

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
Village of Forreston
Monday, July 6, 7:00 PM**

Village President Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited by all in attendance.

On Roll Call by Clerk Drayton, Trustees Ken Toms, Ken Vinnedge, Jeff Freeze, Monty Cotter, Vickye Norris, and Gary Buss are in attendance. Also, in attendance is Village Clerk Michelle Drayton, Village President Mark Metzger, Chief of Police Mike Boomgarden, and Supt. of Public Works Mark Rust. From the community, Jane Koeller, Dan Pepin with CF-PS, and Earlene Hinton with Ogle County News are attending the meeting.

Village President Metzger begins the meeting by stating we are in Phase 4 but chose to still meet remotely as meeting in person is not prudent yet. VP Metzger states we will discuss our next meeting and how it will be handled during the Presidents Report.

The Minutes from the Village Board Meeting held on Monday, June 15, 2020 are reviewed by the Board. There are no questions. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to accept the minutes as printed and it is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Norris, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, and Toms all vote Yea.

Public Comment – Via Zoom Link, Jane Koeller states she has no comments.

Trustee Toms presents the Building/Demolition, Sign, Fence & Pool Permits beginning with a Sign Permit for Keith Ruter and Smokin Gun Worx. The sign will be approximately 3 feet tall and will be mounted in the ground in front of the flags on the gun shop property. The letters are 2 feet tall. It will not be lit as far as we know. The permit fee has been paid. Trustee Toms motions to approve the sign permit for the business and the motion is 2nd by Trustee Buss. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, Toms, and Buss all respond with Yea.

The next permit is for a storage shed and extending a patio at 107 Meadows Court. All setbacks are within compliance. The permit fee has been paid and there are no questions regarding the permit. Trustee Toms motions to approve the permit for a new shed and patio extension which is 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Cotter, Freeze, Toms, Buss, and Norris all respond with Yeas. Trustee Vinnedge abstained from voting due to it being a family member.

The final permit for the night is for 307 S Walnut for sidewalk replacement, new sidewalks on their property, replacing front steps, and a new patio area. All setbacks are in compliance and the fee for the new patio area has been paid. Supt Rust states the sidewalk in front of the house is ready to be poured and will be done when the downtown sidewalk areas are poured. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit and it is 2nd by Trustee Vinnedge. On Roll Call, Trustees Freeze, Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, Norris, and Cotter all respond with Yes.

Trustee Toms states he has received many phone calls lately for items that do not require permits. Pools that hold less than 30” of water do NOT require a permit or fence. There also is no permit required for Lending Libraries.

Next, the Accounts Payable are reviewed by the Board. Trustee Freeze questions the mowing fee to be paid to Jason Lynn. Clerk Drayton explains it is for mowing a foreclosure property that was not maintained by the foreclosure company. Trustee Buss asks why we did not have Tim Howald mow it. Chief Boomgarden explains the Tim did not want to mow the property. Chief also explains parts of the yard were thigh high. Lynn’s used a zero-turn mower, push mower and string trimmer to clean up the property. Trustee Buss asks if a lien has been put on the property yet. Clerk Drayton states “No. The price for putting on the lien is prohibitive to do for every mowing. She would like to make sure the foreclosure company is going to maintain the property properly before placing the lien to avoid placing multiple liens. We do not serve a fine the first time we mow. VP Metzger states we should ask Rob on this. He feels Rob has said wait until we have a \$400 or so amount. Trustee Vinnedge says he has to call Rob, he will ask. He feels we should be able to charge administrative fee. Gary asks if we have liens against the 2 properties where we tore houses down and we are mowing. Clerk Drayton states we do not have a lien against the Buskol property. Trustee Buss ask why are we mowing it for free? Clerk Drayton states the Buskol property is mowed by a village employee and she does not think we mow Mary’s property. Trustee Buss states we need to ask Rob about that. Clerk Drayton states we do the liens in office, Rob has nothing to do with it. Trustee Buss says we condemned the house, that had to go thru the attorney. We told him to place a lien. Trustee Vinnedge states, we do not mow Mary’s property – one of

