

**Minutes of the Meeting from the  
Monday, November 16, 2020  
Village of Forreston Board  
7:00 PM**

Village President Metzger calls the meeting to order and explains due to COVID spread in the community we are not opening the Library Community Room for the meeting. He thanks all of those attending for joining us online.

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all.

On Roll Call by Clerk Drayton, Trustees Jeff Freeze, Ken Toms, Monty Cotter, Ken Vinnedge, Vickye Norris, and Gary Buss are all in attendance. Also in attendance is Village President Metzger, Clerk Drayton, Budget Office Christine Klipping, Jeremy Glick, Steve Moring, Larry Moring, Kevin Moring, Village Treasurer Fred Schneiderman, Mark Schweertman, Brittany Busker, Ron Bickford, Patti Jennings, Eileen Anderson, Katie Kalina, Jane Koeller, Dan Pepin, and Mike Watson.

The Board reviews the Minutes of the November 2, 2020 Meeting. Motion is made by Trustee Freeze to approve the Minutes as presented and it is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustee Toms, Cotter, Vinnedge, Norris, Buss and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Public Comment – VP Metzger states he will open Public Comment at this time. He asks anyone who chooses to speak to state their name and address first and requests their comments be kept to 2-4 minutes. Steve Moring asks to speak first regarding his property at 106 North Locust. He states they have asked to rezone the lot so they can expand and to remove an eyesore to the neighborhood and keep their trucks underroof. This helps the area look more presentable. If Forreston want growth downtown, we will have to rezone residential area to business.

Next, Eileen Anderson of 110 North Locust states we have commended Morings for the building they put up at 102 N Locust – it is a wonderful improvement and built on a business zoned lot. What she objects to is changing the zoning for 106 N Locust from residential to Business. The information we have been given regarding the size and use of the building has been vague. This building will not benefit the Village as it will not produce sales tax for the Village. She asks that we please, do not turn their neighborhood in to and industrial park. Public Comment closes at 7:14 PM

Trustee Toms presents a Solar Permit for Forreston Tool & Die/Dan McKean at 400 E Avon Street. The permit has not been signed by the property owner, the fee amount for the permit has not been marked and the permit fee has not been paid. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to table the permit until it is signed, and the fee is paid, and it is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Norris, Buss, Freeze, and Toms all respond with Yeas.

Believe in the Children – 2 Sign Applications for 310 S 1<sup>st</sup> Ave and 220 and S 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. There are no issues with the signs, and this is for a non for profit so there is no fee. For the sign at 220 S 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, it is a lighted sign 10 feet about the sidewalk. The motion is made by Trustee Toms and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Norris, Buss, Freeze, Toms and Cotter all respond with Yeas. For the sign at 310 S 1<sup>st</sup>, motion is made by Trustee Toms motions to approve the sign and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Norris, Buss, Freeze, Toms, and Cotter all respond with yeas.

Treasurer Schneiderman reviews the Treasurer's Report for month ending 10-31-2020. Treasurer Schneiderman explains he did not report the Watermain Replacement this month as there was an issue with a negative deposit. Clerk Drayton explains she and Sonia typically catch this but did not this time. It will require finding which account applied a payment in a lopsided manner, amending the deposit, and correcting the journal entry. When done this corrected information will be given to Fred. Fred also discussing there is balancing issues and an issue has been discovered with payroll withholdings. Trustee Freeze moves to accept the treasures report with the payroll issues balancing issue and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Norris. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Freeze, Toms, Cotter, and Vinnedge respond with Yeas. Trustee Buss responds with Nay.

