

**Minutes of the Village of Forreton Board of Trustees**  
**Village Hall**  
**Monday July 17, 2023, 7:00 PM**

President Metzger calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all.

On Roll Call by Clerk Shenberger, President Metzger, Trustee Norris, Trustee Cotter, Trustee Vinnedge, Chief Thiel, Maintenance Supervisor Timm, Treasurer Schneiderman, Trustee Buss, Trustee Busker, and Trustee Kalina. Seventeen members from the public.

The Minutes of the June 5, 2023, executive meeting are reviewed. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the minutes and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Buss, Busker, and Kalina all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge abstains from the vote.

The Minutes of the June 20, 2023, Executive meeting are reviewed. Motion is made by Trustee Norris to approve the minutes and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Buss, Busker, Kalina, and Norris all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge abstains from the vote.

The Minutes of the June 26, 2023, special board meeting are reviewed. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the minutes and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Norris. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Kalina, Norris, and Cotter all respond with Yeas. Trustee Busker abstains from the vote.

The Minutes of the July 3, 2023, meeting are reviewed. Motion is made by Trustee Norris to approve the minutes and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Kalina, Norris, and Cotter all respond with Yeas. Trustee Busker and Vinnedge abstains from the vote.

Public Comment – Susan Engelkens stated her questions are regarding the sign that has been purchased. She stated, two weeks ago she asked four questions, one, the cost, two, the size, three, the placement, and four, the purpose. In regard to question one Mayor Metzger informed us the cost was \$27,000. She stated the expense regardless of the grant was paid by the taxpayers. In regard to the size Chief Thiel told us it was the same size as Jeremy Whiteheads sign. She said Mayor Metzger was going to get the dimensions including the height. At this time, they have not been told the size or the height. For the placement of the sign Mayor Metzger had stated that the sign would go between the village hall and BP. Trustee Cotter had stated it would go on the corner by the fire hydrant. She stated many of us are not happy with that placement for many reasons. We would like you to be as considerate to us as you would be to yourselves as if this placement were in the same proximity to your homes. She referred to a village ordinance that reads, no person shall locate, build, construct, operate, or maintain any billboard in any block in the village where a majority of the houses abutting on both sides of the street in the block are used exclusively for resident purposes without having first secured written consent of the owners of the majority of the frontage of both sides of the block. She stated none of them have given consent. The last is the purpose. She stated that has not been publicly answered as of yet. President Metzger stated we will suspend our public speaking rules so he can answer the questions asked. He spoke on the cost of the sign. He stated he understands where she is coming from on that point. We did receive a grant for \$17,000 and at that time we were not aware that we may only get a portion of the total. He stated that the placement of the sign was decided because we thought that would be the best place with it being on the business side of the building. He said he does not believe that what we are putting up is a billboard, it is a sign. The ordinance that she brought up was for billboards. He stated the size of the sign is 3'4" x 6'6". President Metzger apologized to Susan for not getting back to her on her questions from last meeting. He stated the purpose of the sign is to get information out to the community.

Matt Paul stated he has the same concerns as Susan. First the cost. There is a big difference between \$27,000 and \$17,000. He stated yes, we got grant money, but wouldn't you buy a sign that you could pay for with grant money and not spend \$10,000 more? He said regardless of the size of the sign it is still going to be bright and shining light. We had a small sign at the old building. This could have just been a painted sign that would shine light in windows. The other signs like this in town are in a business area not by residential homes.

Lee Engelkens stated one of his concerns is they all have to back out of their driveways, and they have to be conscious of pedestrians and vehicles. He is concerned with the sign being placed there that it might be an obstruction. He understands the sign is purchased and it is a done deal. He stated maybe we will all appreciate it once it is up and operating. Maybe it's going to be a good thing and maybe we are fussing over nothing. We just want to be sure you are checking all the angles and make sure it's a safe thing to do.

Jordan Hammil stated he understands the sign is a done deal. He agreed with Lee, maybe we will appreciate it once it is up and going. His biggest thing is placement. He stated he has two young kids and already has to deal with BP and all of their lights shining in his house. This will not be his forever home and does not want the sign to deter potential buyers.

Zach Slick stated last time they spoke they were waiting on the FOID to get the documents on the drain. He is just wondering where we are at with it all now that they received the documents. President Metzger stated he is suspending the public comment rules to answer Zach's question. He said he would like to set up a meeting with them, Scott, and Seth

so there is nothing lost in translation. He stated the bottom line is while we want to fix it, we also do not want to create a problem where anything plugs up or causes any other retention of the water because it is working now the way it is. Zach requested that the meeting that they are going to have be in person. Trustee Buss stated the prior homeowner had problems with getting water in his basement. He stated in the documents provided this project cost around \$20,000 to put in a new storm sewer to get rid of the water problem. He said he has a hard time changing something that has worked for eight years. Zach stated he is not asking to change the grade they are asking to get rid of the retaining wall. Mayor Metzger said he would get a meeting set up and they could discuss it further.

