



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday August 5, 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 JULY 1, 2020.

Ashley read the minutes from the July 1 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 \$334,280.29 This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed.

The township received 30% of the first half of property tax distribution from Rice County and the first half of the Town Aid allocation. The two SSD CDs were cashed in and transferred into their corresponding funds.

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

4. BUSINESS

The court date regarding the dispute between a Baseline Road resident and Rice County has been pushed back to October 23, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Elaine will send a plant to Arnie Horejsi family on behalf of the town board. He served as a treasurer of the town board for many years.

Jeff Docken, Rice County Commissioner, discussed the disputes regarding road right of ways on Baseline Road. Road records were found by both Bridgewater and Forest Township which date the late 1800's.

Jeff encouraged the Township to apply for the CARES funding. The Township can forfeit the unused money to Rice County. Jeff has not heard anything recently regarding the highway commercial district.

Dean sent the formal notice that the Circle Lake Improvement District will have its annual meeting on the August 17. Dean plans to use the shop to provide room for social distancing. Steve will move the truck and the grader prior to the meeting as well as to close up the building after the meeting. Bill will show Dean the space in advance to the meeting.

A pond near Circle Lake had some issues which Charlie is working with property owners to address. In addition, the Township is providing two loads of gravel to help a private road address the steepness of a hill. The residents are responsible for the rest of the work. Bill called Kilmeyer for two loads of gravel to be dropped by Mazaska but he hasn't heard back from them.

There was a meeting at the end of June regarding the softener issue at Circle Lake Estates. Ashley will mail a letter to the offenders on behalf of the Town Board in an effort to address the issue. In addition, all homeowners will receive a letter regarding the annual Circle Lake Estates SSD meeting to be held September 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM. They will be mailed by August 14.

There are three Board of Adjustment Items on the agenda regarding Forest Township. One road right of way setback limitation, one setback limitation, and one accessory structure size limitation variance. The board does not have any concerns regarding these items.

They are done dredging at Circle Lake but have not yet begun hauling.

Ashley presented a resolution appointing election judges for the August Primary and the November General Election.

Bill made a motion to appoint Amy Jordahl, Ed Olson, Kathleen Dodds, Ellen Neilsen, Wendy Malecha, Brenda Jirik, Faith Lund, Jan Gillen, Myrna Peterson, Ashley Anderson, and Michelle Vosejka to serve in the Primary Election on August 11, 2020 and/or the General Election on November 3, 2020. Charlie seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has been receiving reports of residents receiving unsolicited seeds from China. There have been no known reports in Forest Township. Ashley will post the warning on the Forest Township website.

The County has asked for Forest Township's Election Administration grant in the amount of \$798.00. The county has purchased all PPE for the Forest Township Elections.

Charlie made a motion to allow Rice County to keep Forest Township's CARES Election Administration Grant allocation of \$798.00. Bill seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

The County is asking for Townships to apply for the CARES Grant. If the Township does not end up using some or all of the funds, the County is asking that the Township send it to them for COVID-19 Expenses. Ashley will ask for more information from the County on how to pass along the unspent funds to the County.

Elaine listened to the recent MAT conference call regarding the CARES funding. The board discussed using the funding to upgrade the Town Halls air exchange system. Ashley will email MAT to find out if that is a valid expense.

Charlie made a motion for Forest Township to apply for the allocated CARES funding. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The District 4 Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 PM. Ashley will attend the District 4 Meeting on behalf of the township.

Ideal Energies reached out to Forest Township about our interest in solar to reduce the Township's electrical expenses. The Town Board is currently not interested.

5. ADJOURN

Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Charlie seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.