

**Minutes  
Board of Trustees  
Village of Forreston  
Monday, April 20, 2020  
Forreston Public Library Community Room  
PUBLIC HEARING TO BEGIN AT 6:30 PM AND VILLAGE BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 PM**

Village President Metzger was present at the Library for the Public Hearing. In attendance via ZOOM was Monty Cotter, Clerk Drayton, Dan Pepin,

Village President Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

On Roll Call by Clerk Drayton, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, Buss, and Freeze are in attendance. Also attending are Village Treasurer Schneiderman, Budget Officer Klipping, Chief Boomgarden, and Sup't of Public Works Rust.

The Minutes from the April 6, 2020 Village Board Meeting were reviewed by the Board. Motion was made by Trustee Freeze to accept the minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, Buss, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Public Comment – Jane Koeller of 405 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue is concerned by the number of residences in town with items strewn thru the yard, garbage, and racoons eating cat food on the porch... She has addressed the Board about this previously and is wondering what is being done. Chief Boomgarden states they cannot do much with this in the winter but are actively working on it now. Progress has been made at some properties and vehicles will be tagged within the next few weeks. Chief Boomgarden also requests Jane ride with him to point out properties he may have missed so he can address all her concerns.

**Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence & Pool Permits**

Trustee Toms presents permits for 408 East Pine Street. There is an existing fence area where a 20'x20'x4' pool will be placed. The fence meets all requirements for the pool. There is a second permit attached to extend the fence an additional 20 feet back on the property. There is plenty of room on the lot for this to happen. All setbacks comply with the pool and fence ordinance and there are no overhead wires in the pool area. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve both the pool and fence extension permits, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, and Freeze respond with Yeas. Trustee Buss abstains from the vote as he owns the property.

Next, Trustee Toms presents a fence permit for 406 South Walnut Avenue. The fence does not extend beyond the front of the house, is 26 inches off the south and west lot lines. The section on the North side of the property complies with setbacks. The family has young children and are enclosing the back yard. The fence will be black chain link fence. Trustee Toms makes the motion to approve the fence permit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Toms, Buss, and Freeze respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge abstains from the vote as it is owned by a family member.

The final permit for the evening is for 405 West Birch Street for a pool and fence permit. Trustee Toms explains this permit has been altered from what the Board has in front of them. The fence will now extend from the existing fence on the east side of the property towards the south property line, then west to the front edge of the existing porch on the house. The fence will meet all set back requirements and will be a 6' privacy fence to match the existing fence. The pool will sit to the south side of the fence and be gated from the porch. There is no overhead electrical wires and the pool will be in compliance with the new fence. Trustee Toms motions we approve the fence and pool permit for 105 West Birch Street 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, Buss, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

The Treasurer's Report is reviewed by Village Treasurer Schneiderman. He notes the new revenue line for Cannabis tax. Even though we do not allow sales, we evidently will receive a share of the tax money. We do not know how much it will be. A new line item was created for the new revenue and is being deposited into the General Fund. Village President Metzger notes the BDD deposit is more than he expected it to be with the shutdown, to which Treasurer Schneiderman responds the deposits are 2-3 months behind. We will see the drop in the next month or two. Trustee Freeze asks where the line item for Village Hall is. Monies for Village Hall are still in the Capital Development line. We have allotted additional funds to the Capital Development line this year but did not ear mark specifics. Until we know where we are building Village hall and what we are doing, funding is not set. Trustee Buss asks about a Public Hearing to which Village President Metzger states he is not comfortable doing a ZOOM meeting for this. We will wait until the public can come in and speak with us. Trustee Freeze offers to draft a letter with pros and cons of where and what the new building will be.

The Accounts Payable are reviewed. After brief discussion, Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve the Accounts Payable as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trusted Toms. On roll call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, Buss, and Freeze all respond with Yeas,

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys -Trustee Buss has nothing to report.

Sewer and Water - Trustee Vinnedge has nothing to report

Finance - Trustee Norris Thanks everyone for their work on the budget and is thankful we have a budget set.

Treasurer Schneiderman asks about transfers in which Trustee Vinnedge explains we would like to stream line the budget in that rather than making transfers to the Capital Development fund and making loan payments from there, the funds stay in the water and sewer line items and the WWTP loan payment can be made directly from that account. Trustee Schneiderman also asks about line items for the 2 new line items – debt repayment and new water meters is. Clerk Drayton states the new line items are on the new 20-21 budget. Motion was made to approve the 2020-2021 Budget by Trustee Norris and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, Buss, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Budget Officer Report for month ending 3-31-20 – There is no report for this month as the accounts are not balanced yet. Budget Officer Klipping does inform the Board that late this afternoon the Levy information came in from the County and all the numbers are the same so we should NOT have to amend anything with the budget.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning - Trustee Toms reports he spoke with Dave Vinnedge who is a member of the Lions Club. The money for the basketball Court at Warnken Park is still available, we just have to request it when we do the project.

