

**Minutes of the Village of Forreston Board of Trustees**  
**Village Hall**  
**Monday November 4, 2024, 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, Officer Klosa, Maintenance Supervisor Timm, Treasurer Schneiderman, Trustee Buss, Trustee Busker, and Trustee Kalina. Three Members from the public.

Consent Agenda:

1. The Minutes of the October 21, 2024, meeting are reviewed.
2. Accounts payable are reviewed.
3. Treasurer's Report for month ending September 2024.
4. Budget Officers Report for month ending September 2024.

Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the consent agenda and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. All are in favor. Trustee Cotter and Kalina abstain from number 1.

Public Comment – Jennifer Alvarez from Surf Internet passed out information about the service that they offer. She stated she would like to set up a time to meet to discuss the opportunity to bring this service into our Village.

Keith Ruter stated he knows that the railroad property behind Smokin Gun Worx is on the agenda, and he knows there has been many discussions on what to do and how to handle it. He stated he is still at a loss as to why there is resistance. He asked if there are any questions or concerns, he may answer. He stated he appreciates the 99-year lease offer, but he respectfully asked the board to reconsider letting him acquire the property. He stated others in town have been able to acquire portions of the railroad property over the years. Trustee Vinnedge stated it does not make any sense for us to let the property go because we have water and sewer through there. He stated this board is not going to sell property that has utility easements, utilities going through it, or street access. Trustee Vinnedge stated we are willing to do the 99-year lease and that is what our attorney suggested we do in this situation because of the utility easements going through the property.

Presentations and Petitions – Railroad Property Sale/Lease behind Smokin Gun Worx – President Metzger stated this item is to reconsider the sale versus the lease of the railroad property. To vote on it one of the board members that voted no would have to motion for a revote. President Metzger asked for a motion. No motion was made.

Building Permits – 102 N Walnut Ave – Sign Permit – Two beer signs and three Shorty's Bar and Grill signs. 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.

Department Reports:

Supt. of Public Works Report – Maintenance Supervisor Timm stated they ran the press and hauled brush. They helped with storm drain on Ash and Birch Street. They hauled rock and chips for stockpile. He stated Kevin attended a water and sewer class in Rockford. They fixed the hydraulic line on the township truck and put leaf box on the truck and serviced the vac. They started leaf pickup and pushed dirt piles at the railroad bed. They emptied the mulch bin and hauled it to the railroad bed and picked up the planter boxes from downtown. He also stated they would be closing the bathrooms at the parks this week.

Chief of Police Report – Officer Klosa stated officers responded to a couple of domestics between siblings. They also responded to a citizens assist and helped with the sex offenders check for Halloween. They also took a female into custody on an outstanding Ogle County warrant.

Special Events Permit – Christmas in the Country – Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the permit and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, and Norris all respond with Yeas.

Clerk's Report – Clerk Shenberger stated our audit is complete. She also gave an update on Gworks.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Buss stated skim coating is going to start at the end of this week.

Sewer and Water – Trustee Vinnedge stated all underground work is complete for the water main project.

Finance - Trustee Busker stated she is going to get quote from our insurance provider to get quotes for next year.

Tax Levy Estimate – Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the estimate and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, and Cotter all respond with Yeas.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, and Planning – Trustee Cotter stated he is going to start planning the public meetings for the park Grant after the new year.

Ordinances – Trustee Norris – Ordinance 2024-13 – Ordinance amending title 2, chapter 4, section 2-4-7 of the Forreton Village Code (amendments to Liquor Regulations – Sunday Hours) Motion is made by Trustee Norris to approve the ordinance and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Busker, Kalina, Norris, Cotter, and Vinnedge all respond with Yeas.

Ordinance 2024-14 – Ordinance Authorizing Payment of TIF Redevelopment Project Costs – Birch Street Expansion Project – Motion is made by Trustee Norris to approve the Ordinance and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. On Roll Call, Busker, Kalina, Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, and Buss all respond with Yeas.

Village President's Report – President Metzger stated her received a call from Toni McCombie stating our Village has money available for infrastructure. He needs to have another phone call with her to find out more details. He also stated our lease for the parking lot is up in December. He will reach out to Marcia and see if they are willing to sell this year. He also discussed the solar farm with Summit Ridge Energy. He spoke with Rob and what he has found out is that this project will be up to Ogle County. We do not have zoning power outside of our Village limits. Summit Ridge Energy is spoke with Ogle County and they said they will approve the project if they receive a letter from us stating we have no objection. The board discussed it, and they are not in favor of the solar project. President Metzger will send an email to Summit Ridge Energy to let them know.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – BDD – Mimmo's – Motion is made by Trustee Norris to approve the application and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. On Roll Call, Trustees Kalina, Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, and Busker all respond with Yeas.

Loan 17-5807 Request #3 in the amount of \$529,861.20 – Motion is made by Trustee Vinnedge to approve the request and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Vinnedge, Buss, Busker, and Kalina all respond with Yeas.

Motion is made by Trustee Norris to go into closed session and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Kalina. All are in favor.

President Metzger will entertain a motion for adjournment. Motion is made by Trustee Kalina and is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Busker. All are in favor. The Meeting is adjourned at 8:27PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Shenberger