

Minutes of the Village Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday February 1, 2021

7:00 PM

Village President Metzger calls the meeting to order at 7:01. He states that Trustee Vinnedge is in Indiana and will not be joining the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all. Village President Metzger recites the Roll Call of Trustees, in attendance are Trustee Toms, Buss, Norris, Freeze, and Cotter. Also in attendance for the Village is Clerk Drayton, Treasurer/Budget Officer Fred Schneiderman, Supt Mark Rust, and Chief Thiel. From the public Katie Kalina, Jane Koeller, and Christine Klipping.

The Minutes from January 18, 2021 Meeting are reviewed. There are no changes. Motion is made by Trustee Freeze to approve the Minutes and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Buss, Toms, Cotter, and Freeze respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge is absent.

There is no Public Comment.

Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence & Pool Permits – There are no new permits for the meeting. Trustee Toms asks Clerk Drayton if she has received the updated permit and fee for the Dollar General Solar Permit. Clerk Drayton states she has not.

Village President Metzger comments to those in attendance that Brittany Busker has joined the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Accounts Payable – Supt Rust informs the Board there is a bill coded twice on the report. He asks the Board to disregard the Bonnell Industries payment on page 3. Trustee Toms motions to accept the accounts payable with the noted removal of the duplicate payment scheduled and is 2nd by Trustee Norris. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Toms, Cotter, Freeze, and Norris all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge is absent.

Village President Metzger comments to those in attendance that Seth Gronewold has joined the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Buss states they had a budget meeting last week and will schedule another meeting soon.

Sewer and Water - Trustee Vinnedge is absent, VP Metzger as Supt Rust if he has anything to report. Supt Rust states the bid will be awarded later, but we had 6 submitted, 1 was not complete.

Finance - Trustee Norris states she has scheduled another Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, February 3rd, 6PM at the Library. This is in person, no ZOOM. Trustee Norris also recommends the following funds be moved: \$17,000 from the Safe Routes to School funding will need to be put back into the Streets and Alleys line item as originally funded from there. There is \$130,000 in the Water Main Replacement account that was funded from Capital Improvement and needs to be return from the line items it was originally paid out from. Finally, an account needs to be created for the funds from the remaining donations for storm damage and the bank check needs to be deposited there also. Clerk Drayton is asked to put an action item on the next agenda for the creation of the Emergency Fund line.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning - Trustee Toms states the committee met last Monday night and he has submitted a copy of the proposed budget to Trustee Norris.

Ordinances – Trustee Toms states he also had a budget meeting for Ordinances and will continue with funding the line item for Codification as we need to get our codes online. Next, the Parking Restriction Ordinance is reviewed. All items in RED print are new or changes to the existing ordinance. There is concern over no parking of a car overnight in the grass. The Trustees are asked to review the ordinance and it will be put on the next agenda for a vote. Trustee Buss asks about 2” of snow and the Snow Emergency noted. Officer Thiel states that a snow emergency can require ALL CARS be moved off the roads for 2” of snow – but if there is ½” of ice, then 1 ½’ snow, we cannot declare an emergency. Ice must be defined in the policy. VP Metzger states Polo has signs to direct people to move cars – the goal is to clear the roads, not penalize the residents.

Animal Control - Trustee Norris has nothing to report.

Clerk's Report - Clerk Drayton states she received notice from Orkin for an annual contract saving us \$29 per year, plus not having to mail payment each month. Trustee Buss states he will look into other

exterminators. Clerk Drayton also notes the grant paperwork came today for Clean Up Day. We will need to look at dates, what we want to do, and who will work it. Today we received notice that Loan application #5 for the Water Main Replacement project was approved so the funding should be here in a week or two. And finally, Clerk Drayton states she received a phone call from a gaming company on behalf of the BP here in town. I informed the gentleman that our Board has looked at this and has not entertained passing a pour permit for gas stations. He stated the BP needs gaming 'to survive'. Trustee Buss states we need to look into this more thoroughly. If it is needed for a business to survive, we need to address it again.

Chief of Police Report - Chief Thiel reviews the Police Report. He then asks if there are any questions regarding the changes to the Solicitor's Permit. The fee is being raised and we have noted on the permit vehicle information and the license plate information. Trustee Toms motions to approve the change in fee and additional information required to obtain a solicitor permit and is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Cotter, Freeze, Norris, and Buss all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge is absent.

Next, Chief Thiel asks the Board to review Resolution 2021-03 urging the Governor to veto House Bill 3653 regarding criminal justice reform. Thiel also notes he has secured a 3-year Use of Force Certification. This also makes the Forreston Police Department eligible for Federal Grants.

UTV signs should be placed at the entrance roads to town so State and County Officers know we have a UTV permit/sticker. Trustee Buss asks about the sidewalk at Casey's. They will work at clearing, but it was piled deep by the contractor who plowed the lot. Chief Thiel states he will not ticket the sidewalk as long as they work at getting it cleared.

Supt. Of Public Works Report - Supt. Rust states the guys are busy with snow. Trustee Toms states the guys have done a great job. However, he received a call regarding a pile at 3rd & Cherry that is difficult to see around. Supt Rust states it will be cleared in the morning.

Village President's Report - President Metzger asks if anyone has heard from Aaron Anderson regarding the proposed skating rink for the winter. No one has.

New Business

Resolution 2021-01 Electric Municipal Aggregation – VP Metzger reminds the Board that our electric aggregation is almost up. Rock River Energy has been working with us for years and we pool with other municipalities to have better 'buying power' for lower rates. Trustee Norris motions to approve accept the resolution and is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Freeze, Norris, Buss, and Toms all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge is absent.

Next, is Chief Thiel's pay increase. Trustee Freeze motions to approve the increase in hourly wage for Chief Thiel and Trustee Buss 2^{nds} the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Norris, Buss Toms and Cotter respond with Yeas. Trustee Norris is absent.

Old Business

Trustee Cotter thanks FABAs and Jane for the welcome bags for new residents. They will need more bags and they have been very well received by the new residents.

Trustee Toms asked Dan Pepin about the engineer for the QBS Safe Routes to School project. Dan states the engineer asked to speak with us, but with everything going on with the Chief at the time he asked for some time. VP Metzger asks if we can get the information before the next meeting and Dan states he has requested the proposals and they will be sent to Village Hall.

Lead Service Line – Seth states the bid was awarded to Martin & Company. Trustee Freeze asks how much the loan will be. Seth states, the loan is written after the bid is received. He reminds the Board that this is a 100% principal forgiveness loan. Martin came in just under 2.4 million. The loan is forgivable up to 4 million. The Contingencies will be high with this. We have no idea what size service lines are – they are all underground. There will be many change orders due to IEPA quantity estimates. VP Metzger asks Seth if he is happy with the contingency amount. Seth states yes.

VP Metzger asks if there is anything else and Trustee Norris asks if Clerk Drayton would please change Chief's name on the agenda. This will be taken care of.

Trustee Toms motions to adjourn the meeting and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. All are in favor. The meeting is adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Drayton

