

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Board of Trustees
Monday, February 3, 2020
7:00 PM at Village Hall**

Village President Metzger calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance is recited. On roll call trustees Freeze, Cotter, Norris, Buss, Toms and Vinnedge are all here.

The Minutes of the meeting from of January 20, 2020 are reviewed. Trustee Freezes motions to approve the minutes as published, 2nd by trustee Toms. Yeas: Trustees Freeze, Cotter, Norris, Buss, Toms and Vinnedge

Public Comment Paul White 7160 N IL Rte 26 Forreston speaks regarding Village Hall. He encourages the Board to keep Village hall downtown as it is an asset to our business. He feels the taxpayers would rather see money spent downtown. Trustee Buss asks Mr. White if he is okay with spending 750,000 to 1.5 million – Mr. White responds that sounds pretty steep. He feels the Village ought to be able to buy something, tear down, and/or build for less than that.

Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence & Pool Permits - none

Accounts Payable are reviewed and discussed. Trustee Toms motions to accept the accounts payable, 2nd by Vickye Norris. Yeas: Trustees' Freeze, Cotter, Norris, Buss, Toms and Vinnedge

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys: Nothing to report, there is a budget meeting at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, February 5th.

Sewer and Water: Nothing to report, there is a budget meeting at 3:30 – or following the Streets and Alleys meeting on Wednesday, February 5th.

Finance: nothing to report

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, & Planning: There was a Planning Commission meeting on January 27th There will be a budget meeting on February 10th at 6:00 PM.

Ordinances the Planning Commission's recommendation for fences will be presented under New Business.

Animal Control: nothing to report

Clerk Report: Clerk Drayton reports she spoke with Steve Moring regarding his building permit. There is a discrepancy in building sizes between what he submitted and the design from Morton Buildings. Per Steve, the size he submitted is correct. Clerk Drayton also informs the Board regarding BDD information for funding can be found on pages 11 & 12 of the BDD packet they received when the BDD was created. If they cannot find their packet, she will reprint it for you.

Chief of Police Report presented by Chief Boomgarden is reviewed. Chief reported he was very impressed with the behavior of the Junior High and Senior High students today. They were evacuated to the Grade School due to a gas leak. The walk from the Junior High/High School to the Grade school was very controlled as was the walk back. The behavior of the students was very nice to see.

Sup't. Of Public Works Mark Rust reports on the snow plowing and hauling done in the last two weeks as well as his meeting with Subsurface Solutions regarding a mapping system for the Village. Also, there will be a meeting coming up regarding new water meters.

Village President Metzger reports he will be meeting with people from Saluting with Smoke, Sauer Kraut Days committee, and American Legion regarding how SWS can join the weekend events. Village President Metzger also

states beginning in March, Village Board Meetings will be held at the Forreston Public Library Community Room. Trustee Buss asks why we are doing this. VP Metzger responds that Village Hall is not handicap accessible, there is very little space for the public, and it is very difficult for the public to hear what the Board is discussing. Also, the Board does not face the public during the meeting as we are required to do under the Open Meetings Act. Meetings will still be the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM.

Old Business: Village President Metzger states he spoke with Dan Pepin from Community Funding and Planning and yes, a house in the BDD can apply for funds from the BDD. However, private homes in the BDD do not contribute to the sales tax which funds the BDD so they are rarely funded. This applies apartments above businesses also. The TIF is in place to bring in and expand business while the BDD fills in the cracks of what the TIF doesn't cover. Dan likes the idea of funding the first \$5,000 of a project and suggests funding 25% of costs over the \$5,000. He also reminds President Metzger funding is to be done in payments, over time – not a lump payout. This helps to retain business as they cannot make improvements, collect from BDD, and sell out. Dan also likes the idea of funding anniversary celebrations of business and 'reopening' events with a stipend, onetime payment to fund give a ways, food, and/or advertisement for the event.

President Metzger states he would like us to get the BDD guidelines set, and then have one on one meeting, and then a large meeting where additional questions can be asked.

Trustee Vinnedge states the AT&T Tower is held up right now with due to a conflict with the land title.

Jeff Freeze asks about the crosswalk – President Metzger has not gotten the letter done yet. The Grade School project is ready to go; it is just the placement of the Junior High crosswalk that is in question.

The Water Main Replacement Project is still in the works. There is a great deal of difference in water line sizes to houses in different areas. Sup't Public Works Rust is working with Fehr Graham in locating where water lines are and sizes in order to be as transparent as possible. It should be ready to go out to bid in the next few weeks.

New Business: The Planning Commission chose to keep the fence restriction to the adjacent primary residence only. Telling a property owner they cannot use their land is a very touchy subject. The safety issues of running a fence along a residence where the occupants may not be able to exit the house due to the fence are of importance though. Trustee Tom's Motions for the Board to approve Ordinance 2020-01 Amending the Forreston Village Code Title 9, Chapter 9-4 regarding Fences prohibiting a fence from being placed closer than 2 feet from an adjacent primary residence. Trustee Cotter 2nds the motions. Yeas: Trustees Freeze, Cotter, Norris, Buss, Toms and Vinnedge

Trustee Buss brings a proposal from the Lions Club regarding the possibility of the Village helping to fund a digital sign. Their portable sign has been rebuilt once and is in bad shape again. The Lions are looking a donating toward a sign that could be put on Village Hall or placed elsewhere in the Village. Clerk Drayton is given a packet of information to make copies for the Board members to review.

At 7:50 Trustee Toms makes the motion we convene to Closed session per ILCS 120/1 Sec. 2 (c)(3) to discuss purchase or lease of property. Trustee Freeze 2nds the motion and on roll call all are in agreement.

At 8:52 Motion is made to exit Closed session by Trustee Toms, 2nd by Trustee Norris. All were in favor.

At 8:54 the motion is made by Trustee Freeze to adjourn the Board Meeting, 2nd by Trustee Toms. On roll call all trustees were in agreement.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Drayton, February 4, 2020