

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Forreston Village Board  
February 15, 2021

Village President Metzger calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. On Roll Call, Trustees, Ken Toms, Monty Cotter, Ken Vinnedge, Vickye Norris, Jeff Freeze and Gary Buss are in attendance. Also in attendance are Treasurer Fred Schneiderman, Supt of Public Works Mark Rust, and Chief Thiel.

From the Public, Jane Koeller, Katie Kalina, Christine Klipping, and Jeff Helfrich from Ogle County Newspaper are also present on the Zoom Meeting.

The Minutes from the Meeting held on February 1, 2021 are reviewed. Trustee Freeze motions to approve the minutes as printed and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Freeze and Norris all respond with Yeas.

There is no Public Comment.

**Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence and Pool Permits** – Trustee Toms presents a permit for new signs at Solutions Bank. The permit was submitted and paid for the day the signs were put up. Trustee Toms motions to approve the permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Freeze, Norris and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

Next, a fence permit for 112 Meadow Court is presented. This will be a 4' high chain link fence. The fence will be 4' off the back lot line and on the side lines. It will not go past the front of the house. Trustee Toms states he encouraged the new homeowner to bring the fence in on the side lines to allow the property owner to maintain the fence and be on his own property. The owner states he has spoken with the neighbors and they are okay with the fence being on the property line. Trustee Toms motions to approve the fence permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Vinnedge, Freeze, Norris, Cotter and Toms all respond with Yeas.

Trustee Toms asks Clerk Drayton if she has heard anything regarding the solar permit for Dollar General. She responds she emailed the solar company after the last meeting and has had no response. She will email the contractor again.

**Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Schneiderman reviews the Fund balances and states there are no unusual receipts or disbursements. Trustee Buss asks what the typical amount of revenue is for us for gaming. Treasurer Schneiderman states it varies, and our disbursements are 2 months behind from the state. He will email information regarding gaming and profits to those interested. Trustee Norris motions to accept the Treasurer Report as presented and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees, Vinnedge, Freeze, Norris, Cotter, Toms, and Buss respond with Yeas.

**Accounts Payable** – Clerk Drayton reminds the Board of the error she caught and emailed them about last week – Correcting claim #28 to \$3,150. Trustee Buss questions the engineering fee for Casey's from Fehr Graham. Clerk Drayton states it was printed on the bill and had to do with Fehr Graham reviewing the plans and having some ADA and drainage recommendations. Trustee Freeze questions charges to Altorfer and Bob Cat which Supt Rust answers. Trustee Toms motions to approve the accounts payable

with the above correction to claim #28 and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees, Freeze, Toms, Buss, Vinnedge, Norris and Cotter respond with Yeas.

Committee Reports –

**Streets and Alleys** – Nothing to report

**Sewer and Water** – Nothing to report

**Finance** – Trustee Norris states the preliminary budget worksheets have been completed and there will be a meeting scheduled for next week. Trustee Norris also explains she has included documents from our insurance representative regarding spousal insurance. She states if an employee's spouse has access to insurance thru their own workplace, they may not be put on our insurance. We have not had a formal resolution regarding this and will talk with Rob regarding putting this in place officially.

Budget Officer Schneiderman reviews the revenue and expenses for the month and states things are in proportion to the budget. Motion is made by Trustee Freeze and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Toms, Buss, Vinnedge and Freeze respond with Yeas.

**Building, Grounds, Parks, Zoning and Planning** – Trustee Toms asks if anyone has heard from the young man wanting to do a skating rink for his eagle project. No one has. Trustee Toms has nothing else to report for BGPZ & P.

**Ordinances** – Trustee Toms asks if there are additional questions regarding the Parking Ordinance proposed at the last meeting. Trustee Toms states he and Chief Thiel have worked some questions out and the parking in the yard issue is discretionary. If someone has surgery and needs a vehicle closer to the door of their home, that is acceptable. As is parking in the yard due to setting up for a garage sale or party. What is not acceptable is having a vehicle set in a yard for weeks because it is not running. The Board agrees the proposed ordinance is acceptable and requests Clerk Drayton to send the proposed information to the Village Attorney.

Chief Thiel then discusses the Public Nuisance ordinance being proposed. This ordinance would allow the Department to ticket vehicles for issues such as loud exhaust, music, or speed. After 3 such tickets within 1 year, the Village could impound the vehicle for a week and require a fee for the owner to get the vehicle back. This should help deter some of the reoccurring issues. VP Metzger asks if the 3 issues must all be for the same issue or if it is a total of 3 tickets. Chief Thiel states 3 tickets or any nuisance will cause the vehicle to be impounded. The Board recommends the proposed Public Nuisance Ordinance be sent to the Village Attorney.

**Animal Control** – Nothing to report

**Clerk's Report** – Clerk Drayton states the Shred Beast was available all Saturday's in May when Sonia called last week. The Board agrees we should have Shred Beast come in. We also need to find people to work the Clean Up Days. Boy Scouts is mentioned, but this is not volunteer work – must be 18 years of age. We will ask employees first, then try the community.