the neighbors does. Trustee Vinnedge states he will ask Rob about the properties. Trustee Freeze questions the thermometers purchased from Phelps. Clerk Drayton explains they were discussed at the last meeting and 2 were purchased – 1 for the office and one for Public works. Trustee Freeze questions why we are mowing the Lynch property – which property is this. Chief Boomgarden again explains it is a property which has just sold, and we are no longer mowing it. Trustee Buss asks why we are paying the bill if it is sold – have we been paid yet? Was there a lien placed? Chief replies he spoke with the realtor when we began mowing. He is quite confident the bill will be paid – the purchasing owners began mowing before the closing date to avoid more mowing costs. Trustee Freeze motions to approve the Accounts Payable as listed, 2nd is made by Trustee Toms. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, Norris, Cotter, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Buss has nothing to report and Supt. Rust states that Civil has not let us know when they will begin seal coating.

Sewer and Water – Supt. Fisher's began work today and has laid 180 feet of pipe today. We are on hold for boring under the highway as we do not have the right size pipe in yet. Hopefully, it will be in by the end of the week. Boring will be behind as there is issues with the boring machine.

Finance - nothing to report

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning – Trustee Toms asks if anything has happened with the new basketball court. Supt Rust states it sounds like we will pour it next week. It will be poured when we do the sidewalks in town.

Ordinances - Trustee Toms states there was an ordinance meeting regarding pool fences a couple weeks ago. They hope to have a revised ordinance at the next meeting.

Animal Control – Trustee Norris is informed a family on the south side of town has ducks. She states she will send a letter sent regarding the ordinance regarding no poultry in town.

Clerk's Report – Clerk Drayton reports Mike and Deb Glick will work the Clean Up Day on July 31 and August 1. She will start posting information regarding the Clean Up Days later in the week. All comments posted on the Village Hall Surveys received prior to Thursday, July 2nd were enclosed in our packet. There are some very valid points made by our residents and businesses. Clerk Drayton continues, the total votes regarding the Village Hall as of July 6th, 2020 are:

Remain Downtown (new or existing building) - 117

Relocate at 407 N Locust – 23

No Opinion – 46

Nothing Marked but wrote comments – 8

Total returned as of July 6, 2020 is 194 surveys of the 597 sent.

Clerk Drayton also requests Trustee Toms to call her or come in regarding several properties who have built without permits.

Chief of Police Report – The Police Report for June 16 – July 6, 2020 is reviewed by the Board. Trustee Toms asks about the increasing number of calls regarding suspicious activity. Chief responds people are not waiting days to call saying they saw something odd. Is it because they are home more or leery of the things happening in Freeport he does not know, but he appreciates being made aware of things when they are happening. Trustee Norris asks about the animal cruelty report. Chief explains it was not in distress yet. A dog was in a kennel outside with no shade. The neighbor reported it and he thinks the neighbor actually purchased the dog from the neighbor to prevent any more issues. Chief also reports the firework incident was called in as “I will be shooting off legal fireworks purchased in Dixon this evening.” They were not legal fireworks for Illinois. Chief has the casings and invoice and has been in touch with Dixon Police and will be investigating more.

Supt. Of Public Works Rust reports the guys were very busy with brush pick up this morning and have the Warren property prepped for sidewalk replacement which will be done when the downtown sidewalk is replaced. Trustee Buss asks if there is enough money in the BDD to pay or are you just going to go until that fund is spent? Supt Rust replies he budget \$10,000 for sidewalk replacement downtown from the BDD. We may go over a bit, but hopefully we are on budget. Supt Rust states the air diffusers at the WWTP have been pulled, cleaned, and replaced this past week.

Village President's Report – VP Metzger begins with an update regarding the US Census. Like so many other things, this has been delayed due to CoVid 19. No Response follow ups will begin on August 11th. The link for going online to do your Census report is available at Village Hall along with the phone number to call in and complete your information over the phone.

