

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the
Village of Forreston
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
Forreston Public Library**

At 7:03 PM Village President Metzger called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited. On Roll Call by Clerk Drayton, Trustees Gary Buss, Jeff Freeze, Ken Vinnedge, Monty cotter, Ken Toms and Vickye Norris are all in attendance. Also, in attendance is Village President Mark Metzger, Chief Boomgarden, Budget Officer Klipping, Village Clerk Michelle Drayton, acting Supt of Public Works Scott Timm, Jeff Helfrich from Ogle County News, and from the public, Kevin Meyer.
Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2020 Meeting

There is no Public Comment.

The Minutes from the Meeting held on August 24, 2020 are reviewed. Trustee Vinnedge motions to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, Cotter, and Freeze all respond with Yeas. Trustee Norris abstains as she was absent from the meeting.

Trustee Toms presents a permit for 206 S 3rd Avenue. He requests Trustee Cotter discuss the permit Cotter has looked at the property and has spoken with the owners. This permit is for the removal of a small rear deck which will be replaced by a larger deck with railing. Also, the existing lean-to on the back of the garage will be added to. Both changes comply with all setbacks. Also noted on the permit is that the front porch (both levels) are to be redone. This is repair and replacement, no charge. The permit fee has been paid. Motion is made by Trustee Cotter and 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Toms, Buss, Norris, Cotter Freeze, and Vinnedge all respond with Yes.

Next, is a permit for demolition of a building damaged during the storm for Moring Disposal. Trustee Toms explains that Steve Moring came in July 28th for the permit. He had been after the insurance company to come out and inspect the damage. Unexpectedly, the insurance company inspected and approved the demo, and the crew was there. Steve came in for the permit prior to demolition. Clerk Drayton called Trustee Cotter for approval. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the permit and it is 2nd by Trustee Freeze. On Roll Call, Trustees Buss, Norris, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, and Toms all respond with Yeas.

Trustee Toms next presents a permit submitted after the packets went out for 98 Magnolia Street. This project has already started with a two-tier floating deck (not attached to the house). Also included with the permit is a variance request for a privacy fence that does not comply with our ordinance. Clerk Drayton states that Ms. Fiene had been in the office asking about permits and building. She was given several ordinances, a permit, and the variance application. Clerk Drayton states she also stressed the \$200 fine if work was done before the permit is approved. Discussion is had as to if the fine should be imposed. Trustee Buss states we are fining people for improving their property when we have people who have 3-foot weeds and junk in their yard. Trustee Vinnedge states they were aware of the possible fine and did the work anyway. He motions to approve the deck permit with a \$200 fine for doing the work prior to the permit being issued recommends sending the fence variance application to the Planning Commission. Trustee Cotter 2nd the motion. On Roll Call, Trustees, Norris, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, Toms, and Buss all respond with Yeas.

Lastly, Trustee Toms informs the Board of a fence and soft sided pool put up at 101 Phil Parkway. The pool is down now. The pool was not set the required distance from the fence. Next summer, either the pool or the fence will be moved. A permit for the pool and fence will be submitted. Trustee Vinnedge states they should have a \$200 fine also. Discussion is held regarding another project in progress which has no permit. Village ordinance states patio which would include any form of construction – patio blocks, wood or concrete. Trustee Buss states he has a hard time fining residents who are improving their property when we have houses with weeds growing 3 feet high and trash in the yard.

Trustee Toms call for a committee meeting for both the Ordinances Committee and the Building, Grounds, Park, Zoning and Planning Committee. This meeting will be on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30 PM at the library. Another issue to be discussed is patios being built with blocks and no permit as Village ordinance does not state 'block' even though it states PATIO. Trustee Toms also asks Clerk Drayton to look into a current address from Cathy Scudder who has recently moved to Morrison.

Jane Koeller joins the meeting via ZOOM at 7:37 PM.

