothing that the three townships would receive any monies from, however. Just wanted to mention.

Kurt had a question in our board meeting: why do we have to own any equipment/why doesn't the city just own it and we would "hire" the city to be our fire call company?

~Wayside at the Hwy 14 & Hwy 27/82 intersection: Berents contact at the state said the State runs the operation of the wayside (in state r-r-o-w) Township owns it but has no control of it really. ?? Berent will continue some conversation w/the State – as far as what needs to be done, if anything, to get ownership transferred over to the State. State claims they took over ownership when they put the round about in. Franklin unaware, nothing on paper etc.

~LTRIP: We should be getting payment at some point of approx. \$49,000 for the Black River Ave sealcoat updating.
~Town Assessor: Berent asked do we want to plan to stay with Three Chimney and have Barrett Brenner continue in place of Jerry now that Jerry is retiring. Board agrees to stay with Three Chimney. Haven't had any issue over the years, and they are already familiar with our township etc.
~Patrolman Update: Working on grading roads when they can. Finley & Connelly Rd signs are missing. Will need to get them replaced. Brody will get them ordered/replaced.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:55pm