Next, VP Metzger discussing our next meeting. Going forward we will be able to have meetings in person, but there will also be a ZOOM link for those who do not want to attend in person. We will have to know the capacity for the Library Community Room as we will have to stay at 50% capacity. VP Metzger also states he will be out of town on July 20th, which is our next scheduled meeting date. Trustee Toms states it does not matter to him when we have the meeting but if we wait until the 27th I may allow people to start a project if there is no issue with compliance. Anyone who wants to call in rather than attending will be completely fine. The Board agrees to move the meeting date to July 27th and keep the regularly scheduled August 3rd meeting. Trustee Buss asks if we can start doing committee meetings on Village Hall or other committees again? Trustee Norris states you can use The Community Room Committee Meetings when needed and the Shelter House at either park can be used also.

There is no New Business.

Old Business: Jane Koeller reports that at the last meeting all events were put on hold as we were in Phase 3. Now that we are in Phase 4 the Sauer Kraut Committee would like to propose 3 events. The first is to bring in 3 food trucks (actually 2 food trucks and the Louisiana Snowball truck on July 31, August 1, and August 7 & 8th. This would be at the parking lot by the library. There will be no picnic tables, strictly carry out. We want it at the parking lot so there are no picnic tables to sanitize or areas to promote people congregating. The Health Department was consulted on this and has so issues with the event.

The 2nd event they would like to do would be a 'paint the town' where people could buy a downtown sidewalk square to paint. They would do every other square and that would allow for distancing. This would be the week of July 27th and the committee would then they would be voted on to make it kind of a competition once they are all completed.

The final event would be a craft/vendor fair on August 1. Again, Jane has spoke with the Health Department and they have no issues as it is handled similar to a farmer's market. Jane states the plan is to place vendors diagonally across the road and have 12-15 vendors. VP Metzger questions if there is nothing else going on will we get a big crowd. Clerk Drayton states she attended the Farmer's Market in Byron the weekend it opened. The area was staked off with an entrance side and an exit side. She also states she has been to Farmer's Markets in Freeport and people are very conscious of distancing. Chief Boomgarden states he doesn't feel it will get busy. People are doing good at playing by the rules. They are used to stores now have directions for the isles, etc. Jane states the Committee has orange snow fence they could use to block a large area off and prevent people from walking in. Jane states she doesn't even know how many vendors they would get but they would like to offer the opportunity. VP Metzger if good with the food trucks. He is concerned if someone would get sick. Trustee Cotter says the entrance and exit to help with the flow would be a good idea. Trustee Toms says many things are opening up and there have been car shows and fire works that were very well attended.

VP Metzger states the Board should vote on what events they feel comfortable with having. Trustee Cotter motions to allow the food trucks with carry out only, sidewalk painting and the craft show providing the craft show is contained with an entrance and exit, and under 50 people in the corded of area at a time. Trustee Vinnedge 2nds the motion. Jane states the 50 people will include the vendors and if the guidelines change the numbers allowed will change also. No waiver is needed if we stay under 50. If the guidelines change, the numbers will On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Cotter, and Vinnedge vote Yea while Trustees Buss, Norris, and Freeze vote Nae. Village President Metzger is asked to place the tie breaking vote and he responds with Yea.

Dan Pepin from Community Funding and Planning asks if the Board received the information he emailed at 4:30 today. Clerk Drayton states she received no email. After refreshing her browser, still no email. Dan states he will review the information and asks Clerk Drayton to forward it to the Board. Dan states the Fischer Excavating has started work on the Water Main Replacement Project this week. CFPS has prepared the first loan disbursement request. This request will repay the Village for the project plan and engineering design fees they have already paid and CFPS' first invoice.

Phase 2 of the Water Main Replacement Project is being pushed back to 2021. The IEPA will be notified we are not seeking funding for this project until 2021.

IEPA Lead Service Replacement and Water Meter Replacement will be prepared under one loan. CFPS and Fehr Graham will be working together to complete both projects. The goal is to have this out for bid this fall. Trustee Buss as what engineering cost would we have? We are taking out meters and putting new meters in. Dan states it should not be much, it is just bid specks. Trustee Buss says if it is \$200,000

