

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees
Village of Forreston
Monday, November 20, 2017

President Mark Metzger calls to order the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Forreston at 7:00 PM on November 20, 2017 at Village Hall and recites the Pledge of Allegiance. On roll call by Courtney Warren the following members are present: Trustees Vickye Norris, Gary Buss, Ken Toms, Ken Vinnedge, Jeff Freeze, and Tim Drayton.

The minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, November 6, 2017 are considered for approval. Trustee Drayton makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented, second by Trustee Freeze. Yeas: Trustees Norris, Buss, Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, and Drayton. Motion carries.

Metzger asks for public comment.

- Paul White at 7160 N IL Rt 26 presents an article to the Board regarding solar energy policy. He highlights some topics including, the loss of crop production over 40 years, the possible pollution into our aquifers, and the inefficiency of energy production.
- Russ Ruter at 7215 Townline Rd pleads with the Board not to recommend approval of the Special Use permit. He is concerned about the amount of noise it will create during installation, wasting valuable farmland and better ways to make electricity.
- Kris Mulder of the Forreston Lions Club states they have some money they would like to use at Warnken Park for possible a half basketball court. They are also open to other suggestions from the Village as to how the money can best be spent at the park.

Metzger informs the Board that the School District contacted him and was not in favor of the TIF district, which he anticipated. They did submit a copy of an Intergovernmental Agreement which he gave to our consultants. They believe it is not a legal document, so at this time, we will proceed with the TIF as planned and Metzger will inform the school we are not willing to enter into this type of agreement. Metzger also reports we will be moving forward with the annexations of the old railroad property and the Ludwig properties on the east side of town even though they cannot get into the TIF.

There are no building permits to present.

Village Treasurer Fred Schneiderman gives an unofficial report for the months of September and October. Because of the software switchover, we are not yet able to print the computer generated report, however, the bank totals at the top of the sheet are correct. He states there has been nothing unusual but property tax payments were distributed in September and a few more rolled in to October.

The claims list is considered for approval. Motion by Drayton to approve the claims in the amount of \$14,709.42, second by Freeze. Yeas: Trustees Norris, Buss, Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, and Drayton. Motion carries.

Toms states he would like the Parks Committee to think about a suggestion for the Lions Club donation to the parks and he will be calling a meeting shortly.

Vinnedge reports a mason came out to inspect Village Hall last week. He will be putting an official report together hopefully for the next meeting.

A Law Enforcement Update from Police Chief Mike Boomgarden is reviewed for activity from November 7, 2017 through November 20, 2017. Metzger states he is extremely appreciative of the police involvement with the recent tragedies in the last week. He believes they went above and beyond to help the schools, families, and community. He also mentions the school has done a wonderful job supporting the students and families.

Superintendent of Public Works Alan Cruthis gives a report of his department from November 6, 2017 through November 20, 2017.

Metzger reports The Depot submitted a Video Gaming application this afternoon for 3 terminals. They have provided all documentation, have been approved by the State, and paid the required fees. Motion by Drayton to approve the application, second by Vinnedge. Roll call vote: Norris – No, Buss – Yes, Toms – No, Vinnedge – Yes, Freeze – No, Drayton – Yes, and Metzger – Yes. Motion carries.

Metzger also reports we received a flag for the 200th birthday for the State of Illinois. They are requesting we fly the flag at noon on December 4th.

Metzger asks the Board if there is any more discussion to be had regarding the proposed solar farm at the southern end of town before a recommendation is made. Buss states he is concerned about cutting off that part of town for 40 years and preventing any further development. Freeze states he is not concerned about that aspect because in his 12 years on the Board he has only seen 1 new building go up. He also states it is the County's responsibility to take care of the taxes and clean up. Toms states this company has bent over backwards and changed their original plan at the request of surrounding property owners. There is some further discussion regarding concerns about further expansion, the destruction of fertile farm ground and lack of benefits to the Village. Metzger voices his opinion on the topic. He states he is not against solar energy, however, he feels there are better pieces of land in the surrounding area where the farm could be placed as he does not like the proximity to town. Motion by Toms to recommend approval of the Special Use Permit application, by Elkhorn Solar, LLC, to the Ogle County Planning & Zoning Department, second by Freeze. Roll call vote: Norris – No, Buss – No, Toms – Yes, Vinnedge – No, Freeze – Yes, and Drayton – No. Motion fails.

The Board considers amending the Liquor License Classifications A-1, B-1, C-1, and F-1 regarding Sunday consumption times. Toms states these times were set into place for a reason and does not see the need to extend them. Metzger states he does not have a problem extending them since it is only for 2 hours and many of the surrounding towns have extended them already. Vinnedge asks Chief Boomgarden if there are currently any problems with any of the establishments and the current closing times to which Boomgarden replies there is not. Motion by Drayton to extend the Sunday consumption hours from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, second by Buss. Roll call vote: Norris – Yes, Buss – Yes, Toms – No, Vinnedge – Yes, Freeze – No, and Drayton – Yes. Motion carries.

Metzger asks if there is any more discussion needed for the Village Property Insurance proposals. Vinnedge motions to accept the IML proposal, second by Buss. Yeas: Trustees Norris, Buss, Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, and Drayton. Motion carries.

Metzger reports there is a meeting scheduled next Monday, November 27 at 6:00 PM regarding the health insurance renewal. No one is required to be there but we will be discussing the options with Dimond Bros.

Motion by Drayton to adjourn, second by Freeze. All are in favor for adjournment.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Courtney Warren-Village Clerk