



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday, February 1, 2023
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, Ashley Anderson, Elaine Trnka

2. FOREST TOWNSHIP 2022 BOARD OF AUDIT

The following 2022 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 and Elaine verified each clerk and treasurer had documentation for each chosen receipt and claim. Elaine notified the board that receipt 20457 was voided.

The 2022 receipts, claims, and statements were examined, audited, and approved.

The board discussed the levy for 2024 and proposes the following:

- Fire District 1/Lonsdale: \$32,000, which is the same as 2023.
- Fire District 2/Northfield: \$21,500, which is a \$1,500 increase.

- General: \$60,000.00, which is the same as 2023.
- Road and Bridge: \$175,000, which is the same as 2023.

Bill made a motion proposing the Forest Township levy for 2024 as follows: \$32,000 for Fire District 1, \$21,500 for Fire District 2, \$60,000 for the General Fund, and \$175,000 for the Road and Bridge Fund. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

3. APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 4, 2023 MEETING

Ashley read the minutes from the January 4 meeting.

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

4. TRESURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was presented with a township balance of \$406,971.55. This is the balance with the SSD and Tri-Lakes accounts removed. The Township received the final 2022 property taxes, a gravel tax, green acres payment, and a refuge revenue payment.

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

5. BUSINESS

Dean shared that an organization was out checking the oxygen levels in Circle Lake. The oxygen level in the lake is low which causes concern for the lake's viability to support fish. When sampled, northernns were still alive, but other fish species were not. They are looking at some other methods to help.

The Township no longer has a contractor to complete locator requests for the Township's SSDs. Charlie will complete these for now.

Charlie reported that all SSD's are winterized.

Charlie provided an update on the Forest Bridgewater Joint Powers Development District. In Bridgewater Township, RLS has signed a letter of intent and has started an EAW on the site. If this goes through, there might be some other companies interested in locating in the District. Bridgewater is supporting the project's infrastructure costs. The County is looking to do an area urban assessment review for the I35 Corridor. The Township would likely have to financially contribute so they can have some input on what development they want to see in the highway commercial zone. Charlie will let the board know when the time comes to join.

The board discussed a future water tower site next to I35.

The board discussed the 2023 request for gravel bids. Ashley will put it in the Northfield and Faribault paper this week.

Charlie discussed a zoning ordinance amendment currently in front of the Planning Commission which would allow privately-owned business recycling or compost sites. Current zoning only allows for private composting. The board must determine the size of allowable sites, how close neighbors can be, etc. The Forest Township board would like to see the amendment narrowed to prevent undesirable businesses being able to locate in Forest Township.

The Board discussed the salting and sanding of Township roads. The board discussed potentially putting brine on asphalt and straight sand on other roads. The board discussed making a change for next winter. Charlie will look at the equipment costs to add a brine tank and other required materials.

Dan worked plowed at lot this past month. The board stated that the Township does not offer holiday pay for work done on holidays.

The board reviewed the Northfield Fire Agreement for 2023. Ron signed the agreement. The board agreed to pay \$21,598 for service in 2023, split in 2 payments.

The board discussed going to Mankato for the Minnesota Association of Township's Short Courses on March 22. The Reorganizational meeting will take place at 4:00 p.m. at the Forest Town Hall. Ashley will publish and post as it is considered a special meeting.

Ashley shared the annual Boundary and Annexation Survey. The board reviewed the boundaries and confirmed the boundaries are correct and they have no changes to report. Ashley will submit the survey.

The board verified that Ed Koktavy's driveway is complete. The permit can be closed and filed.

Elaine shared the life insurance policy for town board members.

Metronet is installing fiber optic cable at 12627 Cyrus Trail.

The Forest Township Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

The board discussed records retention. Ashley will research different records retention strategies to organize township records at the Town Hall.

6. ADJOURN

Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 7:02 pm. Ron seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.