

**Minutes of the Meeting
Village of Forreston
Monday, August 24, 2020
7:00 PM
Forreston Public Library Community Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Village President Mark Metzger and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

On Roll Call by Clerk Drayton, Trustees Gary Buss, Jeff Freeze, Monty Cotter, Ken Vinnedge and Ken Toms are all in attendance. Trustee Norris is absent. Also, in attendance is Village President Mark Metzger, Village Clerk Michelle Drayton, Chief of Police Mike Boomgarden, the Village Budget Office Christine Klipping and from the public, Trevor Drayton, Jeff Helfrich with Ogle County Newspapers, Matthew Genandt, Jane Koeller, and Doug & Patti Jennings.

The Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Board Meeting were reviewed, no questions were asked. Motions is made by Trustee Freeze, and 2nd by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Toms, Buss and Freeze all replay with Yay.

Village President Metzger asks if there is any Public Comment. No one in attendance comments. Clerk Drayton responds she received an email this afternoon and would like to read it. The letter from Pastor Zumdahl states since the storm there are many tree stumps in town. Rather than cutting them off, can we have them carved or painted. Can we do something to create an attraction or beautify our community. Conversation is had among the Board Members as to the cost, many of the trees already being cut to the ground, many of the stumps left are on private property also. Public Comment closes at 7:14 PM.

Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence & Pool Permits

Trustee Toms presents a permit for a ramp at 102 S 2nd Avenue. This permit was okayed prior to the meeting date as the occupant was expected home from the hospital and they needed the ramp to allow her access to the house. All is in compliance and the permit fee has been paid. Trustee Toms motions to approve the permit and it is 2nd Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, and Cotter all respond with Yay.

The next permit is for 204 S Walnut and it is for a roof over deck behind Mimmo's. The cooler he had planned on purchasing was not available, so a different model was purchased. Mimmo understands the situation with the alleyway his cooler is built on and possible problems with the sewer line which runs under the deck. Discussion is held regarding if Mimmo actually wants to put walls up around the coolers also. Trustee Cotter states he believes Mimmo would like to enclose the coolers at some point. Motion is made to amend the permit to allow for roof and walls. Clerk Drayton states that the information regarding the agreement for Mimmo to sign came in after she left this afternoon. It is a 20-year agreement. Trustese Toms motions to approve the permit with the amendment to allow for the roof and walls. The motion is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, Toms, and Buss all reply with Yays.

The final permit for the evening is a solar permit for 501 W White Oak Road. Trustee Toms asks if the Trustees have reviewed the packet supplied by the contractor. It is the same contractor who did the solar panels on West Willow Street a few months ago. There are no questions. Trustee Toms motions to approve the permit upon payment of the permit fee and it is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, Cotter and Freeze all respond with Yays.

Next, the Accounts Payable are reviewed. Trustee Buss notes a line item over budget and Clerk Drayton realizes she coded the bill for the weather siren twice. The correctly coded entry will be kept and the other deleted. Clerk Drayton also notes that we did not receive the Comed statement last month, so the bill for ComEd is double. Trustee Freeze questions the Trailer Scrap Fees on the payables. VP Metzger explains the decision to remove the trailers by paying the scrap fee to prevent the owners from repairing them as they were very old and out of compliance. Trustee Toms notes that he was very impressed as to how well Candlelite Trailer Park was cleaned up. Trustee Freeze questions the work done on the 2002 Ford. Clerk Drayton explains all repairs that were done. Trustee Buss questions why the payment for the Koeller BDD funding is on the sheet as the Trustees have not seen the bill. Clerk Drayton states it matches the requested fees and is marked paid by R & S. Trustee Buss states he needs to see it to approve it. Trustee Cotter states he will deliver copies to the Trustees tomorrow. Trustee Toms motions to approve the Accounts Payable with the correction for the siren and it is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Buss, Cotter, Freeze and Vinnedge all respond with Yays.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys -Trustee Buss has nothing to report.

Sewer and Water - Trustee Vinnedge states all the water mains are in and they began hooking up services today. Trustee Vinnedge explained residents having their new water line hooked up may notice no water for a short while, then discolored water. Simply run the water until clear – it will only take a moment or two. Trustee Vinnedge also states they have had multiple issue with the wells and lift station due to electronic issues from the storm.

