

January 8, 2024 MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING FOR TOWN OF FRANKLIN

The January monthly meeting for the Town of Franklin was called to order at 7:00pm by Dave Wesely following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers present: Dave Wesely, Lori Kleiman, Katie Duckart, Sandy Smidle & Suzi Sevcik.

Katie Duckart made a motion to approve the agenda as printed, Lori Kleiman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Katie Duckart made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction of the name to Schultz from the December Town Board meeting. Lori Kleiman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Sandy Smidle presented the Treasure's Report, which shows a balance of \$669,893.94. Lori Kleiman made a motion to accept the Treasure's Report, Katie Duckart seconded the motion, motion carried.

In the Public Comment section:

Chairman Wesley started off the discussion based on a public Facebook post that contained some inaccuracies regarding snow plowing in the Town. He then gave his synopsis of the decision making in when to call out the plows. Which is as follows, he will watch the weather & check the extended forecast, he will ask Jadin about what other towns are doing and then will go out and drive several miles of roads in the town, mostly east/ west roads as they typically are worst because of lack of sun/tree coverage. He then calls Jadin back with a decision on if/when to plow. It's not perfect science. Our primary goal is safety for our residents and we need to balance that with our budget. We have \$225,000 budgeted for roads, of that \$25k is for ditch cutting, \$70k for Snow Plowing, which leaves about \$130k left for patching and fixing roads. That's 51 miles of roads to maintain, which isn't sustainable.

The event in question was New Year's Eve with a prediction of 1/2" – 3" but during the week, temps in the mid 30's.

On New Year's Day, he got a text from a neighbor who said Old Settler's was icy. He went out & drove & Old Settler's from his house to Schweiner. The roads were icy so he called the plow company & had them come out to Sleepy Hollow to Schweiner. After a short consideration, because of a past history of an accident at Rangeline & Old Settlers. He had called Jadin back to sand the roads from Rangeline to Schweiner. That night he took a few phone calls from residents that were complaining about the roads. He then drove them & called Jadin back that night & told them to do all the roads in the morning.

The comment Chairman Wesley made was that I have 3 teen age drivers, so really he's hypersensitive to road conditions, and the most liberal of all previous town boards in calling out the plows.

Casey Meyer spoke next as the author of the Facebook post. She lives on Krines Rd and is unhappy with the road conditions following snow events. She was told that Chairman Wesley isn't the easiest to work with. She thinks the plow drivers should note which roads they should go back out on. She feels that when the roads are slushy they should be plowed again. She asked what the town's policy was for plowing, like minimum number of inches.

Chairman Wesley agrees that the East/West roads are always going to be an issue, and that we can't base it off of inches of snow, but actual conditions. Our snow plow company has latitude to put down salt/sand and to do so on hills and intersections. He takes people traveling on our roads safely seriously. But the damage done from her inaccurate FB post is devastating. His kids were harassed at school, his wife received phone calls, he heard about it at community events.

Chairman Wesley also explained how snow plows have skids on them which means the roads will never be scraped clean & there's a possibility that roads would remain snow covered the remainder of the season.

Glenn Schlies asked about Road Budget & if we ever let the roads unplowed.

Chairman Wesley noted that we have never let roads unplowed.

Supervisor Duckart noted that years ago we had a large snow plow bill, and that year it depleted most of the road budget & that year we could only patch roads. But we'd never not plow roads.

Jim Wacek commented about the road budget, that when he first started we could fix 1 mile a road a year. Then ½ mile, now we can barely do that. He also noted that it's not sustainable to expect clear roads in winter as the cost to do so is prohibitive.

Chairman Wesley noted that Jadin does a great job, previously we had the County, and they'd do the state roads first, their county roads & then the town roads.

Brian Kleiman – spoke up and noted that the Board & Dave does a great job and appreciate what they do.

~End of the Public Comment section.

Zoning administrator Suzi Sevcik noted there were no building permits issued in Jan.

First Responder Suzi Sevcik reported that there was one call last month & our group is providing food for the Farm Toy & Craft Show at the Ag Heritage Farm on Feb 18th as a Fundraiser.

Discussion was had about updating the Planning Committee ordinance, as it currently doesn't call for two alternates. The updated ordinance will be similar to the existing Zoning Board of Appeals Ordinance. There was a public hearing before the meeting to accept public comments about this proposed ordinance.

Chairman Wesley moves to adopt the Planning Committee Ordinance as written, seconded by Supervisor Duckart. Motion carried & Ordinance was signed & to be posted.

Discussion was also had about adopting a Short Term Rental Ordinance. A draft ordinance was presented. Chairman Wesley moved to table to next month & Supervisor Duckart would research some local towns to see what they do. Supervisor Duckart seconded the motion, motion carried. It will be on the agenda for next month.

The Town's transition to Harter's for garbage & recycling pickup was discussed. The dates and calendars are posted on the town's website. A question was asked about what to do with the GFL cans - they're now property of the residents. The new pickup day is Tuesday's instead of Monday's.

WTA District meeting dates are March 9th, Feb 16th and County Meeting Feb 19th.

Town Disbursements were discussed, approved and paid.

Our next monthly meeting will be February 12, 2024 at the Franklin Town Hall at 7pm

There being no further discussion, the Town Board meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Sevcik Town Clerk