



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Tuesday, March 10, 2020
1:00 PM
Annual Meeting minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ashley Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

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

9 residents present.

2. ELECT MODERATOR

Bob Dubon made a motion to elect Steve Trnka as the 2020 Forest Township Annual Meeting Moderator. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2019.

Ashley read the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting.

Bob Dubon made a motion to approve the minutes. Greg Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

4. 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

Elaine presented the 2019 Forest Township financial report.

Ron Gernandt made a motion to accept the financial report. Greg Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

5. SELECT OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Greg Dubon made a motion to select Northfield News and Faribault Daily News as the official publications for Forest Township. Charlie Peters seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

6. SELECT NOTICE POSTING PLACES

Ron Gernandt made a motion to select the Forest Town Hall as the official posting place. Greg Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

7. SET TIME FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Bob Dubon made a motion for the 2021 Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Greg Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. FIRE DISTRICT 1: LONSDALE – There were 27 calls in 2019. They have 2 new members. They also have 2 new officers. They ordered a new rescue squad. The next replacement is the water truck as their older truck is from 1960. They budgeted \$382,000 and only expended \$238,000, but they have not yet paid for the new rescue squad. The Forest Township expenses went down approximately \$200, so the board proposes to keep the levy the same.
- b. FIRE DISTRICT 2: NORTHFIELD – The requested expenses are going up a small amount, but the board proposes to keep the levy the same at \$18,000.

9. TAX LEVY

a. PROPOSED REVENUE FUND: \$60,000, increase of \$10,000

The revenue fund covers township officers, the building, and general fund expenses. The levy hasn't been raised since around 2002.

Greg Dubon made a motion to increase the revenue fund to \$60,000, a \$10,000 increase. Ron Gernandt seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

b. PROPOSED ROAD AND BRIDGE: \$175,000, increase of \$25,000

Upcoming road and bridge projects include guardrails on Culver trail, trees cut down across the township, cut down the steepness of the hill on Culver Avenue and necessary ditch maintenance. Priority tree trimming includes: Lake Mazaska and Dover Trail. The township agreed to look at cutting down dead trees that were sprayed. In addition, the grader is 11 years old and will need some maintenance and new tires.

Elaine Tnka made a motion to increase the road and bridge fund to \$175,000, a \$25,000 increase. Greg Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

c. PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT 1: \$32,000, same as 2020

Ron Gernandt made a motion to keep the Fire District 1 fund at \$32,000. Greg Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

d. PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT 2: \$18,000, same as 2020

Bill Malecha made a motion to keep the Fire District 2 fund at \$18,000. Bob Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

10. OLD BUSINESS

- Last year, the board signed a petition for an additional study regarding the Wolf Creek Autobahn. It is understood that the project has been permanently halted in its current state.
- Last year, the township ran into issues with gravel but have put some safeguards in place to ensure this year is smoother. The township has put bonds in place and Kielmeyer has agreed to offer earlier delivery and allowing for rock to be sampled and trucks to be weighed.
- The Sportsman's Club donated \$10,000 to hard wire the Tornado Siren.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Rice County is proposing a new comprehensive plan which enlarges the highway commercial zone through the township and is updating the land description to commercial industrial. Sam Sunderlin will work with the town board asking the county to redo a study from 2006 determining the feasibility of this change. It was noted that part of the reason for the move to industrial commercial is to make room for existing businesses operating within this corridor. It is understood that any project will require sewer and water and residents would like to know the feasibility and impact of that.
- The County has offered to dump extra sand and salt near the town hall for residents to use. Exposed to the elements, these materials are not as useful. It was proposed to put up a hoop building, with the Sportsman's Club, to keep materials dry. The Township will get some bids on the building and Greg will propose it to the Sportsman's Club.

Ron Gernandt made a motion to solicit bids for a hoop building to store extra sand and salt in Forest Township. Bob Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

- There was discussion of enlarging the asphalt in the Town Hall parking lot.
- There was discussion of the cleaning fees vs. the town hall rental income. It was decided to keep the rental fee unchanged.
- The Sportsman's Club installed the internet last August.

12. ADJOURN

Ron Gernandt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Bill Malecha seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.