Finance - Trustee Norris is absent. Trustee Cotter states there is nothing to report.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning – the ongoing cleanup of Warnken Park is discussed, and the completion of the new retention has been seeded. Trustee Buss states the retention pond is not as big as he thought it would be, it needs to be larger. Trustee Vinnedge states it tapers to the south and it larger than it appears. But it is not very deep, Trustee Buss states...

Dach Fence will be called to fix the ball diamond fence. The score board and batting cage will both need replaced. Discussion as to the amount of use the batting cage gets and if it should be replaced is discussed. Trustee Toms comments if the batting cage is replaced the net must be taken down each fall and put back up in the spring. It looks terrible full of leaves. Trustee Vinnedge notes that after the storm he noticed shingles off the shelter house at Memorial Park and had R & S fix that. The Ash Street shop had some metal roofing that lifted, and R & S nailed that back down also. There is some damage to the Locust Street property from the pine tree that landed on it, but the damage has not been assessed yet. Trustee Buss asks where is the money coming from for the cleanup? Trustee Vinnedge states 90% of the cleanup was volunteers. The remaining costs will come from the Streets and Alley Budget. Trustee Freeze asks if our insurance will cover and Trustee Vinnedge states only what is on our property.

Ordinances - Trustee Toms has nothing to report.

Animal Control - Trustee Norris is absent. VP Metzger states he heard Polo just adopted a new feral cat ordinance that is very strict. Clerk Drayton is asked to obtain a copy of the ordinance and forward it to the trustees.

Clerk's Report - Clerk Drayton states the Indemnification Agreement from the school was sent to each of the Board members so they had a copy.

The Chief of Police Report is reviewed by the Board. Trustee Toms asks about an altercation at Josh's over the weekend. Chief states the staff helped quiet things down and Josh came in on his own. The Ogle County Canine Car was there also. Chief states there was damage to the squad during the storm – the right, rear passenger window was broken, the front wind shield will need to be replaced and there was minor damage to the tonneau cover which we may be able to simply have repaired. Also, Chief Boomgarden noted that the Saturday after the storm ILEAS put out a call for assistance. Since ILEAS offered up at least 12 shifts of officers to us he sent Officer Klosa in the squad to Dixon to assist.

Supt. Of Public Works Report – Trustee Vinnedge states that Supt Rust is healing well. 30 to 40 additional loads of brush will be hauled out of town yet and the burn curtain will be in later this week. Trustee Buss asks if Scott will be attending the meetings while Supt Rust is out and Trustee Vinnedge states yes, he was just not available this evening.

Village President's Report -VP Metzger begins with the Moring Zoning change request. Per our attorney, this needs to be presented by Moring's attorney. Also, since Morings lost a building in the storm, they are now uncertain as to what the property will be used for – they are considering another building there not a parking lot. BDD and TIF funds for the project MUST be applied for PRIOR to any work being done.

VP Metzger mentions Candlelite Trailer Park next and states the owners are looking to sell the property. We are not allowing any trailers into the park that do not meet with the standards of our new ordinance. VP Metzger also wants to thank Sherriff Van Vickle for calling the storm team in for us. Without their help and assistance, we would still not be cleaned up. Without their call for the volunteers, ComEd would not have been able to come in as quickly as they did – therefore power was back on Thursday, not Saturday or Sunday like people were being told. Another thing, on Tuesday, August 11th one of our employees quit on the spot so he is no longer with us. Unfortunately it was probably one of the worst times for that to happen, but we have to let that go and move on. That is why we have an executive session on the agenda to discuss where we will go from here.

Trustee Buss questions why people are allowed to attend the meeting and not show their face. He wants to see who is there. VP Metzger states he asks everyone who is not visible to state their name (this issue arose when someone signed in late to the meeting with an unrecognized login. When this person would not respond to VP Metzger asking for his name, he was disconnected from the meeting). Trustee Buss states if they do not have to be seen why do I. VP Metzger's response to this was "You are an elected official and are expected to be in attendance. If someone came to our public meeting, they would see you."

