

**Minutes of the Meeting for the Village of Forrester Board of Trustees**  
**Monday August 16, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**

Village President Metzger call's the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all in attendance.

On Roll Call by Clerk Drayton, Trustees Brittany Busker, Monty Cotter, Vickye Norris, Gary Buss, Ken Vinnedge, and Katie Kalina are all in attendance. Also representing the Board is Village President Metzger, Treasurer & Budget Officer Schneiderman, Clerk Drayton, Chief Thiel, and Public Works employee Scott Timm. From the Public, Jon Miller, Owen Miller, Cade Rudy, Troy Rudy, LeAnn Rudy, and Wilma Akins are all present.

The Minutes of the August 2, 2021, Meeting are reviewed. Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve the minutes as presented and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Norris. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Norris, Buss, Vinnedge, Kalina, and Busker all respond with Yeas.

Public Comment: Alice Akins of 505 N Maple Avenue speaks on behalf of the Library Board. She asks if the Village can paint the parking stripes on the West side of the library. Trustee Vinnedge states he will see that it is taken care of. Next, she discusses snow removal at the library. She states last winter the library had to pay to have the west parking area plowed along with the clearing of sidewalks. Scott Timm states the library is parking is plowed by the Village. However, the contractor clears the sidewalks prior to the Village plowing the lot. The Village never said they would not plow the parking areas – it is simply done before they get there. Finally, she asks if a streetlight can be put at the end of the 500 block of North Maple Avenue. This will be looked into also.

Cade Rudy, 5561 N Freeport Road speaks about a skate park being built in town. He and Owen Miller present a design for a wood and cement skate park they would like to see built in one of the parks. Troy Rudy (5561 N Freeport Road) asks if the Village would entertain building a skate park in town. Village President Metzger states the Village gave a letter of approval for Believe in the Children to seek grants for a skate park several months ago. They are seeking funding to build a skate park. The Village does not have the funding to build the park on its own. Chief Thiel states the village would prefer to have the skate park in one of the parks, not downtown. Trustee Kalina states Believe in the Children are seeking funding to have the skate park built by a professional skate park builder/company so that it will be insurable and last. Millers and Rudy's will contact Trustee Kalina regarding this project. Public Comment closes at 7:20 PM.

Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence & Pool Permits - Trustee Cotter states there are no new permits to present

Treasurer's Report for month ending July 31, 2021 - Treasurer Schneiderman reviews the fund balances, along with the receipts and disbursements for the month of July. Revenue received for July is discussed and property tax amounts received are reviewed.

The Accounts Payable are reviewed by the Board. Trustee Buss wants payments to the CPA under a different line item. The Board agrees to have the payments for this fiscal year coded under the Audit Fund line item. Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve the accounts payable with the change in coding and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Trustee Buss, Vinnedge, Kalina, Busker, Cotter, and Norris all respond with Yeas.

**Committee Reports:**

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Buss has nothing to report. Scott Timm states they have been prepping the streets for upcoming road work. Patching will start Friday and sealcoating will happen in September.

Sewer and Water - Trustee Vinnedge states the sidewalks and yards are being worked on as the parts needed are still not available for the Lead Line Replacement Project. We should have approval for 3 water main projects: HWY 26 between Avon 7 State, the 300 block of South Oak & the 600 block of South 3<sup>RD</sup> Avenue.

Finance - Trustee Norris states there will be no Finance Committee meeting this month.

- Budget Officer Schneiderman presents the report for month ending July 31, 2021. He states our funding should be at approximately 25% for each fund at this time. Trustee Norris motions to approve the Budget Officer's report and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Kalina, Busker, Cotter, Norris, and Buss all respond with Yeas.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning Trustee Cotter states there has been another request for a bench to be placed at Memorial Park. The family states the committee can decide where to place them at Memorial Park. Discussion is held regarding two existing benches are in need of repair/removal. The grills have not been placed yet in Warnken Park.

Ordinances - Trustee Vinnedge has nothing to report.

Clerk's Report - Clerk Drayton states the Computer Tech was in and recommended external backups. Chief Thiel states if everything is backing up to the Z drive, we can simply have the Z drive backed up. Principal Schneiderman asked if the Grade School could use Memorial Park Shelter house for outdoor classes for the Grade School. Clerk Drayton states the school would need to provide a Certificate of Liability, as they did last year, and allow for community usage if reserved during the school year. Village President Metzger states that he has no issue with the school using the park again this year with the Certificate of Insurance in place.

Chief of Police Report - Chief Thiel states several break ins have happened, outside of Forreston, regarding video gaming machines. Leaf River approached Chief Thiel regarding help in setting up a Police Department and he told them No. He wanted the Board to know he had been asked and his response. The Village will be contracting someone to clean up the property at 506 South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Also, the lot at 109 E Birch/402 S Walnut will need to be mowed as the neighbors, who were maintaining the property, have moved. Chief Thiel continues, there was only 1 issue at the beer garden, and it was resolved quickly. An issue came up – and will need to be resolved before next year. Permits need to be created so issues can be resolved. This includes parade, festival, and beer garden permits.

Supt of Public Works Report - Supt. Rust was unable to attend so Scott Timm is in attendance. The report provided by Supt Rust is reviewed. Scott notes that hydrant flushing will happen September 20-24.

Village President's Report – Village President Metzger states Census reports have been released and the Village population is at 1,435. Also, Ogle County now has a larger population than Stephenson County. Illinois has seen a dramatic decrease in population. VP Metzger goes on to say that the EPA Closeout Letter, Certificate of Bills Paid, and the O & M Certification Page will be signed regarding closing out the Water Main Replacement Project.

#### New Business

Village President Metzger states that Ordinance #2021-08 Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the Village of Forreston and Whistleblower Protection Policy is a required Ordinance to obtain the ARPA funding. Trustee Norris motions to approve Ordinance 2021-08 and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Kalina, Busker, Cotter, Norris, Buss, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

IEPA Loan 17-5764 Lead Services Replacement project Loan Request #2 in the amount of \$143,529.73 including Fehr Graham Construction Engineering invoices #102015 & #101465 and Martin & Co. Pay Application #1 is presented for approval. Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve the loan request and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Busker, Cotter, Norris, Buss, Vinnedge, and Kalina all respond with Yeas.

Old Business – Village President Metzger states Chief Thiel checked and there are no chairs left for purchase thru the church in Freeport. Chief Thiel states he will ask his contact who he has obtained used office furniture from previously. Trustee Norris states she has included 3 pages of the employee handbook from Pecatonica for review. There will be no discussion tonight, the Board needs to review and be prepared to vote at the next meeting.

Officer Thiel states he will be setting up a 'Meet & Greet' soon for the public and police department.

Village President Metzger states if there is nothing else, he would entertain a motion for adjournment – all are in favor to adjourn.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:29 PM.