



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday, October 5, 2022
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, Elaine Trnka, William Malecha, Ashley Anderson

2. APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 MEETING

Ashley read the minutes from the September 7 meeting. There was a correction

Bill made a motion to approve the minutes, with a correction. 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 \$318,341.28 This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed. Township received the DNR payment in lieu of taxes from Rice County in the amount of \$2,095.63.

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

4. BUSINESS

Charlie and Bill gave an update on the Joint Powers Board. The Joint Powers Board proposed the following: Forest and Bridgewater Townships will run engineering costs through the Joint Powers board and share costs. When development begins, each township will be responsible for their own water and sewage infrastructure costs. When tax assessments on developments begin, 10% of the tax revenue will be contributed to the Joint Powers account. The Forest Town Board agreed upon the terms.

The County applied for a federal grant to put a water tower along the interstate.

The board discussed taking some trees down by the Circle Lake access.

The board reviewed the list of approved Town Hall rentals who can rent the Town Hall at no cost. The board determined HOAs are required to pay the full rental fee.

The board discussed the upcoming Minnesota Association of Townships Annual Meeting and training opportunities.

Forest Township has one variance on the BOA. The board had no concerns. Charlie updated the group about the upcoming hearing regarding rezoning additional land to rural industrial in Bridgewater.

Ashley shared information about required recent public hearings as Xcel Energy is asking the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to approve an increase to natural gas rates for distribution service.

There are no unpaid bills yet for 2022. Elaine called Ben, the new Advanced Septic owner, as the township has not received any recent Advanced Septic bills. The board discussed letting Ben catch up prior to asking for private outstanding invoices for 2022 for assessment.

Charlie has been in communication with the Circle Lake Estates SSD members. They have decided to not hold a meeting in 2022. The SSD will extend the 2022 annual assessment for 2023. The group will meet again in 2023 to set the annual assessment amount for 2024 and 2025.

The board reviewed the annual polling place resolution. *Charlie made a motion to name the Forest Town Hall as the designated site for all elections held in 2023. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Board reviewed Wheeling Township's concern about election poll pad security. The Forest Town Board will not pursue the abandonment of poll pads for Forest Township elections.

The board reviewed Rice County's updated property tax insert information.

The board discussed future gravel bids and will place an ad in January/February newspapers for crushed rock.

The board clarified the following election pay and mileage: Hours: The township pays election judges hourly for time training online, training in person at Rice County, including travel time to the Government Services building, and time spent at the election. The township will also pay election judges mileage at .60/mile to any required training held at the Rice County Government Services Building. The township does not pay for mileage to the polling place on election day. Ashley will also bring snacks for election judges on election day.

5. ADJOURN

Bill made a motion to adjourn at 6:36 pm. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.