Accounts Payable – Trustee Buss questions the payment to Jon Miller. Supt Rust states this is because they were very busy. His contractor agreed to do the work and we would pay the contractor to frame the sidewalk and paid \$250 for 5 hours of work. Trustee Buss states it wasn't done right – the joints were saw cut, not jointed. Supt Rust states it has rods in it are there additional requirements. Trustee Vinnedge asks if this is even an issue? Trustee Buss states we set a precedent and are not following it. Trustee Buss asks about the \$83,000 to Ficsher's and Dan Pepin informs him it was approved at the last meeting to be paid when the check arrived. Trustee Buss then asks about the CARES act receipts – have we got money back yet? Clerk Drayton states we have been entering them and they will be submitted by the deadline. Trustee Freeze and Buss are concerned with the storm damage claims. Not all of them are coded to the designated line item. Clerk Drayton explains, as with the CARES entries, copies are in a file with the pertinent coding applied. When they are paid, I know exactly what the coding is that way. All copies are either in the Storm Damage folder

or the CURES Act folder. Trustee Norris motions to approve the claims as listed and the motion is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Toms, Cotter, Vinnedge, and Norris respond with Yeas. Trustee Freeze responds with Nays. Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Buss has nothing to report

Sewer and Water - Trustee Vinnedge has nothing to report

Finance - Trustee Norris states the committee is looking at two options for insurance for next year, but they do not have the numbers for all options, so they are not ready to make a recommendation. She will be setting a meeting.

- Budget Officer Report for month ending 10-31-2020 - Budget Officer Klipping states she did not have time to get the Budget Report Done. She has looked at the numbers and they seem to be in line.
- 2020-2021 Tax Levy Summary - The Levy information is in your packets. We will be at the same percentage as last year and the numbers all look good. There is a connection issue, and it is difficult to hear Budget Officer Klipping. Trustee Norris motions to approve the Tax Levy Summary for 2021 and the motion is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Cotter, Vinnedge, Norris, Buss, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning – Trustee Toms presents Ordinance 2020-13 for Jon and Heidi Miller. The Planning Commission approved this variance to allow them a variance for a fence in the front yards (corner lot). It is noted the correction needs to be made in the Ordinance to amend the wording to state the fence will run on the West and South sides of the property. With the change made, Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve Ordinance 2020-13 and the motion is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Norris, Buss, Freeze, and Toms all respond with Yeas.

Next, is the Fence Building permit for 304 W Avon Street. Trustee Cotter states with Ordinance 2020-13 approved, he will motion to approve the building permit and he is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Buss, Freeze, Toms, Cotter, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

Trustee Toms brings the Zoning Change Request Ordinance # 2020-14 to the Board next. The Planning Commission did NOT recommend for the change in zoning to occur. As a Board, we can vote to accept their recommendation or overturn it and allow for the change of zoning from R-1 residential to B-1 business. If the Board chooses to vote to overrule the Planning Commission's recommendation, it will require a ¾ majority vote of the full Board. If we choose to go with the Planning Commission's recommendation it will be a simple 2/3 vote of the Board. Trustee Toms states if there is no discussion, he would recommend we vote to accept Ordinance 2020-14. VP Metzger states – to clarify, in accepting Ordinance 2020-14 you are recommending going against the Planning Commission's recommendation and allow the change in zoning? Trustee Toms replies yes. Trustee Buss asks if this is just the 2 properties on the south end of the block that would be business? There is still a house between them and Andersons? VP Metzger states yes. Trustee Buss asks if there was any comment or issue stated from the resident who owns the house next to the lot to be rezoned. VP Metzger states No. Mr. Slater attended the meeting but did not speak either way. Trustee Cotter asks what the building will be, and VP Metzger states our understanding is it will be another pole building, similar to the one they built previously, but not as large. The use has not been clarified. VP Metzger states that is not the issue at this time. That will be handled when they turn in a building permit. Right now, we are only concerned with the zoning. Motion is made by Trustee Toms for the change in zoning from R-1 (residential) to B-1 (business) for 106 N Locust Street and the motion is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Buss, Freeze, Toms, Cotter, and Vinnedge respond with Yeas. Village President Metzger responds with Yea also. Motion passes, 7 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Next, Trustee Toms discusses the purchase of 15 trees for Warnken Park from McKay Nurseries. There will be 10 deciduous trees and 5 pine/fir trees. Total cost will be under \$3,000. Our intention is to try to get funds from insurance for the trees lost due to storm damage. We would like to see if anyone is willing to purchase a tree as a memorial to offset some of the costs. There is money in the Park Fund to purchase the trees. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to purchase the trees and it is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Freeze, Toms, Cotter, Vinnedge and Norris all respond with Yeas.

