



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

October 2, 2019
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, William Malecha, Charlie Peters, Elaine Trnka, Ashley Anderson

2. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 4, 2019.

Ashley read the minutes from the September 4 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 \$323,366.85. This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed.

Elaine made a correction to the August treasurer's report – the report incorrectly accounted for the \$45,000 CD which impacted the township balance. The corrected township balance was \$372,104.11.

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

4. BUSINESS

In August, Forest Township received \$4,740 from Rice County for tax forfeited land sale for two properties. One on Baker Ave and another on Mazaska. It was a payment due to nonpayment of property tax. Property was auctioned and proceeds were distributed between county, cities or townships, and school districts.

McGuire delivered the bill for gravel and announced that Forest Township can get crushed rock for the same price next year. He informed that Forest Township will be delivered rock early in the year next year. The township agreed to invite him to the next meeting to discuss details and ensure the deadlines will be met next year. The group discussed which roads will need gravel next year.

There were also 5 individuals who purchased gravel from the Township. Elaine will send them bills.

The board discussed upcoming SSD assessments due to the county by November 30. There were no recorded storms within 15 days of the outage on the Maple Shores panel. Ashley will prepare the assessments for the board to approve at the November meeting, including the Maples Shores SSD annual assessment for \$1,500.00 due to no storm evidence, and therefore no insurance claim. In addition, there will be 1 assessment for an unpaid fire call and Ashley and Elaine will confer with Advanced Septic about any unpaid septic bills.

The Board announced that they don't grade or plow private roads in the Township due to safety and liability.

There is a Planning Commission meeting tomorrow, October 3. The Wolf Creek Autobahn is not on the agenda. Agenda items include lake dredging and a Bed and Breakfast on Circle Lake.

In regard to the Autobahn, the County determined that there are 300 issues that have to be addressed before they can decide if they need a further study. They extended the time period for the Autobahn by 30 days. The comment period is closed. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has stated that the property will not be able to build condos to do noise standards. The lack of condos would greatly impact expected revenue to the county. The Minnesota Pollution Control wrote a letter to the county with their concerns about the project. There is concern about the lack of plan for sewage. A Forest Township resident wanted to discuss if the township would consider taking on zoning from the County and wondered if the Board would consider talking to an attorney to attempt to stop the project. In addition, the DNR and an Archeology group are concerned about the impact of the project on the land, its species and what might lie underground.

The Board stated that the project is on hold as there is no sewer plan and will wait to see if that is enough to stop the project. It is likely commercial or residential properties will reside on that land. All options will need sewer and water, and until a plan is determined, it is unlikely it will be developed.

5. ADJOURN

Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Bill seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.