



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
6:00 PM
Monthly Township & Board of Audit 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, Bill Malecha, Elaine Trnka, Ashley Anderson

2. FOREST TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The following 2021 reports were presented to the Town Board Supervisors:

- Disbursements Ledger
- Receipts Ledger
- Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances (Schedule 1)
- Statement of Receipts, Accrued Interest, Disbursements, and Balances (Schedule 1a)
- Cash Control Statement
- Receipts Register
- Disbursements Register

Elaine and Ashley have balanced all clerk and treasurer funds and accounts and all match. Each receipt and disbursement are accounted for. Elaine walked the supervisors through each report and explained how all monies received and disbursed from the township are reported.

The supervisors each chose a receipt and a disbursement; Ashley verified each clerk and treasurer had documentation for each chosen receipt and claim.

The 2021 receipts, claims, and statements were examined, audited, and approved.

The board discussed the levy for 2023 and proposes the following:

- Fire District 1/Lonsdale: \$32,000, which is the same as 2022.
- Fire District 2/Northfield: \$20,000, which is a \$2,000 increase.
- General: \$60,000.00, which is the same as 2022.
- Road and Bridge: \$175,000, which is the same as 2022.

Charlie made a motion proposing the Forest Township levy for 2023 as follows: \$32,000 for Fire District 1, \$20,000 for Fire District 2, \$60,000 for the General Fund, and \$175,000 for the Road and Bridge Fund. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

3. APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 5, 2022.

Ashley read the minutes from the January 5 meeting.

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

Ashley read the minutes for the January 12 Tupa Cartway Petition Special Meeting.

Charlie made a motion to approve the minutes. Ron seconded the motion. All voted and favor and the motion carried.

4. TRESURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was presented with a township balance of \$462,253.12. This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed.

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

5. BUSINESS

The town board received a \$10,000 check from Julie Tupa which will be deposited into Forest Township's State Bank checking account. When the township receives bills, they will seek approval from both the Township's and the Tupa's attorneys prior to paying them out of the \$10,000 security. Ashley will provide Julie with a receipt of the money received. The town board will bill the Tupa Cartway fund for time spent on the cartway petition.

The township's attorney had to step out of the proceedings due to a conflict of interest but recommended a new lawyer. Prior to his departure he reviewed the Jeno route and said the easements were very incomplete.

Charlie contacted WSB regarding the Culver Ave Hill guardrail project. They produced a map, footages, and suggested a class of guardrail. Charlie sent the information to two contractors. He received back a bid from both. One bid was \$30,000 and the other bid was \$74,000. Charlie is working on a spec sheet with the engineer to ensure the same project is being bid by both contractors.

Approximately \$39,000 has been spent on the Culver Ave Hill project to date. Additional work needs to be done around Giga's.

There is one application on the Board of Adjustment meeting in Forest Township regarding the building of a new shed near the north end of Fox Lake.

There will be a Forest Bridgewater Joint Powers Development District meeting on February 16.

This week was the bankruptcy meeting for the previously proposed motor park along I35. There was a group of investors from Atlanta who reached out to Forest Township regarding the project.

Glen Castore and Charlie will be having an upcoming discussion with the Faribault City Administrator and the Faribault Mayor about sewer and water in Forest Township.

Charlie is going to recertify his pesticide license. The township will pay his class fees.

There is a gravel road maintenance and design training in Mankato in March.

The board reviewed resolution 2022-02, appointing election judges for the township election.

Charlie made a motion to accept resolution 2022-02, appointing Jan Gillen, Charles Peters, William Malecha, and Elaine Trnka as election judges for the Forest Township election to be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Bill seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Recent legislative changes allow local units of government to categorize 100% of their ARPA funds to the lost revenue category. This category allows units of government to pay for government services. The Minnesota Association of Townships recommends townships pass a resolution allocating that the funds they received through ARPA will be spent in the lost revenue category.

Charlie made a motion to accept resolution 2022-03 stating that \$139,491.87, the amount received as ARPA funds, will be used to pay for government services with funds out of the lost revenue replacement category. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Dean asked if the Town Board would consider using ARPA funds for Circle Lake Improvement District projects. The board suggested that they had other projects that were being prioritized.

The board has not heard anything additional about sales or purchase agreements in the Development District. Charlie does not know about any Rice County meetings discussing zoning.

Tom, from Advanced Septic, brought the annual SSD reports for the township to review.

2 systems tested high in fecal. The industry thought is that the increase in use of antibacterial products is hurting the good bugs in septic systems.

Tom would like the fence repaired at Maple Shores in the Spring.

Tom did a retest on the 13 softener offenders in Circle Lake Estates and there are only 3 or 4 homes left that need to be addressed.

All flow rates are good.

Tom discussed a future project at Maple Shores and Fox Lake taking place in the pea gravel. He will investigate it further and come back to the board with a proposal to fix the issue.

Tom had a problem with a homeowner on Circle Lake. Tom found some unidentified substance in the homeowner's pump tank. He is not seeing it in the other tanks. The homeowner was not receptive to service or education. If Tom doesn't have luck discussing it with the homeowner, Charlie will reach out to the homeowner. The township has concerns about how this might impact the main system.

6. ADJOURN

Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm. Ron seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.