Ken Toms stated it is good to see so many people at the meeting. He said he wishes that the whole board could have been at the chicken ordinance meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> when there were 18 people sitting here. Out of those 18 people there was not one person in favor of the chickens. He stated he hopes that that is taken into consideration with this vote.

Don Cook, why do we want to put another ordinance on the books and cost the taxpayers all the money to make it. The ordinances that we have are not enforced now. He stated he did not know about the sign but before it was purchased, or anything why were the neighbors not contacted? He stated grant money is not free money. Who puts money into the grants? Taxpayers.

Shawn Loomis would like to point out the obvious that we had 18-20 people here that do not want chickens. If it is that important where are the people that want them?

Building Permits – 509 S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave – Shed Permit – Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Busker, Kalina, Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, and Buss all respond with Yeas.

104 W Pine – Deck Permit – Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Kalina, Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, and Busker all respond with Yeas.

101 W White Oak – Sidewalk Replacement – Replacing the sidewalk going up to the front door. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, and Kalina all respond with Yeas.

507 E State – Porch Permit – This will be a 5x6 porch - Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit pending payment and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, and Norris all respond with Yeas.

512 1<sup>st</sup> Ave – Porch Replacement – Replacing the existing porch. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

402 N Walnut – Shed permit – 6x8 metal shed. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit pending payment and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, Cotter, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Schneiderman reviewed his report. Motion is made by Trustee Buss to approve the report and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. 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 Vinnedge to approve the accounts payable and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. 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 the water tower painting project is complete. He wants to say good job to Scott. The goal was to not blow off a lot of water and get back up and running without any issues and he did that!

Finance - Trustee Busker stated she is looking at having a finance committee meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

Budget Officers Report – Budget Officer Schneiderman reviewed his report. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the report and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, and Kalina all respond with Yeas.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning - Trustee Cotter stated he would like to thank Scott and the guys. They painted the bathrooms at the parks.

Ordinances – President Metzger stated we will be taking the vote on the chicken ordinance. He asked if there was any comments or discussion before the vote. Trustee Kalina stated her vote will not be her personal opinion because of the

public's comments and concerns at the meeting. She stated there was a comment made at the meeting that if the ordinance passed there would be 18 people upset. She said there will be a lot of other people upset if it does not pass but they felt like they would not have had a voice if they attended the meeting.

Chicken Ordinance – Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the Chicken Ordinance and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Kalina, and Norris all respond with Nays. Trustee Busker responds with Yea.

Trustee Norris stated she had an ordinance committee meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>. She reviewed her minutes from the meeting. She also discussed some additions she would like to make to our agenda. Everyone has a copy in their packets to review. Trustee Norris thanked Trustee Vinnedge for meeting with her to discuss the ordinance committee as she is taking over as chair.

Special Committee New Building Committee of the Whole – Nothing to report.

Clerk's Report – Clerk Shenberger stated she spoke with Gworks, and they will be installing the software program on the computers on August 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Special Event Permits – Lions Club pork chop dinner during Sauerkraut days – Motion is made by Trustee Cotter to approve the permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

Chief of Police Report – Chief Thiel stated officers responded to the Elmer Davis apartments for drug paraphernalia located outside. After investigating it was a rain gauge that had blown off a mount and was laying on the ground. They also responded to a domestic. Officer Wolber stopped a driver on 26 with no valid driver's license. She was released on an ibond. Officer also arrested a resident on two warrants. Downtown businesses donated 60 active shooter kits for the schools.

Supt. of Public Works Report – Maintenance Supervisor Timm reviewed his report. He stated they have been continuing with brush pickup. The water tower painting project is complete. They painted the bathrooms at Warnken Park and put banners up for Sauerkraut days. They mowed and trimmed and took the mower to Durand to get worked on. They sealed the car trailer. Supervisor Timm wanted to thank everyone because we normally average 100,000 gallons of water per day and during the painting of the tower, we averaged 78,000 gallons per day. He wants to thank everyone for cutting down on the water during this time.

Village President's Report – President Metzger stated he has a letter to officially close out the lead service project. He also stated he talked with Fehr Graham about a possible property, and they brought up phase 1 that we had done for the new building with the underground tanks and soil, title search, and survey. They highly recommend that we do that, and the cost would be \$2,700.

New Business – Sweetwood BDD – They will be putting new windows upstairs. Motion is made by Trustee Norris to approve the BDD and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, and Norris all respond with Yeas. Trustee Cotter abstains.

Authorization of Brittany Busker to be added to the following accounts and debit card at Solutions Bank ####43, ###98, ###53, ####48, #####53, #####51, #####64, #####80. Vickye Norris will be removed from all accounts and debit card. Motion is made by Trustee Kalina to add Brittany Busker to the bank accounts and remove Vickye Norris and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, Cotter, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

Old Business – IEPA Water Meter Project Disbursement #3 in the amount of \$9,898.20. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the disbursement and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Busker, Kalina, Norris, Vinnedge, and Buss all respond with Yeas.

President Metzger will entertain a motion for adjournment. Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. All are in favor. The Meeting is adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Shenberger