



**Forest Township**  
Rice County  
3625 Millersburg Boulevard  
Faribault, Minnesota

**Wednesday March 4, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Monthly Township Meeting minutes**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Ron Gernandt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Members Present:** Ron Gernandt, Charlie Peters, William Malecha, Elaine Trnka, Ashley Anderson

**2. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2020.**

Ashley read the minutes from the February 5 meeting.

*Bill made a motion to approve the minutes. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

**3. TRESURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer's report was presented with a township balance of \$293,037.27. This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed.

*Charlie made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

**4. BUSINESS**

Northfield Fire District responded an annual quote of \$20,000. The township will keep the proposed level for 2021 \$18,000.

Kent joined the meeting from the Complete Count Committee for Census. It is estimated that approximately 11,000 Rice County residents will be uncounted in the upcoming Census which

will cause Rice County to miss out on approximately 33 million dollars per year. Of the 11,000 approximately 2500 township residents are expected not to be counted. In addition, MN is close to losing a congressional seat if too many people are uncouncted. Everyone will get a letter giving options to complete the census, if you don't respond, they will eventually start knocking on your door at the end of July.

Wayne Gieseke submitted a temporary equipment placement for the Millersburg pit. The property is already grandfathered in with a conditional use permit. There is no work slated out of that location. In addition, Wayne lives in the Circle Lake SSD and is doing a home remodel. The township recognizes the home as a 4-bedroom home in order to maintain the integrity and size limitations of the community septic system. The Board signed a letter confirming the intent of the project.

It is understood that the Autobahn Project is indefinitely halted.

Rice County is looking at rezoning the land along 35 from highway commercial to commercial industrial the full length of Forest Township. Charlie said this information has not been in front of any committees. Sam Sutherland asked the Town Board to sign a letter asking the County for a study to determine the feasibility of projects in the intended zone and the feasibility of sewer and water. The board agreed.

Sam would like to talk about township zoning.

Trish Burmeister is still the the deputy clerk of Forest Township.

Circle Lake has \$25,000 into a CD with the State Bank of Faribault that matures in July of 2020. Circle Lake has seen many homeowners turnover in their SSD. When the system was put in 2000 residents were given a simple manual. Larry Klante requests that an informational brochure be put together for new homeowners on a community septic system. When someone in the SSD sells their home, they are required to have an inspection of the septic system and the seller is responsible for the cost of that inspection. We rely on the county to ensure this happens - before they record the deed – the County should be asking for the compliance inspection report, but with a community system, it can and has fallen through the cracks. Charlie will work with Tom and Larry to create a document for new homeowners. Larry requested that the township take over as the fiscal host for the water and road association for Circle Lake. The Board politely declined. They've had many requests in the past and have determined that they cannot take over as the fiscal host for private associations.

Tom presented a quote to put in a UV light system in the Circle Lake Estates SSD. He would like to put 3 of them in incase one fails. He provided the township with a cost analysis. He would be confident that it would kill the fecal in the system. Systems now would come with this equipment standard.

In addition, Tom recommends upgrading some equipment in 12 units in the Circle Lake Estates and would make the system operate cleaner and more efficient.

Lastly, Tom updated the board on some changes to cell phone technology and how it will impact the SSD equipment. Cell phones are moving from G3 to G4 or G5. On Maples Shores and Old Circle lake will have to upgrade their system to be compliant with G4 or G5 as G3 will not longer be supported. All of the individual homeowner's communication line should they move from a landline to the cell phone technology will be good for G4 and G5, so those can be updated at anytime without having to worry about a change in technology.

*Charlie made a motion for Advanced Septic to complete the UV light and Manifold upgrades at Circle Lake Estates. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

There is some sunken fill around a culvert. Charlie will put more gravel on it.

The Board reviewed and approved the Annual meeting agenda.

The Board will attend the 2020 Spring Short Courses on Wednesday, March 18 in Mankato.

The Board will attend the Annual Township Officers Association Meeting at St. Patrick's Church in Shiedlsville on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 pm.

Ashley will find out with the Board of Equalization meeting will be held.

Notice of public sale of the tax-forfeited land.

The board was given notice that a parcel of tax-forfeited land and has been approved for sale by the highest bidder. The property is on Lake Mazaska and will be up for auction on March 25, 2020.

## **5. ADJOURN**

*Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Bill seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.