Ordinances- Trustee Toms states the committee met and discussed the Ordinances with Chief Boomgarden. He will deal with the kids skateboarding downtown.

Animal Control - Trustee Norris has nothing to report

Clerk's Report - Clerk Drayton states Sonia is doing a great job keeping things going at Village Hall.

Chief of Police Report - Chief Boomgarden reports he is working with Farm and Fleet in Freeport to still be able to have Shop with a Cop. The Freeport store is waiting for approval from 'higher up the chain'. It will not be like it has been in the past... Chief states he and Deputy McClain handled a call today that they were very thankful the call was a prank however, when they catch the person who made the call, they will be charged with a class 4 felony offense. Chief also states the couple living in the house at Pine and Garden are supposedly moving out. Per the attorney, we are NOT to touch the property.

Supt of Public Works Report - Supt. Rust reviews his report with the Board. 2 water leaks were repaired last week. Trustee Buss asks when they will be putting up the Christmas decorations, Supt Rust states they will be up by Thanksgiving. We will take the banners down and put up the lights. Supt Rust notes the banners have held up very well with all the wind we have had.

Village President's Report – Village President Metzger reports that with the rise in positive COVID-19 cases we will not meet in person thru the end of the year. The library will be closed to the public for the meetings. Call in numbers are available if residents do not have access to the internet.

VP Metzger asks the Board members if they have thought any more about purchasing the trailer court. There have been several suggested uses such as a skate park or senior living if we could get funding through the state or federal government. Since we have invested a great deal of money into the property it may be the best time to get control of the property. Trustee Freeze asks if we know what they are asking. VP Metzger states no. Trustee Cotter states there are 4 trailers at the south end that are not part of the trailer court and we cannot touch them. He also asks what would happen with the trailer at the north end. Clerk Drayton states she believes it is owned by the same two owners.

VP Metzger notes the Request for text amendment to the Zoning Code to allow for the Sibling house to have a special use permit. Trustee Buss states he does not have any paperwork. VP Metzger replies, we have not started any yet. He did not want to tell Rob to start the paperwork if the Board did not approve of the actions. Trustee Toms makes the motion to have the Village Attorney do the paperwork for the required text amendment. It is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Toms, Cotter, Vinnedge, Norris, and Buss all respond with yeas.

#### New Business

The Parking lot lease renewal is discussed. Clerk Drayton omitted the information from the packets. There is no change in the annual rent. There is limited discussion on purchasing the property. VP Metzger asks Clerk Drayton to send him contact information for the parking lot owners so he can contact them regarding possible purchase.

Christmas in the Country – Jane Koeller states we will do something, but it will not be what it has been in the past. We will decorate at the park and we are thinking of a Fireside Chat with Santa. Parents can sign up for a time slot – only 10 people will be allowed in the shelter house area. We would like to encourage people to decorate their homes and yards and the Committee will publish a listing with addresses/routes for people to see the lights. Jane asks if the Board would allow for \$500 from the Band Fund to be used to purchase lights. Trustee Cotter makes the motion to donate \$500 to Christmas in the Country for lights and decorations, and it is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Cotter, Vinnedge, Norris, and Buss all respond with Yeas. Trustee Freeze responds with Nay, due to COVID-19 concerns. Chris Ingram will allow us to use his truck on a Sunday for free, but we are looking for help with putting the lights up. If we are not able to do the fireside chat with Santa, we may have him drive thru town, wave, and say high to the children. Saturday morning there will be carolers in a horse drawn wagon going thru town.

Old Business – Trustee Freeze requests that we start the steps to proceed with the sale of the Ash Street property. Village President Metzger will talk to the Attorney to get the process started.

Adjournment – Trustee Freeze motions to adjourn the meeting and it is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Toms. All are in favor of adjourning and the meeting is adjourned at 9:02 PM

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Drayton