



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

**Wednesday July 1, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Monthly Township Meeting minutes**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Ron Gernandt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

**2. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 3, 2020.**

Ashley read the minutes from the June 3 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 \$298,708.19 This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed.

The two SSD CDs will be maturing shortly, one on July 26 and one on July 28.

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

**4. BUSINESS**

Ashlee with Moderno Homes is working with Rice County to get the proposed plat approved. The road in question is Falls Trail. It's a benefit to the township to have the road recorded.

Ideally all roads should be recorded so they can be properly maintained. Stan had planned to do so 20 years ago and there is some question of whether this happened.

A resolution was brought to the board to approve the proposed plat by Rice County indicating that Shimbros Acres is dedicating a portion of Falls Trail to the public.

*Charlie made a motion to approve the resolution approving the proposed plat by Rice County indicating that Shimbros Acres is dedicating a portion of the Falls Trail to the public. This is a Forest Township road and is acknowledged by Forest Township. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Sam Sunderlin shared updated information about the Forest Economic Development Association. The goal is to advocate for the safe, responsible and sustainable economic development of Forest Township and surrounding areas on behalf of residents. The organization is defined as a 501 c4.

It was requested to include links to local agencies on the Forest Township website. This includes: The Sportsman's Club, Circle Lake Association, and Circle Lake Improvement District (clidmn.com), and the newly formed Forest Economic Development Association.

The Circle Lake Improvement District is planning to hold its annual meeting on August 17. Dean asked permission to hold the meeting in the garage to accommodate for proper social distancing. The board is willing to pull the truck and the grader out.

The Circle Lake race has been cancelled for 2020.

After this last rain, the lake has risen quite rapidly. Reading on the dam is 5.1 and is still going up. At level 5, water begins to encroach on Circle Lake Trail. Dean is still looking at pursuing options to stabilize the shore line by Circle Lake Trail. Due to high water, there is a no wake restriction on Circle Lake. A reminder, if someone needed to report a no wake violation, please call the non-emergency number, not 911.

The county asked for townships to report any washed out roads or damages that have occurred due to heavy rainfalls. There is nothing to report to the county regarding road damage.

Circle Lake Association has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to dredge and the spoils will be moved by dump truck to a retention basement off Dawson Ave. The trucking activity will occur in August or September. It may place strain on 130<sup>th</sup> and the Association has put aside funds for any necessary road repair and will work with the township for signage.

Two variances are going to the Rice County Board of adjustments regarding setbacks.

There is a remote hearing on Monday, July 6 regarding a dispute between of Forest Township resident and Rice County. Ron will attend on behalf of the township. The County is looking for road records that Bridgewater and Forest may have regarding Baseline Road.

Residents of the Trondhjem Shores Lake Access Association had some concerns about the construction at 9090 Baker Ave. This has been resolved.

The Minnesota Association of Townships has a new health insurance benefit available to township officers. The board determined not to pursue at this time.

There is federal funding available to townships. Before receiving the funding, local governments will have to certify how they intend to use the money, as the CARES Act requires payments only to be used to cover necessary costs related to the pandemic that weren't account for in budgets. The township would have to request the funding. The county is picking up the tab for all the COVID election precautions. The money is to be spent by November 15.

A resident of Maples Shores has some concerns about water drainage through the neighborhood. Charlie suggested that he talk to Jake at Rice County Planning and Zoning.

Some road work and ditch work were discussed. Charlie will spray parsnip patches, cut some low hanging trees, and repair some culverts. The township will also be doing some dust control. The board discussed renting a lift to trim necessary trees throughout the township.

## 5. **ADJOURN**

*Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Charlie seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.