



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday, September 1, 2021
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 THE MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 4, 2021.

Ashley read the minutes from the August 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 \$469,580.06. This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed. The township received \$2,087.44 from Rice County for the 2021 DNR Wildlife Management and Natural Resource Land, In Lieu of Property Tax. The town board has never received the parcel numbers associated with the DNR payments. The Township also received its first ARPA payment in the amount of \$68,622.34 The second half will come in August 2022. Elaine set up a separate ARPA fund in CTAS. Forest Township was charged half of the attorney fees for drawing up the Joint Powers agreement. These fees were coded as ARPA.

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

4. BUSINESS

Jerry Anderson would like to form a permanent committee regarding creating trails around the lake. Jerry would like the board to create the committee. Forest Township did not get the SMIF

grant. The goal of the committee would be to develop a plan for when funds become available. It would be a volunteer committee.

Bill made a motion to establish a trail committee to explore and plan a trail system around the lake. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Jerry will get the board names of people who may want to serve on the committee.

Jerry had some concerns regarding softeners in the Circle Lake Estates Subordinate Service District and would like to increase communications regarding how individual homes are doing in the SSD. Jerry would like to work to accomplish communicating to the people that are still offending the softener regulation. Charlie will work with Tom to create the charts and to pull Fall samples and determine how to communicate it back to the homeowners.

The board discussed the joint powers board.

Ashley, Charlie, and Bill volunteered to serve on the Board. Meeting and staff expenses will be billed to the general fund.

49 loads of gravel have gone on township roads thus far. The load weights have been good. Our contract was for 3200 tons with the option of obtaining more. The group discussed additional places that still need rock. Charlie pulled out a few specs to test.

Forest Township has no items on this month's Planning Commission or Board of Adjustment meetings. In Northfield Township, they are looking at changing some urban reserve back to agriculture.

The board reviewed the building permits and had no concerns.

The Circle Lake Association is going to hold its race on September 18, and they would like to borrow signs and cones. The town board approved.

Dean mentioned some erosion issues by the Culver Ave Hill project and asked if there are additional items the town board can do to prevent erosion while the vegetation reestablishes. There were also some concerns about the water going from the pipe to the gully under Fox Lake Trail. The township will mat and seed the hill and is looking for some field rock to establish a base to address the water coming out of the pipe.

A resident asked for a driveway permit on Fairbanks Ave, which is a county road. The resident was told to obtain the permit from the county. Another resident asked for a driveway permit on Cyrus Trail, which is a private road. The township was unable to grant the permit due to it being a private road.

The board is reviewing street signs and have a list of intersections that need to be replaced. Streets are an allowable expense under ARPA, the board discussed using ARPA funds to pay for the street sign replacements.

Crushed rock is also an allowable expense. The board discussed some of the Culver Hill project being billed against ARPA. The board discussed some of the other allowable expenses. The group discussed potentially trying to budget out the ARPA funds.

The Minnesota Association of Township's 2021 Education Conference and Annual Meeting will be held virtually on September 9-11.

Ashley received some communication from the County regarding redistricting.

The Tail gate for the truck is on backorder and therefor has not yet been repaired.

The group discussed the rezoning ordinance proposed by Bridgewater Township. The proposed change is not bound by a certain geographical area in Bridgewater Township but would impact the whole county. The commissioners sent it forward for a public hearing on October 7. Residents mentioned some concerns regarding this ordinance and its impact on all Rice County townships.

5. ADJOURN

Bill made a motion to adjourn at 7:07 pm. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.