

**Minutes of the Village of
Forreston Board Meeting
March 3, 2021**

This meeting was held at the Forreston Public Library Community Room and via Zoom.

Village President Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:02. For those attending via ZOOM, VP Metzger does roll call. Via ZOOM, Trustees Buss and Freeze are present along with Treasurer Schneiderman, and Thajar (Dollar General Solar permit). Attending in person at the Community Room are, Chief Thiel, Supt of Public Works Mark Rust, Trustees Toms, Cotter, and Norris. Attending from the public are Katie Kalina, Jane Koeller, and Patti Jennings.

The minutes from the meeting held on February 15, 2021 are reviewed. Trustee Freeze motions to approve the minutes as printed and is 2nd by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, and Freeze all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge is absent.

At 7:10 PM Trustee Vinnedge joins the Zoom meeting.

Village President Metzger asks if anyone from the public would like to speak. Patti Jennings, founder of Believe in the Children states she is looking for support from the Village to put in a skate park on the north lot of their property. This support is required as she cannot seek grants if the Village does not support the project. This would encompass the entire lot 44 x 123'. Skateboarding and BMX is the 3rd largest entertainment sport in the US. This would be built by a professional program (like what was done in Polo, IL with the Tony Hawk skatepark program). Trustee Toms asks who would insure the park? Mrs. Jennings states that Believe in the Children would insure the property if the Park District will not. She explains, part of going thru the accredited program and having it built by professionals is that the insurance is less as it is built safely. Continual maintenance and upkeep will also be required to keep insurance rates down. VP Metzger asks how soon do you need the letter from the Village? Patti responds as soon as possible – there is a grant closing the end of March which she would like to apply for. VP Metzger states the support for the project will be an action item on the March 15th Agenda.

There is no other public comment. Public Comment closes at 7:15 PM.

Next, the Solar Permit for Dollar General is revisited. Previously, the permit had been tabled as to no information regarding the owner (name, signature) and payment of permit fee. The Solar Company provided a letter from Dollar General granting 11 Million Acres Solar LLC and is assignees permission to install roof top solar panels on the attached 4-page listing of Dollar General Stores, Store #17425 located at 13004 W IL Rte. 26 72 is on that list. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit, pending the permit fee of \$300, and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustee Freeze, Cotter, Norris, Vinnedge, Buss, and Toms all respond with Yeas.

Brittney Busker joins the meeting (via ZOOM) at 7:20 PM.

Accounts Payable are reviewed by the Board. Questions are asked regarding truck repairs and the negative balance in line item 09-02-0250. Supt Rust states there are many expenses we are still waiting to be reimbursed from insurance for storm damage. Clerk Drayton will investigate further Tuesday afternoon. Motion is made by Trustee Norris and is 2nd by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Norris, Vinnedge, Buss, Toms, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Committee Reports:

Streets and Alleys – Nothing to report

Sewer and Water – Nothing to report

Finance – Trustee Norris states Budget discussions continue. Also, an account needs to be set up for the Bike Rodeo fund. After discussion with Treasurer Schneiderman, it has been decided the funds will be deposited to the General Fund and a budget line will be created. This will be an annual reminder for the Village to committee funds in memory of Chief Boomgarden.

Building, Grounds, Parks, Zoning and Planning – Nothing to report

Ordinances – Nothing to report

Animal Control – Nothing to report

Village Clerks Report – Clerk Drayton explains the need for Roll Call supporting the creation of the savings account for the Disaster Relief Fund. Motion is made by trustee Norris and 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Buss, Toms, Freeze and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

Clean Up day and Garage Sale weekend will be by the weekend of April 30th – May 1st. Shred Beast is scheduled for Saturday, May 1st from 8am-Noon. Kevin Crase will work the event.

Clerk Drayton states she has searched the internet and spoke with several municipalities in the last 2 weeks regarding pour licenses. While Stillman Valley and Rochelle do have gaming at gas stations, their ordinances will not work for us. Village President Metzger has noted he is not opposed to Lena's ordinance, and the Village Attorney has not written a pour ordinance for any of his municipalities. Trustee Buss states Morrison has a license, he also suggests we look into Sterling-Rockfalls. Trustee Toms states he would like to call and Ordinance Committee meeting for Monday night, ZOOM only, for the Committee to look at the various ordinance.

Police Chief Thiel states things have been quiet. He has received 2 inquiries for employment. After looking into them, both were rejected. The Village continues to look for another full time and a part time Officer.

Supt Of Public Works states he is loving the weather! The new lift was installed at the Prairie Court lift station. Christmas lights are still up in the park, but the ground is too soft for the lift so removing them will have to wait until the ground dries.

Village President Metzger reports the BBQ cookoff will not happen until 2022 as they have scaled back their schedule this year. He informs the Board that Chief Boomgardens ex-wife continues to claim she is the executor of his estate and any communication from her should be sent directly to Attorney Tim Zollinger at Ward, Murray, Pace and Johnson, P.C. VP Metzger states all vacation, sick leave, and personal days have been paid out and reported to IMRF for Mike.

Dan Pepin from Community Funding and Planning joins the meeting at 7:50 PM.

New Business – Loan Request #6 for IEPA the Water Main Replacement Project is reviewed. Questions regarding the amount being retained to ensure final dirt work this spring are reviewed. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the request and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Toms, Freeze, Cotter and Norris all respond with Yeas.

Old Business –

The Safe Routes to School engineering bid from McMahon is reviewed. It is \$6,000 over the estimate and more than 20% of the project total cost. Trustee Freeze motions to REJECT the bid from McMahon and continue to the next candidate and is 2nd by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Toms, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas to reject the bid. The Bid from McMahon is rejected. Dan will contact MSA Profession services and will try to have their bid submitted by March 11.

Dan states they will start looking at water meter specs and hope to start on the project in May or June.

TIF recommendation for STKE Enterprise. VP Metzger states this is for tax relief for the new building to be constructed. VP Metzger states he is thinking 30% for 10 years. Discussion is held. Trustee Freeze motions to approve 30% rebate for 10 years and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, Vinnedge and Buss all respond with Yeas. VP Metzger reminds the Board this is a recommendation. Moring's Attorney will draft a request to the Board, and we will have final approval at that point.

Trustee Freeze asks if there is anything happening regarding selling the Ash street property. Trustee Buss states that until the Finance Committee finds money to set aside for it, we cannot afford to sell the property.

Motion is made by Trustee Toms to adjourn the meeting and is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll call, all respond with Yea. The meeting is adjourned at 8:33pm.