



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Tuesday, March 9, 2021
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

4 residents present and 2 present on Zoom.

2. ELECT MODERATOR

Ron Gernandt made a motion to elect Steve Trnka as the 2021 Forest Township Annual Meeting Moderator. Charlie Peters seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 10, 2020.

Ashley read the minutes from the 2020 annual meeting.

Ron Gernandt made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Malecha seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

4. 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Elaine presented the 2020 Forest Township financial report and discussed each fund including receipts, disbursements, and fund balances.

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

5. SELECT OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

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

6. SELECT NOTICE POSTING PLACES

Elaine Trnka made a motion to select the Forest Town Hall as the official posting place. Paul Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

7. SET TIME FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Paul Dubon made a motion for the 2022 Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 1:00 PM. Ron Gernandt seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. FIRE DISTRICT 1: LONSDALE – There were 40 calls in Forest Township in 2020, 11.5% of their total calls. There are no unpaid fire calls. There are 2 new members this year. They received the delivery of new rescue truck in the last few months. The next vehicle scheduled for replacement is the tanker. They are working to move up the replacement schedule to get the new tanker truck early next year. They plan to raise the township expenses to \$33,906 for 2022 in an effort to move up vehicle replacement schedule. There is an excess in this account, so the board does not recommend a levy increase at this time.
- b. FIRE DISTRICT 2: NORTHFIELD – Ashley Anderson will be the fire representative for Forest Township. 13.4% of the call volume are from Forest Township. They received a new rescue truck this year and plan to order a new tanker next. They have a new pumper budgeted after that. There is no plan for a budget increase for the next 2 years but are looking at an approximate 5% increase after that. The board does not recommend a levy increase.

9. TAX LEVY

- a. **PROPOSED REVENUE FUND: \$60,000, same as 2021**

Ron Gernandt made a motion to keep the revenue fund at \$60,000, same as 2021. Charlie Peters seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

- b. **PROPOSED ROAD AND BRIDGE: \$175,000, same as 2021**

Charlie Peters made a motion to keep the road and bridge fund at \$175,000, same as 2021. Bill Malecha seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

- c. **PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT 1: \$32,000, same as 2021**

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

d. PROPOSED FIRE DISTRICT 2: \$18,000, same as 2021

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

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. CARES MONEY** – Forest Township received CARES money from the federal government for COVID-related expenses. The sum was based on the population of the township. The township used funds to replace the furnace with MER air filters and ventilator, put in a sidewalk for an additional exit for voting to provide adequate social distancing, technology for virtual meetings, and PPE. The remaining funds went to Rice County to be used for countywide COVID-related expenses.
- b. FOREST TOWNSHIP WEBSITE** – Ashley shared information about the new Forest Township website.
- c. Culver Ave hill** – the township plans to level the hill and install guard rails this year.
- d. Hoop building** – The township will continue to explore installing a hoop building to store sand and salt.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. GRADER** – The grader is almost 12 years old. It does need new tires which run about \$15,000 and there is 21,000 miles on it.
- b. APPOINTED VS ELECTED CLERK & TREASURER** – The board discussed Option B – which allows townships to have an appointed clerk and treasurer vs an elected clerk and treasurer. If the board passes a motion at a township meeting to pursue, then it will be placed as a question on the 2022 Township Election ballot.

Jan Gillen made a motion for the town board to pursue Option B, which would allow for an appointed vs elected clerk and treasurer. Paul Dubon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

12. ADJOURN

Bill Malecha made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. Jan Gillen seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.