

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Village of Forreston
Board of Trustees
Monday April 5, 2021 7:00 PM
FORRESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Village President Metzger calls the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all.

On Roll Call, Trustees Ken Toms, Monty Cotter, Vickye Norris, Jeff Freeze and Gary Buss are all attending in person along with Village President Metzger, Treasurer/Budget Officer Fred Schneiderman, and Clerk Drayton. Attending via ZOOM is Trustee Ken Vinnedge, community member Brittany Busker, and Sara Robinson.

Minutes from the March 15, 2021 meeting are reviewed. Trustee Toms motions to approve the minutes and is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Freeze, Buss, Cotter, Vinnedge, and Norris all respond with Yeas.

Minutes from the March 29, 2021 Special Board Meeting are reviewed. Trustee Cotter motions to approve the minutes and is 2nd by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Buss, Cotter, Vinnedge, Norris, and Toms all respond with Yeas.

Public Comment: Jane Koeller 405 S 4th Avenue states Sauerkraut Days is happening this year! There will be a car show, sauerkraut lunch, and pork chop supper. The dates are set for August 6, 7 & 8th. There is a contract signed by the band, but they are not sure how that will work yet or if it will happen for sure. Then, Jane discusses the fact that the same properties are still a mess which she brought to our attention last year – some are worse. Vehicles in yards, debris on porches...what does it take to get these properties cleaned up?! VP Metzger states it is a process, and it takes time. Chief Thiel states some things in our ordinance need to be rewritten. The on-duty officers have been asked to write down addresses and issues. A letter will be sent with cleanup day information in hopes these people will utilize the dumpsters provided.

Trustee Ken Toms, 305 3rd Avenue, states he would like to make a public comment. He does not agree with the fact that the Village gave out information and none of the Board Members were contacted. Toms also states he called the newspaper but was never called back.

Trustee Gary Buss of 601 S Cedar also makes a public comment stating no one ever said the taxpayers would have to absorb the cost if revenue from the schools was lost. The Village will have to pick up the tab.

Trustee Vickye Norris of 510 N Locust states someone should have asked the Trustees WHY we voted the way we did. Let's try having level heads before slamming the board members.

Public comment closes at 7:21 PM

Trustee Toms presents the Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence & Pool Permits beginning with 107 ½ E Main for a step permit (tabled from 3/15). This is for stairs that will protrude onto a downtown sidewalk.

Trustee Toms states there will still be 7 feet of sidewalk. The steps will be 36" wide with railings on each side. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit and is 2nd by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter and Norris all respond with Yeas.

Next, a deck permit for 302 W Balsam is discussed. The final size has not been determined yet, but it is a triple lot, so size is not an issue. Trustee Toms motions to approve the permit pending payment and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter, Norris and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

A new shed at 404 W Willow is proposed as the heavy snow caved in the roof of the existing shed. The new shed will be larger than previous and set on a block foundation. The permit fee has been paid. Trustee Toms motions to approve the permit and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter, Norris, Freeze, and Toms all respond with Yeas.

The new owner at 411 S Walnut Ave is moving in 2 sheds from his old property. There is discussion as to the placement of the sheds as this lot has streets on 3 sides. The sheds will be placed 5 feet off the North lot line and 20' off Ash St. They will follow the existing set back of other buildings built on Ash. Motion is made to approve the permit by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Cotter, Norris, Freeze, Toms and Buss all respond with Yeas.

At 503 N Locust a garage damaged by last years' storm is set to be demolished and rebuilt. This is a no charge permit as it will be rebuilt on the same foundation (no size change). Motion is made by

Trustee Norris and 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Norris, Freeze, Toms, Buss, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

At 209 S 3rd Ave a hoop, seasonal greenhouse is proposed. The property owner has sent an email allowing the greenhouse which will be put up in the fenced back yard. Motion is made to approve the permit, pending payment of the permit fee, by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Freeze, Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, and Cotter all respond with Yeas/

At 505 S 5th Ave, the new owners are requesting a Fence Permit. This will be a 6' dog-eared fence which is to be placed a minimum of 1' off the property line. Motion is made to approve the permit, pending payment of permit fee, by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter and Norris all respond with Yeas.

302 W White Oak has had a complete overhaul due to the damage from last year's storm. The deck was removed to replace siding and will be rebuilt on the same footprint. This is a no fee permit due to storm damage. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit and 2nd by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter, Norris and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

At 502 N Locust a 10 x 20 Greenhouse. It follows all setback requirements. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit and 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter, Freeze and Toms all respond with Yeas. Trustee Norris abstains due to it being a permit for her property.

At 502 N 4th Avenue a fence permit for a 6' privacy fence (either vinyl or wood) to run from the front of the house south, then west to the lot line, and then along the west lot line. The fence will be off the lot line allowing for mowing and trimming. Motion is made to approve the permit by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustee Cotter, Norris, Freeze, Toms, Buss, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

At 601 S Cedar a permit is requested for fence along the south side (from the front of the house) running east and then going south along the adjacent property also owned by the permit requestor – 502 W Willow. Clerk Drayton states she accepted the permit with the understanding this is 2 separate properties, and 2 permits are required. The fence should also have 2 posts at the property line as the properties have not been combined. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit pending payment and is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Freeze, Toms, Vinnedge, and Cotter respond with Yeas. Trustee Buss abstains as this is his property. Also, the permit will be sent to the Planning Commission as the property owner would like to have the fence extend beyond the front of the house and along the front of the property.