Fehr Graham will be \$20,000. Trustee Freeze states – I thought we already knew where we were getting the meters from. Trustee Freeze asks how much the loan application is for. Trustee Buss states “This has not been passed by the board yet to draw this money.” Trustee Vinnedge states this has all been approved by the Board. “I never approved it” says Trustee Buss. VP Metzger says, this is something you are paying for on your water bill now. Trustee Buss says “But we wasn’t going to spend any money until we had money in there.” Trustee Cotter says the loan amount is approximately \$475,421. Trustee Buss asks how did we go from \$220,000 to \$470,000? Trustee Vinnedge explains we are going for the maximum amount. If we didn’t and went over, we wouldn’t have the funds to complete the project. No matter how much is approved, we will get 60% funding. Supt Rust states I got 2 different quotes. One was for 220,000 and the other company was just under 400,000. That is why Sharon applied for the higher loan amount, we want to make sure when we apply that you have the funds incase you have overages. Gary says we just started collecting money. Dan states we have been talking about this for a while now. That is how we got to the dollar amount we are charging on the water bill. Trustee Vinnedge states we have approved this already. Trustee Buss says we discussed doing the meters in 2 separate fiscal years so that we would have the money for it. I don’t know where we are going to come up with the money for it. It is not in the Budget. Trustee Freeze asks if we put in for extra meters if we need them. Supt Rust says the quote does not include installation and yes, we can get extra meters at that time. VP Metzger explains when the bids come in and we go to spend the money the board will vote on it. At this point we are going for the higher amount. If we only have 220,000 and then realize we want to purchase extra meters, so we have them, we may not have the money to do that.

IDOT – Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project – Fehr Graham is working with IDOT and phase 2 engineering. CFPS has begun the QBS process on their end. Dan will be sending us a posting and a policy we will have to approve. The policy simply states we want the most qualified engineer doing the work at our school. All documents will be ready for the next board meeting. When approved, the request for statement of qualifications in the paper and reach out to local engineers to see who would be interested in doing the project. Since there were no other questions for Dan, he left the meeting.

The BP gaming/liquor license application is talked about again. Chief Boomgarden is in attendance and the Board has been seeking his opinion regarding this application. The license would be a restricted pour license to allow the gas station to have video gaming machines. VP Metzger states he is not in favor of gas stations having a pour license to have slot machines. Chief Boomgarden states this is a kind of weird liquor license with a lot of rules. I am not trying to hold them back, I have never been around such a thing. I just am not sure it is the answer right now. Maybe if we see expansion there or something different. Trustee Buss asks if he would feel more comfortable if we had a lay out, so we know how they are going to do it. We are not sure where the machines would be put or how they would be monitored. Trustee Freeze asks Clerk Drayton to request more information regarding where the machines would be put. Trustee Freeze asks if they can turn in a floor plan so we can see how they want to do it? Metzger doesn’t think anyone on the board wants to grant a gas station the ability to pour alcohol just so you can have slot machines. Clerk Drayton states BP has just turned in a BDD/TIFF application and stated they knew it would not be on this agenda. In looking at the drawings attached she states it appears there are 5 slot machines would be between the ice cream cooler and the bathrooms. Trustee Vinnedge states the slot machines don’t bother him, it is the drinking. Trustee Buss says since the application is in, do we table the liquor issue until we can look at it? Trustee Freeze asks “Is that what the application is for? Clerk Drayton reads from the application ‘Completely remodeling the interior, both bathrooms, relocating cashier counter, and the Hunt’s Brother’s Pizza expenses. We are also in the process of obtaining a pour liquor license to get slot machines in the store. With these additions, we are ultimately hoping to generate more revenue as well as attract more community members’. VP Metzger states it is up to the board if they want to table the motions or vote on it. This is more of an action item for the liquor license than the remodeling. Trustee Buss says table, Trustee Freeze says he feels we should table it. VP Metzger says don’t confuse the issue. This is an application for a pour license not for BDD. A beautiful remodel drawing does not change the feeling of the liquor license. We can review and look at the BDD application, but we may send it back and say there is no reason to leave the slot machine space. Trustee Toms motions to table the liquor permit again until more information is received with the BDD application. This is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Norris, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, and Toms all respond with Yea to table the liquor pour license.

