

Minutes of the Village of Forreston
Board Meeting
December 7, 2020 7:00 PM
Via ZOOM

Village President Metzger opens the meeting and thanks those in attendance for attending. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all. VP Metzger recites all those in attendance, Clerk Drayton takes the roll from there – In attendance are Village Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Norris, Toms, Cotter, and Freeze. Also in attendance for the Village is Village President Metzger, Budget office Klipping, Supt of Public Works Mark Rust, and Office Chris Thiel. Those attending from the public are Seth Groenewald, Brittney Busker, Katie Kalina, Jane Koeller, and Jeremy Glick.

The minutes from the November 16th meeting are reviewed and motion is made by trustee Toms to approve the minutes as written which is 2nd by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Norris, Toms, Cotter, Freeze, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

VP Metzger opens the Public Comment portion of the meeting and Jane Koeller requests to speak. Jane tells the Board how thankful she is that Supt Rust and his guys put the lights on the tree Wednesday. There was a miscommunication with Chris from Area Tree Service and the boom truck was not delivered until 4pm on Sunday – too late to start putting the lights up. Jane states she appreciated the guys adjusting their work schedule to do the lights. There is no other public comment, so VP Metzger closes the public comment portion of the meeting.

The solar permit for Dan McKean is presented by Trustee Toms. This permit was tabled for lack of information at the previous meeting. Dan has signed the permit as the applicant now and the fee has been paid. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit and is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Toms, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge and Buss all respond with Yeas.

Next, the Accounts Payable are reviewed by the Board. It is noted by Trustee Buss that the receipt for McConnel Machine & Welding should go under storm damage as this was gate repair due to a tree falling on the gate. Clerk Drayton states she will make the amendment. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the minutes and is 2nd by Trustee Norris. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Vinnedge Buss Norris, Toms, and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

Committee Reports:

Streets and Alleys – Nothing to report

Sewer and Water – Trustee Vinnedge states he is working on the Sewer Ordinance to add the verbiage for inflation as we have done in the water ordinance. Village President Metzger states he invited Seth from Fehr Graham to answer any questions we have regarding the bid opening on January 14th. Seth states the bid notice has been published and is posted online with Quartz (?). This has drawn several area contractors and there are 6 working on the bid that we know of. Seth reminds the Board that all expenses with this will be 100% reimbursable and he notes that some lead service lines were replaced with the water main replacement project so there will not be as many to do. Clerk Drayton states new owners will receive the easement to sign by next week.

Finance – Trustee Norris states the committee met online with Ted Odendahl last week and, while we have been with Blue Cross Blue Shield for many years, the Committee is recommending we go with Quartz this year. The same medical providers will be covered. We are looking at a 7% increase with Blue Cross Blue Shield. We do NOT have to change providers January 1st as we normally have to allow for Chief Boomgarden to keep his coverage. Ted will be speaking with the employees this week. Supt Rust states he feels the employees should have been informed before the meeting so they knew what their coverage would be. Trustee Norris states the Village pays a majority of the premium and has the right to pick whatever policy is in the best interest to the Village. Trustee Norris motions to approve the change to Quartz for health insurance coverage when Chief can make changes for his coverages. The motion is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Cotter, Freeze, Buss, and Norris all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge responds with Nay, stating the employees should be informed first.

Animal Control – Nothing to report

Clerks Report – Clerk Drayton states the meeting dates for 2021 are in the packet – there are 2 meetings which will be on Tuesday due to holidays – the 1st meetings in July and September. Trustee Cotter asks if it would be easier to switch to the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Clerk Drayton states it really does not make much difference. The second item Clerk Drayton has included is the list for the employees Forreton Bucks which are done each year. Clerk Drayton states she has added 3 part time employees, and we are only \$50 over what was spent last year. Trustee Buss states he is fine with the list but feels we need to add Elaine Edler to the list. All agree with the addition. VP Metzger states since this is an expenditure, we should vote with Roll Call. Trustee Cotter motions to approve the Forreton Bucks for employees and is 2nd by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Vinnedge, Buss, Norris, Toms, and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

Officer Thiel presents the Police Report. He states Ogle County responded very quickly to the call on Saturday night and they are investigating. Ogle County has taken over the investigation, as they are required to since our officer was involved, and the Illinois State Police is required to deal with the officer involved in the shooting.