New Business

Discussion and approval of IEPA Loan #17-2197 request disbursement #2 for water main replacement project. Trustee Buss questions other costs that are listed. Trustee Vinnedge states these costs are all part of the project for the various contractors. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the Loan #17-2197 Request #2 for disbursement by Trustee Vinnedge and it is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge and Toms all respond with Yays.

Fischer Excavating Change order #1 for the Water Improvements project. Change order noted for \$1,332.00 for additional linier footage for Casting Piping. Trustee Toms questions, how are they doing with this project as to keeping on budget? Trustee Vinnedge responds they are keeping right on budget, this being the first change. Motion is made by

Trustee Cotter, 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Toms, and Buss reply with Yays. Trustee Freeze Votes Nay.

Next for New Business is a BDD application for Believe in the Children. Patti Jennings states they are seeking assistance with the new entrance for the South side of the building. They are planning a \$73,000+ plus project. Trustee Buss asks if we are paying engineering costs. Trustee Cotter states no, the estimate for the South entrance is attached. It will cost over \$17,000. It is a question on the application, and they answered the question. Mr. & Mrs. Jennings state the engineering fees are already paid. They are trying to improve the properties they own in the Village and to help the youth and the community. Trustee Cotter motions to approve the application and Trustee Vinnedge 2nds the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, Cotter and Freeze all respond with Yays.

A BDD application for Sweetwood Interiors is next. Trustee Cotter explains they are asking for funding to replace the flooring and front door. This will cost \$8,250. Their carpet installer will do the work. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the application and Trustee Vinnedge 2nds the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Toms, Buss and Freeze all respond with Yays. Trustee Cotter abstains from voting as he is an employee of Sweetwood Interiors.

Trustee Buss questions the amount of funding we are providing for BDD applications. I thought we were keeping \$25,000 for sidewalks, and \$25,000 for blacktop he states. Clerk Drayton states the sidewalk work is done. All repairs were made this summer and the bill has been paid. Trustee Toms asks how much have we funded in applications? Trustee Cotter responds, with the two approvals tonight we have funded \$25,000. We are getting enough money from the tax increase to fund a BDD application each month, without touching our reserves.

Trustee Vinnedge explains the need for an Emergency Preparedness Committee. This committee will need to have input and members from the Board of Trustees, Township, Fire Department, Police Force, and should include the surrounding communities to pool resources when possible. He explains how, after the storm hit, no one knew where to start, what to do. We should never be in that position again. Even if we use our knowledge and preparation to help other communities it is something that needs to be done. There are things we need to look at spending money on – a generator for the lift station. A generator so that we can have gas available in town to fill all the generators running to keep freezers and refrigerators cold. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to create an Emergency Preparedness Committee and it is 2nd by Trustee Cotter, On Roll Call, Trustee Toms, Buss, Cotter, Freeze and Vinnedge all respond with Yays.

Old Business

Ord 2020-09 Amending Title 7 Chapter 9 – Private Swimming Pools – Trustee Toms explains we talked about this at the last meeting. This ordinance puts all the changes into one document. The Village Attorney went over all of it and made his changes so now we simply need to approve the new, complete ordinance. Trustee Toms motions to approve Ordinance 2020-09 and Trustee Vinnedge 2nds the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees, Buss, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, and Toms all respond with Yays.

At 9:05 Trustee Toms motions that we move into Executive session and the motion is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. VP Metzger states this is per Executive Session per ILCS 120/1 Sec. 2 (c) (1) for Personnel and everyone except the clerk and board members will be removed from the meeting. VP Metzger states if you would like to reconnect after the Executive Session, ask to join the meeting again, and I will admit you when we come out of session. The ZOOM recording is stopped at this time.

Trustee Vinnedge motions to hire Kevin Crase pending a 60 probationary period. During that time, he must pass his written CDL test and have his air brake endorsement. Trustee Toms 2nd the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, Toms and Buss all respond with Yays.

At 9:23 PM Trustee Freeze motions to exit closed session and Trustee Toms 2nds the motion. No one from the public is waiting to reenter the meeting and the ZOOM recording is started again.

Motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Buss. All are in favor. The meeting is adjourned at 9:25 PM.