UTV Ordinance Amendment 2020-07 – VP Metzger states he wants to remind the Board this change is regarding the age restriction for driving UTV’s in the Village limits. How people get to Forreston is on their own. Chief Boomgarden states German Valley is at 21 and will remain at that age. Leaf River does not have an age restriction as they do not have a police force to enforce it. The County will not enforce Ordinances. Our attorney wants it at age 16 as that is the state law. Chief believes the younger the

driver, the faster the machine, the quicker they look at losing their permit and Mom and Dad would be upset. Chief feels we can use age 18 because driver's licenses are already restricted at age 16 and so are motorcycle licenses. You can only have a motorcycle up to 150 ccs until you turn 18. Trustee Buss wonders if we should have different classifications for the UTV's sizes some of them are really big machines. Chief states he can turn offenses over against a driver's license and kids may not get their license until 18 or 21. Vinnedge states you can vote and serve in the military at 18 he feels the age should be 18. Trustee Buss interjects with "But you can't drink alcohol until you are 21!" Chief replies he still feels most comfortable with 18. Trustee Vinnedge motions to amend the required age of a UTV driver to be a minimum of 18 years of age, this is 2nd by Vickye Norris. On Roll Call, Trustees Norris, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, and Norris all vote Yea.

VP Metzger asks if there is any other old business to discuss. Supt Rust states he has back surgery scheduled for August 17th. He will be out for 4 weeks, then light duty for 8 weeks. Trustee Freeze asks if he will put Scott in charge. Yes, Scott will do all water and sewer testing he can handle everything, and he can call if he has any questions. They will be fusing 3 vertebrae in his lower back.

Trustee Freeze motions to scrub the Village Hall ideas and move onto look into the new maintenance building plans. Trustee Vinnedge says "Do what Jeff?" Trustee Freeze repeats scrub the Village Hall plans and move onto with the maintenance building plans. VP Metzger asks 'as far as moving the maintenance building to one location. Trustee Freeze states yes, put on an addition or new building at locust and maybe move on to sell the old maintenance building property. VP Metzger asks if there is anything set aside for doing this. Trustee Buss responds we have had \$240,000 sitting there for years and never used it. Clerk Drayton states it is not budgeted. Trustee Buss laughs and says we amend the budget every year it doesn't make any difference. Trustee Vinnedge ask Trustee Freeze to set a committee meeting to talk about ideas and see what we want to do. Trustee Freeze asks "do what, Ken?" Trustee Freeze responds he has been looking at the bid from Winter and Associates for Village Hall. Let's look at being our own contractor and having local contractors do the work. Try to cut the cost on that plan we had put together. Clerk Drayton states "Just do the first floor so we have office space." Trustee Buss says it is easier to do the new maintenance shed 40 x 100 or 60 x 100. Then decide about selling the other building. Trustee Vinnedge states we need to at least do something with the outside of Village Hall. Trustee Freeze says my opinion is not spend any money on the old build. Trustee Buss says he agrees. Trustee Vinnedge says he thinks we are going to have too. Trustee Freeze responds with, I am only one vote, but I will never agree to spend any money on that building. It is beyond our means financially. VP Metzger says we can't put it on somebody else. Freeze responds with "We have kicked it down the road for 20 years. 20 years or more." Trustee Buss asks what Winter's price was -\$700,000 or so? Michelle, get me a copy of that. VP Metzger states he agrees when he and Clerk Warren saw the Freeport building, they were blown away. There are opportunities now that we have ideas. Local people could do it more affordably. Trustee Freeze states "People in the Village don't understand. What costs them \$10,000 to do would cost us \$40,000 we have to engineer everything right down to a lightbulb. It is more expensive for the village to do work than the normal person."

VP Metzger asks what they think it will cost to do the maintenance building, what were the estimates? Trustee Buss states \$175,00 to \$200,000. We are going to need to have a work area. We were not talking any insulation, concrete, electricity. Trustee Freeze says with a 60 x 100 foot building you could have a whole bay for work area. There will be some electric and it will clear out space in the building we have to work there. Trustee Buss asks when they can get together. Most people are in agreeance we need to get something done for the guys and get them in one area. VP Metzger states we should have it at either the Ash St property or 407 N Locust. Trustee Vinnedge requests a Building Meeting on Monday, July 13, 7 PM, at the 407 N Locust Street Property so we can step things out and see what we can do regarding the shop.

Trustee Toms motions to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Trustee Freeze. All are in favor. The meeting is adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Drayton