**Storm Account** – Clerk Drayton states she cannot just open the account. Who will be on the account, number of signers, and authorizations must be determined by the Board. It is decided that 3 signers are required – same as other accounts (Clerk Drayton, Fred Schneiderman, Mark Metzger, and Vickye Norris), Treasurer Schneiderman can transfer funds internally, checking account only. All are in favor of the account to be established as stated.

**Pour License** – Clerk Drayton states she has included copies of 2 pour licenses for gaming. Trustee Buss states there are people who like to game but do not want to go to a bar. He continues, Stillman Valley has gaming at their gas stations. Fred states the earnings on gaming machines are very good. He will email earning information to those who would like to see it. Discussion is held regarding the age required to serve – do we need to change the age to 21 to serve alcohol? There is concern

regarding an 18-year-old facing pressure from a 19- or 20-year-old to serve them alcohol. After continued discussion, VP Metzger asks the board their opinion on moving ahead with looking into a pour license. 4 Board members respond they are willing to continue looking into a pour license and 2 state no. Clerk Drayton to contact Stillman Valley for pour license information.

**Chief of Police Report** – Chief Thiel states he is still looking for officers to hire, he is not having much luck. He states Ogle County has had several bad accidents. Officer Klosa responded to a County accident and was of great help as he was able to interpret and translate information. Calls in town are starting to pick up between COVID and the cold weather, he is concerned things may get worse before they get better.

The Resolution 21-03 Against the Criminal Justice Reform is reviewed and will be voted on at the next meeting. Trustee Freeze asks what happens with this if we pass it? Is it just for our records? Chief Thiel states it will be sent to the Governor's Office if approved.

**Supt of Public Works** – Supt Rust reviews the report for the WWTP and Wells. They have hauled 1,056 loads of snow just in January he also reviews the inspection from the IEPA on the Wastewater Treatment Plant last week. Trustee Buss asks how Scott is doing on getting his water and sewer licenses. Supt Rust states he received his water license over a year ago. He has study material for the wastewater side, but you cannot take a test anywhere right no. He will have to pass 4 & 3 first, then he can take the class 2. You must have class 2 certification to run the WWTP.

**Village President Report** – VP Metzger states Chief Boomgarden's family is sending us the Memorial funds for the Bike Rodeo. An account will need to be set up and a fund line created in the Police Department line.

VP Metzger notes that at 8:35 Dan Pepin from Community Funding and Planning joins the meeting. Metzger continues, beginning in March we will have meetings in the Community Room at the Forreston Public Library. A ZOOM link will be available to those who wish to use it.

**Old Business** – The Safe Routes to School engineering contract is reviewed. Willett Hoffman and Associates have provided us with 2 options for the engineering inspection costs. If the Board does not approve either, then McMahon and Associates would be asked for a bid.

The bid from Helm came in so low, we should have plenty of funds for engineering. Change orders will have to go thru IDOT. The Board discusses what would happen if a question came up and the engineer was not onsite, project would have to stop for the day. This is scheduled for summer, so it is done before school is back in session. We want it completed in time. Trustee Buss motions to approve the bid for the full-time engineering contract from Willett Hoffman and Associates and it is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms and Buss respond with Yeas; Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Freeze, and Norris respond with Nay. The bid for engineering thru Whillett Hoffman is rejected and McMahon and Associates will be contacted. Clerk Drayton is asked to put the engineering bid on the March 1<sup>st</sup> agenda.

Next, Dan Pepin with Community Funding and Planning provides us with project updates. Per Dan, the Water Main Replacement Project is close to being done. We are waiting for final number for the pay application for Fischer's. The IEPA lead service lines documents have been sent to IEPA. Once we hear back from them, the Village can formally approve the bid for construction. Trustee Cotter asks about the pay back information for the Water Main Replacement project. Dan states it will be approximately \$1.5 million to pay back. We will have 2 payments for 20 years. Dan states he is not finding the actual payback amount – he will email Monty the information.

Ordinance to approve Sale of Property – VP Metzger states the ordinance is in the packet. There is some information that will need to be completed. Specifically, we need to agree on an asking price and how long we will be able to stay in the building after the sale is completed. Trustee Buss states he does not know a number. He will have to see what the finance committee has figured out and then set a committee meeting. The Ordinance to approve Sale of Property will be set aside until the meetings are complete.

Village President Metzger asks the Board if any other thought has gone into the TIF incentive for the Moring Building. Discussion is held and VP Metzger states whatever we decide to do, we need to remember that consistency will be a factor in this. What we recommend for this project will set the precedence for other projects. Trustee Freeze suggests 20% for 5 years. Trustee Cotter suggests it should be 25-30% for 5 years. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

VP Metzger asks for a motion to adjourn and Trustee Freeze makes the motion. It is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Buss. All are in favor.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:24 PM