The Accounts Payable are reviewed. Trustee Toms questions the bill for Buckshot Ridge Farms & Excavating for \$12,600. VP Metzger states this was for cleaning up the trailer park. Given the situation,

we wanted to have it cleaned up. None of the property owners had insurance and most were tenants who lost everything. Trustee Buss requests a change in the coding for the bottle jack purchased from NAPA to tools, rather than shop supplies. Motion is made by Trustee Toms to approve the minutes with the above change and it is 2nd by Trustee Norris. On Roll Call, Trustee Cotter, Trustee Vinnedge, Trustee Toms, Trustee Cotter, and Trustee Norris respond with Yeas. Trustee Buss & Trustee Freeze vote Nay.

Committee Reports:

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Buss asks if the seal coating is done. Scott Timm states yes. Village President Metzger also states there was an update meeting for the Water Main Replacement Project. Since they did not remove sidewalks as expected, they have extra money and may widen the road a bit on each side. It should not change the cost of the project. We are waiting for numbers from Jeff Mackey.

Sewer and Water - Trustee Vinnedge states they are hooking up services to the new water mains now. Trustee Buss asks if there will be a new hydrant on 4th avenue. Trustee Vinnedge states he is not sure. Some of the hydrants will be getting risers as they are too low. Trustee Toms asks when all equipment and signs will be removed. The signs and equipment at 3rd and Cherry equipment impede on vision – you have to pull into the intersection to see. Scott Timm states he will talk with Fischer's when they have their meeting Tuesday morning.

Finance-Trustee Norris states the new account for the Water Main Replacement funds is open and the first check was deposited. Trustee Cotter presents the application for BDD funding for Anniversary Expenses for Koeller Hardware. As discussed at the previous meeting, the application was not on the agenda before the anniversary due to the cancelation of our meeting after the derecho. Trustee Freeze states they have already gotten a BDD grant. Trustee Cotter explains any business can apply for the anniversary and there is no clause stating if you get a \$5,000 BDD Grant you cannot have a grant for anniversary/grand opening expenses also. Trustee Cotter motions to approve the anniversary expenses for Koeller's for \$476.46 and it is 2nd by Trustee Norris. On Roll Call, Trustee Vinnedge, Toms, Buss, Norris, and Cotter respond with Yeas, and Trustee Freeze responds Nay.

Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Zoning, Planning - Trustee Toms states the permit for the shed on East Pine has expired and the shed is not done. The yard is still a mess and the garage is falling down. Again, Trustee Toms asks Clerk Drayton to find a current address for the property owner. Trustee Toms also states the damaged buildings in town need to be cordoned off to keep people from exploring after hours and getting hurt. The house on Locust has not begun to clean up the garage that fell. Trustee Vinnedge states he will stop and speak with people tomorrow. Trustee Buss asks what will be done with the batting cage. Trustee Vinnedge states he has looked at several different designs and he and Scott working on this with the insurance company.

Animal Control -Trustee Norris states from the sounds of things there are cats everywhere. Per our ordinance, your cat must be vaccinated. If you know who the cat belongs to, take it to the owner and request to see proof of vaccination. If you choose to contact the police, and ordinance violation ticket can be served on the animal owner if the citizen will sign the complaint.

8:03 PM Sharon Pepin with Community Funding and Planning Services joins the meeting.

Clerk's Report - Clerk Drayton reports she received notice from AT&T and they plan on breaking ground in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2021. Also, per Supt Rust, hydrant flushing will be the week of September 22-24.

Chief of Police Report - Chief Boomgarden reports there was another fight over mask wearing at the Dollar General last week. Yet again, this is the corporate policy and the employees must enforce it. As of September 14th, all FVV schools will be in session all day. Things seem to be going well. This will help with some of the loitering downtown. The Stan's Ice Cream truck is in town. Each year, Chief states, he runs a check on the driver to verify their license and background report. Their permit is good for a year as long as it is the same driver. The discussion is brought up again regarding kids loitering on the steps of the library, along with their skateboard tricks on the steps, vulgar music, and profanity. Per Trustee Norris, the librarian is cracking down on this and the assistant librarian has also. Trustee Buss asks if the internet can have a password put on it or be shut off after a certain time. Trustee Norris states kids that don't have internet access at home need the access and the library does not want to take that away from those that NEED it. Trustee Vinnedge states the new internet firewall should be able to kick people off who search inappropriate sights. He will speak with our Tech guy.