VP Metzger asks about the hand grenades found at a house. Officer Thiel states they were legitimate, Vietnam era hand grenades which were taken into custody by Officers Thiel and Klosa. They keep them in their custody until the bomb squad arrived and took them into their custody.

Officer Thiel states we also did Shop with a Cop on December 5th with 23 kids and 16 volunteers. It went very well, and Farm and Fleet was very happy to host us once again.

Public Works Report – Supt Rust all the Christmas decorations are up, and the brush pile has been moved. He states this needs to be put out to the public – there is a new drive on the north side of the existing building and the cement block area has been moved there for collection. Clerk Drayton states it will be put out on the website and Facebook on Tuesday. We really need to look at purchasing a ‘hole in the ground’ to fill. Every time the bins are full, we are looking for a place to dump 15+ loads. Sometimes we need to burn and cannot do that in town either. The ideal location would be an old quarry which is no longer in use. We have a couple in mind and will look into the possibility of purchasing or leasing to fill them. Trucks are being prepared for snow plowing. We had an issue at the Prairie Court lift station – someone flushed plastic bags which got caught in the impellers and caused damage to the pump.

Also, Supt Rust explains the bill from Genesis Power. This bill is for setting up a borrowed generator at the WWTP when we had the outage from storm damage. We tried using German Valleys generator but it did not work and so we ended up borrowing one from Illinois Rural Power to use. Supt Rust states he recommends we look into purchasing our own generator for the WWTP. This is an expensive item, and he asks Seth is there is funding for this type of purchase. Seth states he will look into it but is not sure. VP Metzger states this would take about 5 years for us to set aside the funds for the size of generator we would need. Supt Rust states then we should at least make it, so we have a quick connect access for a portable generator.

Trustee Buss asks about tree removal. Supt Rust states we have 5 more trees we can handle and another 4 or 5 that Chris will do when he slows down this winter.

Village Presidents Report – VP Metzger reminds those attending election day is April 6th. Those with packets to hand in may do so beginning December 14th. Packets must be turned in no latter than 4PM on December 21st. VP Metzger states Betsy Johnson from Solutions Bank has contacted him regarding the fund set up this summer for those impacted by the storm. Do we have ideas for her? Metzger states his thought is to pay the 2nd installment of taxes for those demolished as the county was not informed the trailers were removed or use the funds as a start for a disaster relief fund which had been discussed previously.

Also, there will be 2 QBS presentations next Monday via ZOOM link for the Safe Walks to School project.

VP Metzger continues, he has spoke with Rob and Rob is working on information for putting the Ash Street property up for sale. Rob is also working on the Text amendment for the Special Use permit for Believe in the Children.

New Business – the new drop box was delivered, and a decision must be made as to where it will be placed. Clerk Drayton is asked which side of the building receives the most use? Clerk Drayton states the west drop box is used more, however, if we are looking at only having one drop location, she feels it should be on the East side of the building. That is the only place with handicap accessibility. Placing the box close to the garage door would allow for people to use the drive and not have to step up. Trustee Norris voices her concerns regarding the ice issues that have happened in the past on the east side of the building. Clerk Drayton states it was a one-time issue, and we can make sure to keep it shoveled

and salted. Trustee Buss states it MUST be shoveled and salted by 8 AM, and VP Metzger agrees. Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve placement of the drop box on the east side of the building and Trustee Cotter 2nds the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Toms, and Cotter respond with Yeas and Trustees Norris and Freeze respond with Nay (both citing the east side is not the best location).

Old Business – the lease for the Parking lot is in the packet and VP Metzger states he emailed the family regarding purchasing the property but has not heard back. At this point, we will need to sign the lease and pay the annual rental. Trustees Buss and Freeze question why there is no wording in the lease to allow us 1st option to purchase. Trustee Toms motions to approve the lease and payment and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Norris, Toms, Cotter, and Vinnedge respond with Yeas. Trustee Freeze responds Nay.

At this time, VP Metzger states the Board will be going into Executive Session next. Those who are not elected trustees will need to leave the meeting, citing Officer Thiel has been asked to stay in attendance. At 8:28 PM the Board enters Closed Session.

At 9:45 the Board exits Closed session. Motions is made to adjourn the meeting by Trustee Freeze and 2nd by Trustee Toms. All respond with Yea.