

Minutes of the Village of Forreton Board of Trustees
Village Hall
Monday June 5, 2023, 7:00 PM

President Metzger calls the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all.

On Roll Call by Clerk Shenberger, President Metzger Trustee Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Officer Klosa, Maintenance Supervisor Timm, Trustee Buss, Busker, and Kalina. Eight members of the public.

The Minutes of the May 15, 2023, meeting are reviewed. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the minutes and is 2nd by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, and Busker all respond with Yeas. Trustee Kalina abstains from the vote.

Public Comment – Zach Slick stated he has a comment about a drain that is next to their property. He is asking the town to do rework and understands that no one likes to do rework but, in this case, he feels it is justified. He stated he was told by board members that too much money was already spent on this job and that they were not going to allocate any more. He stated if you were to see the drain and believe that that is what too much money looks like you have to ask yourself where did all of that money go. He stated he has heard from board members that the original plan was to grade the ditch out on the side of the property which at the time they had no objections to. But since then, he has talked to previous board members and was told that the original plan was to put in a cement foundation around the drain itself instead of just one retaining wall. He would like the board to provide the original plans for the drain and review it. He also stated that if they cannot locate the original plans then they need to review their document retention program. He apologized to Mr. Metzger and Mr. Timm and stated that when they originally met, he did not realize that they would have to sign a waiver of liability before the work was even done. He stated the hardest part of all of this is that the town is asking them to wave all liability before the work is even done. He highly doubts that when the town hires a third party to complete work that the town agrees that the work has been done to a satisfactory level before a tool is picked up, so how is it ok for the town to ask homeowners to do such a thing? Lastly, he would like the town to pull the original plans and review them before moving forward.

Jillian Slick stated two and a half years ago they addressed their concerns and issues with the drain and two and a half years later still nothing has changed. It still remains a hazard for their children and any other curious children. She stated Mark has made a comment three times that they bought the house knowing the drain is like this. She would not be standing here if it were done correctly. She stated it seems corners were cut to save money and at what expense but the safety of their children and any other children. Now the town wants them to sign a paper before anything is done. She stated when they met in April Scott said he is winging it and is not exactly sure what they are doing. Why would she sign something before the job is done? She stated there is not even a paper for them to see or read for what is going to be done. It is very disorganized with a lack of communication. She stated she still has not heard from Mark after calling a week ago. She stated she will keep calling and fighting for this to be done. She also stated that Mark had made the comment that he would rather them communicate with him rather than taking anything into legal matters. She said she has tried to be patient and understanding for almost three years, but she thinks she is about done. She stated she hopes we can communicate, and she hopes they can see the original plans, fix it, and get it done correctly before her children get hurt.

Gary Koeller stated he thinks everyone on the board needs to go look at the drain and tell him that it is safe. He said if you think it is safe then we have a problem because you cannot see it from standing at the house. You cannot tell that there is a wall there. He wants it safe for his grandchildren and prevent an accident from happening.

Wilma Akins asked about the Chicken Ordinance and where we are with it. President Metzger stated we would be setting a date for a public meeting later in the meeting.

Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to move into executive session and is 2nd by Trustee Busker.

Building Permits – 98 Magnolia – Pool Permit. The pool will be 24-foot round and the yard is already fenced in. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit pending payment and is 2nd by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, and Norris all respond with Yeas.

302 3rd Ave – Fence Permit – This will be a 6ft wood privacy fence. This property is located on a corner lot, so Trustee Cotter is going to measure to be sure it is far enough away from the road on the side of the lot. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit pending payment and measurements and is 2nd by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

410 Maple – Porch Permit – The resident will be extending their porch out two feet and screening it in. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit pending payment and is 2nd by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, Cotter, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

204 S 4th Ave – Porch Permit – The resident will be extending the porch and replacing the existing material with Trex. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit and is 2nd by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Busker, Kalina, Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, and Buss all respond with Yeas.

Accounts Payable are reviewed by the Board. Motion is made by Trustee Norris to approve the accounts payable and is 2nd by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Trustees Kalina, Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, and Busker all respond with Yeas.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Buss – Nothing to report.

Sewer and Water – Trustee Vinnedge stated Scott has been really busy. The water tower will be emptied tomorrow.

Finance - Trustee Norris stated she is going to start setting monthly meetings again.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning - Trustee Cotter stated Brian and Kevin did an excellent job getting the mulch put down at Memorial Park. It looks really nice. They will be working on Warnken next.

Ordinances – Trustee Vinnedge presented Public Health and Safety Ordinance. There is a section added for placement of dumpsters. Trustee Vinnedge talked with Tom Peters, and we will work together with them to phase in an enforcement date. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the ordinance and is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, and Kalina all respond with Yeas.

Parks and Recreation Ordinance 2023-04 – Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the ordinance and is 2nd by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, and Norris all respond with Yeas.

Special Committee New Building Committee of the Whole – Trustee Vinnedge presented two estimates to run electric out in the parking lot for the new sign and the flagpole. Zettle Brothers is \$5060.00 and JHM is \$6000.00. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

Clerk's Report –Clerk Shenberger stated she was in contact with the audit company again and they should have us a draft by next Tuesday. Once this one is complete, they will get started on the audit for this last fiscal year. She also stated we need to set a date for the public meeting for the proposed chicken ordinance. The board discussed it and decided on Monday June 26, 2023, at 6:30pm.

Chief of Police Report – Officer Klosa stated officers responded to a potential DUI hit and run. They also assisted Ogle County with a car crash involving injuries. The driver of the vehicle at fault was charged with a DUI. Officers are attempting to identify a suspect in a theft that occurred at Warnken Park.

Supt. of Public Works Report – Maintenance Supervisor Timm had to step out. The board reviewed his report. Trustee Buss asked if it was possible to get new banners for downtown for Sauerkraut days. He stated the color of green that they are makes them hard to read. They will look into it and see what the cost would be.

Village President's Report – President Metzger nothing to report.

New Business – President Metzger stated that we will not take a vote on the property access/release of liability contract after the public comment at the beginning of the meeting. He stated it sounds like they do not want to sign, and they do not want what was talked about as far as grading out done now. He will talk to Fehr Graham and get the original documents for the plans. He also stated he would like Clerk Shenberger to email the list of current committees and chairs to everyone on the board and then he would like everyone to respond to him about the different committees they would like to be on. He would also like to create a new committee on procedures to make sure we are doing things correctly.

Casey's gaming license – Trustee Buss stated they will need a pour license as well. It was decided to wait until next meeting to vote on the license.

Old Business – Old Village Hall – President Metzger stated he would like to get for-sale signs in the windows at the old village hall building. Trustee Buss stated he would find the appraisal that was done a few years ago.

Trustee Norris stated she spoke with Leslie about the Community cats, and she is going to email her some information on making a policy. She also stated that she had some information on the history of the building at 306 E Main Street, which is now owned by Republic. She stated it was the original power plant in town. She passed around a book that showed a picture and a description of what it was. She stated she heard that Republic has decided not to tear it down at this point.

President Metzger will entertain a motion for adjournment. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge and is 2nd by Trustee Kalina. All are in favor. The Meeting is adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Shenberger