Ordinances – We will be meeting to clean up some of the language to avoid confusion.

Animal Control - No report

Clerk's Report – Clerk Drayton reports the Clean Up Day Grant was approved, with less funding than requested. We will receive just over \$1400 where we have been requesting and receiving closer to \$2000. Clean Up Day has been postponed and a date has not been set at this point. We are thinking during the fall garage sales.

Chief of Police Report – The report is reviewed by the Board. Chief also reports that traffic has picked up quite a bit. They don't stop or stay. It is nothing like he has ever seen. The Schedule has been adjusted to allow coverage and we are down an officer as Stephenson County will not allow officers to work part time jobs with the CoVid issues.

Supt. Rust reports they started flushing hydrants today and it will take a few more days. Village President Metzger comments that it is nice to see the water loss ratio continues to stay down.

Village President Metzger reports briefly on the CoVid issue and flattening the curve. He reminds us all to stay safe – you can wear a mask, stay 6 feet away, and stay home. Sauerkraut Days is something that we will need to consider in the next meeting or so. Census signs will get put out in the next week. Trustee Buss asks about a Public Meeting for Village Hall. Village President Metzger responds that he does not want to hold that meeting as a ZOOM meeting – he wants residents to be able to respond in person. He would like to see something on the water bill or website so residents can have an idea of what we are looking at. Trustee Freeze states he would put together a letter with the pros and cons of being downtown or out at the North Locust Property. He will have the letter by the next meeting. He also states he has not received any information from the appraisers yet.

New Business – Liquor License Renewals – Discussion is held regarding payments and businesses that are shut down. The Depot has gaming machines that are shut down. If we are going to prorate liquor sale licenses for the restaurants, we need to prorate across the board for items shut down. Clerk Drayton will enclose a letter with the approved license letting them know how much will be prorated for gaming and liquor sales for the restaurants. Josh's Saloon is the only business taking advantage of the offer to extend the payment date 90 days past the lifting of the shutdown. Trustee Toms states he does not agree with Sunday Liquor sales. He has nothing against any of the businesses but has a personal issue with it. He states he has never voted for it and he will not vote for it.

Josh's Saloon – we will prorate the amount due and he is taking the option to pay his permit fees after the shut down is lifted. Trustee Freeze motions to approve the license renewal for Josh's Saloon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Buss, and Freeze respond with Yeas, Trustee Toms responds Nay.

Mimmo's Pizza – The application is complete, and bond is current. Prorate all fees for each month shut down. Trustee Freeze motions to approve the license renewal for Mimmo's Pizza, 2<sup>nd</sup> is made by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Buss, and Freeze respond with Yeas, Trustee Toms responds Nay.

Forreston Gas and Food – the BP can sell liquor and has no gaming, therefor there are no fees to prorate. They have paid in full, however they need provide proof of their Bond before they will be given the new license. Motion is made by Trustee Freeze to approve the license pending verification of their bond, which is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Buss, and Freeze respond with Yeas, Trustee Toms responds Nay.

The Depot – We will prorate their gaming license as their gaming machines are shut down also. Motion is made by Trustee Freeze to approve the license pending verification of their bond, which is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Buss, and Freeze respond with Yeas, Trustee Toms responds Nay.

Old Business- AT&T Tower Lease:

We have the lease but no building permit or Variance permit. Trustee Vinnedge states the highlights of the Lease are that we get \$1,000 per month for the 1<sup>st</sup> year. It goes up 2% every year after that. For any vendor attached to the tower, we receive an additional \$250 per month. AT&T will reimburse us \$1,500 in attorney fees. There is a decommissioning plan in place, and it will be good income for the Village. After approval, the Lease will go to the Planning Commission. They will have to verify it meets the requirements for zoning - the tower is also taller than allowable so that is why they must have the Variance. The tower is certified to collapse on itself and that is all the variance is for.

Trustee Freeze makes the motion for approve the Lease for the AT&T Tower Lease pending the Building Permit and Variance. Trustee Freeze makes the motion to approve the AT&T Tower Lease, 2<sup>nd</sup> is made by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, Buss, Freeze and Village President Metzger all respond with Yeas.

Village President Metzger realizes we did not approve the Budget Ordinance when we approved the Budget. He presents Ordinance 2020-04. Trustee Freeze motions to approve Ordinance 2020-04 for the fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Village of Forresteron, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Norris. On roll call, Trustees Norris, Vinnedge, Cotter, Toms, Buss, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Village President asks if there is any other old business and Trustee Cotter states the banners are in a Village Hall. If you have not seen them yet, stop in. He states that Shaunna Zettle did the artwork. Thanks to Jane Koeller also for getting her on board to do the work for FABA. The brackets have not shipped as the company is shut down. Hopefully, we will have them in the next three weeks. There is on other old business. Village President Metzger asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting which is made by Trustee Norris and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Freeze. All agree to adjourn.

Adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Drayton