

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees
Village of Forreston
Monday, January 6, 2020**

Village President Metzger calls the meeting order at 7:00 PM and recites the Pledge of Allegiance. On Roll Call by Clerk Drayton, Trustees Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, and Buss are all present.

The Minutes of the regular meeting from of December 16 are reviewed. Trustee Freeze motions to accept the Minutes as presented, 2nd by Trustee Norris. Yeas: Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, and Buss

Public Comment – there is none.

There are no new permits to be presented by the Committee on Building/Demolition, Sign, and Fence & Pool Permits.

Accounts Payable is reviewed by the Board. Trustee Norris motions to accept the Accounts Payable, 2nd by Trustee Freeze. Yeas: Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, and Buss

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys: Trustee Buss states that he and SPW Rust drove around town and spray painted areas for possible hot mix repairs this spring/summer. Village President asked if they looked at the alleys. Trustee Freeze states that HWY 26 is slated to be redone in the next year or two. If we wait and do the alleys when the highway is done, we can get the grindings at a very good price. Trustee Freeze is asked to keep us informed as to when this is set to be done. It is also noted that we need to be thinking about budgeting for the parking areas if we want to redo them when 26 is repaved.

Sewer and Water: Trustee Vinnedge presents a proposal from Sharon Pepin regarding moving forward to seek funding for replacing water meters with an IEPA Public Water Supply Loan. We would have 60% forgiveness with the loan and this would be part of next year's budget. Village President Metzger requests a motion be made regarding this item. Trustee Freeze motions to accept the Proposal from Community Funding and Planning Services for the preparation and submittal of a Public Water Supply Loan from the IEPA and the submittal of an IEPA loan for the purchase and installation of new water meters. Trustee Freeze motions to accept the Proposal, 2nd by Trustee Vinnedge. Yeas: Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, Cotter, Norris, and Buss.

Finance: Trustee Norris reminds the Board that it is budget time! The committees need to start scheduling meetings and planning for fiscal year 2020-21. Trustee Cotter states that we have been negligent in informing the business regarding funding for them for improvements from the BDD. Ideas are discussed about how to get the information out there. Should the Clerk send letters business? VP Metzger would like to have individual meetings with each business owner. No consensus is reached at this time.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, & Planning: Trustee Toms states new lights were installed at the parks to help prevent vandalism. He also states he will be scheduling a committee meeting for later this month. Trustee Vinnedge states the Tower Lease should be finalized by the end of the month and a Planning Commission Meeting should be scheduled for the end of the month.

Ordinances: no report

Animal Control: Trustee Norris states she has no report except to remind residents that cats are now REQUIRED to have a rabies vaccine.

Clerk Report: Clerk Drayton reports she included 2020 meeting dates in packets along with a new rate sheet for water & sewer rates, and page 5 for Ordinance 2019-16 with the corrected Computation of Water Service Charges.

Chief of Police Report: The Board reviews the summary of Police activity for December 17 thru January 6.

Sup't. Of Public Works Mark Rust presents his report to the Board. He states they have been taking down smaller trees on their own to reduce expenses. Christmas decorations were removed earlier than usual due to the mild weather. Truck #1 remains in the shop with a fuel system issue.

Village President Metzger reports he has spoken with two businesses in regards to the Village providing funds from the BDD for promotions such as Open house, Anniversary, or Grand Openings. Promoting business will help bring people into town, and support our businesses.

President Metzger also comments that he has spoke with Clerk Drayton regarding having our Village Board Meetings at either the Library or the Township building. Accessibility is an issue for some people at Village Hall plus there is limited seating and it can be very difficult for the public to hear board members speak as they don't face the public. Trustee Buss asks what happened to the plans and funds for remodeling Village Hall. He states we have to do something. Trustee Buss asks for a committee to be formed to look at options of tearing down, rebuilding, or moving to a different location. A minimum of two options should be presented to the Board. Trustees Cotter, Freeze, Norris, and Buss will be on the committee.

President Metzger also mentions that the Saluting with Smoke group which had the cook out here last summer would like to do a sanctioned cook off in conjunction with Sauer Kraut Days. Metzger will continue to work the SWS, the Sauer Kraut Committee, and FABA.

Trustee Buss asks about the Safe Routes for Schools crosswalk project and the junior high crosswalk. President Metzger states he spoke with Superintendent Smith and he will be writing a formal letter to the School Board. The crosswalk will most likely end up on the west side of the drive entrance on HWY 72. Supt. Smith also asked about opening Cherry or Birch streets to allow for a better bus route.

Trustee Buss also asked what the protocol is for street lights that are not lit at night. Clerk Drayton explains, she can report it, but if the resident reports it, repairs tend to be much quicker. Also, to report it, we need exact information and that often isn't given to us.

Old Business: The AT&T lease should be complete by the end of the week. We have also been assigned a project manager by the state. Seth is hoping for info by the end of the month.

New Business: A BDD application from Josh & Heather Lamping DBA Josh's Saloon is presented. They were unaware of the program and submitted the application the day the project was completed. Discussion is held as to if we should fund projects done prior to the approval of an application.

Lamping's requested 30% to be refunded – Buss states 25% should be refunded. A comment from the public is made that "Improvements done will make Forreton look better and entice customers and businesses to town".

Trustee Cotter states that he feels any project under \$5,000 should be fully funded by the BDD. The BDD is funded from sales tax. Bettering business brings in more money. We need to fix up downtown. We have approximately \$52,000 a year being generating and a balance of \$61,000 now. We have had a few applications but not granted any funding. If we fund a project will the business owner have to sign a contract to stay in business for a set time – say 5 years? We should keep a balance set aside for work to be done by the Village – sidewalks, lighting, etc.

President Metzger states – we have discovered the protocol is not as rigid as we originally thought for granting BDD money. We need to create our own protocol and create a funding program that works for us. When this is done we will revisit the applications submitted by Koeller Forreton Hardware and Sweetwood Interiors.

Ideas for new application rulings include: \$5,000 per year we will fund, over \$5,000 we fund a percentage; keep \$25,000 dedicated for yearly improvements downtown by the Village; If you reapply the next year and funding is depleted, you would go to the top of the list for the following year; Application must be submitted before project begins with an estimate of costs, when done submit receipts or invoice. Applicants must attend meeting when they apply so the board can ask questions if they have them.

President Metzger asks if there is a motion for what our support of the BDD funding should be. \$5,000 per year, submit application, board agreement, then ordinance wrote, then vote from board is the consensus of the board. Based on this, can a motion be made for an Ordinance to be written to fund the expenses for the work done at Josh's Saloon? If this is to be our ruling, we need to create a structured statement as to what our funding policy will be.

Trustee Freeze makes a motion to fund Lamping's BDD application, up to \$4290 pending new application and submission of bill from R & S Builders. Motion is 2nd by Trustee Norris. On roll call, Toms, Vinnedge, Freeze, Norris, and Buss all vote Yeas. Trustee Cotter abstains as he cannot vote on BDD issues.

The Finance Committee will need to meet to create a structured statement as to our funding basis for BDD applications.

President Metzger asks if there is any other new business. Trustee Norris responds that the director of the Forrester Public Library is retiring on January 25th. No hiring will be done until after February 1st. The library may have erratic hours until a new director is found.

Trustee Freeze makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Trustee Norris. Meeting is adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Adjournment