Sup't. Of Public Works Report – acting Superintendent Timm states the trees down in town are all cleaned up and have been hauled out. The hydrants are scheduled to be flushed next week. Scott states they are not sure what will happen with the burn curtain and our permit. He needs to call

downstate to see what the next step is since it isn't needed anymore. VP Metzger asks how the new employee is working out. Scott Timm states he seems to be picking things up very quickly. Trustee Vinnedge states he asks questions before jumping into things, which is good.

Village President's Report - President Metzger explains, for those who hadn't heard, all the sirens last week – that was the brush pile burning. Blowing embers had started the pile on fire. Multiple departments hauled water to keep the fire from spreading.

Village President Metzger states Sharon Pepin is with us this evening to discuss a program that she wanted to share with us. It is an IDOT enhanced Program application which can be used for sidewalks or walking paths. There is funding for up to \$2,000,000 (possibly more) and we would only have to pay back 20%. There is a possibility we could get more than 80% funding, but we won't know until later. Their focus this year is areas outside of the metropolitan area, so we stand a very good chance of qualifying for funding. CFPS would have a fee of \$2,100 for the application and preliminary engineering. However, they would not bill the village until after May 1, 2021. If we apply for the grant and don't receive funding, we would not be billed at all. IDOT wants the funding to go to smaller communities. CFPS is willing to get everything together and have the documents ready for the October 19th meeting – including the required public meeting if we are interested. Trustee Vinnedge asks who the engineer is. Sharon responds someone who she has on staff for these types of projects. Trustee Toms asks why do we have to do this? Trustee Buss asks why doesn't Dollar General build closer to town and the existing amenities. Trustee Vinnedge states we have discussed doing this project previously. Sharon is doing her due diligence by giving us information on grants to move forward with a project should we choose to. Sharon states they (CFPS) had been in meetings where the information had been discussed and felt obligated to provide us the information. ITEP money is usually available every two years so maybe it would be better to look at the project then. Trustee Vinnedge states this is the kind of thing we need to be aware of. VP Metzger states we can discuss this at the Committee meeting next week.

Next, VP Metzger states we have discussed the Local Cure Program for assistance in paying for COVID related bills. To submit receipts for reimbursement, the Village must accept and approve Ordinance 2020-10 An Ordinance Pertaining to the Local Cure Program in order to receive the funding. Motion is made by Trustee Toms and 2nd by Trustee Cotter. On Roll Call, Trustees Vinnedge, Toms, Gary, Norris, Cotter, and Freeze all respond with Yeas.

Lastly under New Business is the License Agreement – regarding the alley usage at 113 E Main Street (Mimmo's). The Board members take a moment to review the license agreement. Trustee Buss asks what happens if he sells the property? Clerk Drayton responds #13 states the document can be recorded at the Ogle County Court House and all fees are the responsibility of Maniscalco. Trustee Toms asks how can we vote on it if Mimmo has not seen it? VP Metzger states we need to vote to present it to Mimmo. Trustee Freeze motions to support the license agreement between the Village and Mimmo's. Trustee Toms 2nds the motion. On Roll call, Trustees Buss, Norris, Cotter, Freeze, Vinnedge, and Toms all respond with Yea.

Old Business

Trustee Freeze motions to proceed with selling the Ash Street property maintenance shop and Trustee Buss 2nds the motion. Trustee Buss states we will sell it with possession to happen in 1 year. Trustee Toms asks to whom will we sell it and for how much? Trustee Freeze states we have to agree to sell it first. Village President Metzger states we need to discuss this more. Trustee Norris questions if we can note on it as it not on the agenda. Trustee Buss requests to put this on the agenda for the next meeting and cancel the scheduled committee meeting for Thursday.

Trustee Freeze asks about getting the siren moved. Trustee Vinnedge states there is a proposal for this, but it will have to be on next year's budget.

Trustee Freeze motions to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Toms 2nds the motion. All are in favor.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Drayton