Finally, the last permit for the meeting is for replacing privacy fence which blew down from the wind last week at 305 S Walnut Avenue. This is due to storm damage and is a no fee permit. The fence will follow the same footprint as the existing fence. Motion is made by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter and Norris all respond with Yeas.

Accounts Payable are reviewed by the Board. Trustee Freeze questions a bill for McConnell Machine and Welding. Supt Rust states they repaired/redid the bucket for the skid loader. Trustee Buss asks who replaced the brake shoes that were purchased. Supt Rust states the brake pads were replaced in house. Motions is made by Trustee Norris to approve the Accounts Payable as recorded and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter, Norris and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys -Trustee Buss states the MFT Resolution 2021-03 for up to \$95,000 in street repairs. The Village will do some work to alleviate costs. Motion is made by Trustee Buss and 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Vinnedge, Cotter, Norris, Freeze, and Toms all respond with Yea. Trustee Buss also states they will be getting elevation stakes out at North Locust property so dirt can be spread.

Sewer and Water - Trustee Vinnedge has nothing to report.

Finance - Trustee Norris states we have had discussion regarding wage increases in Executive Session and she motions to approve the proposed wages and Trustee Cotter 2^{nds} the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Cotter, Norris and Toms all respond with Yeas. Trustee Freeze votes Nay and Trustee Buss votes Nay and states he voted "no" as he feels some employees should have receive higher wages. VP Metzger states he requested the 2021-2022 Budget was put on the agenda as an action items but cannot be voted on as it has not been available for public viewing for the required length of time.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning - Trustee Toms asks if the pine trees have been planted yet, Supt Rust states they haven't been delivered yet. He also notes a date for the Planning Commission will be set for the fence at 601 S Cedar.

Ordinances - Trustee Toms states the pour license ordinance allowing gas stations to pour liquor in order to have video gaming has been given to everyone. Please review the ordinance and it will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Animal Control - Trustee Norris has nothing to report.

Clerk's Report - Clerk Drayton states we are planning town wide garage sales April 29th -May 1st. April 30th and May 1st are scheduled for Clean Up days however we are still awaiting word on our grant...

Chief of Police Report - Chief Thiel states he has a lead on a possible full-time officer but has not interviewed yet. Chief Thiel also states a Police Commission needs to be created. This will include 3 Board Members and 2 Community Members. The Commission will be utilized for interviews, major discipline issues, and dismissals.

Supt. Of Public Works Report - Supt. Rust states he had been asked about fuel consumption in the machinery and vehicles. He has included a fuel report for 2020 showing the number of gallons used per vehicle/equipment. Supt Rust states they have been doing tons of little projects that need to be done. Trustee Buss asks if they are putting more gravel at the new drive for the yard waste bins, Supt Rust responds it is on the list...Trustee Buss also asks if the streetlights have been replaced with LED lights. Supt Rust states he believes they are done – that is a ComEd project, not Village...

Village President's Report - President Metzger reminds the Board of the agreement with Rock River Energy regarding our Municipal Aggregate for energy rates. He states we are again working with several other communities to get the best rate. There were 5 bids presented this year, the cheapest was .0595 for 3 years with Dynegy. Residents can opt out if they choose. Trustee Toms states if you stay with ComEd you are not charged a delivery fee and your cost is slightly less than if you have someone else supply the electricity. VP Metzger asks for a motion to accept the agreement. Trustee Freeze motions to approve the agreement with Dynegy for 3 years and is 2nd by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Buss, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

Next, VP Metzger discuss the annual request for Motorcycle Awareness. Trustee Toms motions to approve the request and is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Freeze, Cotter Norris, Vinnedge, and Toms all respond with Yeas.

Village President Metzger states he has received preliminary Loan paperwork from the State. It needs to be signed; however, the actual payment will change after the final payout is made. VP Metzger states the payments will be within our projected cost and be covered with the funds collected from the debt repayment charge on water bills.

New Business

Seth from Fehr Graham explains that the QBS bid with \$13,524 fee is a lump sum fee and that is what will be charged. Trustee Toms states the state bids says max of \$20,000 and we have had several instances where Fehr Graham has gone over budge. Seth states design engineering does not typically have changes like construction does. Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve the bid of \$13524 from Fehr & Graham and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call Trustees Cotter, Norris, Vinnedge, Toms and Buss respond with Yeas. Trustee Freeze votes Nay.

Old Business – Chief Thiel states the Bike Rodeo will be May 20th with a rain date of May 26th. He states he needs help as the Servant Leadership group will be unable to help this year.

A project update from Dan Pepin has been sent out for the Lead Service project and the loan application has been submitted.

Motion to adjourn is made by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Buss. All are in favor.

The meeting is adjourned at 89:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Drayton