



**Forest Township**  
Rice County  
3625 Millersburg Boulevard  
Faribault, Minnesota

**Wednesday, July 3, 2024**  
**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, William Malecha, Lisa Trnka

**2. APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 5, 2024 MEETING**

Ashley read the minutes from the June 5 meeting.

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

**3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer's report was presented with a township balance of \$254,489.60. The Township received the first installment of property taxes in June. Lisa reviewed receipts received in June. The current Township investments are: \$206,010.68 for the Township and \$30,000 for the Fox Lake SSD. The board redeemed one CD and deposited it into the Road and Bridge account.

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

**4. BUSINESS**

A resident asked about washed-out gravel on Fairbanks. The board is working on getting gravel in the identified area, as well as other areas in the township.

A resident brought forward concerns about the road maintenance and suggested maintaining narrower township roads and utilizing a rubber roller.

A resident has some concerns about Garfield Avenue and the culvert not being large enough as water is backing up into the resident's field. The Town Board will look at it.

Charlie went to a meeting at Rice County to discuss the June rain events and reimbursement options from the state of Minnesota. Currently they are asking for Townships to document, take photos and collect invoices from cleanup due to the June 2 and June 16 rain events. The Township will be responsible for 25% and the state will pay 75% of the associated costs. Ashley and Lisa will code the claims separately.

The board discussed what to do with the material removed from township ditches.

The board discussed service plans for the road grader.

*Bill moved to move forward with the service contract for PM 1-4 by Ziegler CAT. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Ashley read the meeting minutes from the Forest Township SSD Short Term Rental Prohibition Hearing.

*Charlie made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Ashley presented the Forest Township Employee Sick and Safe Time (ESST) policy created to put Forest Township in compliance with the new ESST state law. The Township approved paying Elaine for her 2024 ESST hours.

*Charlie made a motion to approve the Forest Township Employee Sick and Safe Time (ESST) Policy. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion carried.*

Ashley presented Resolution 2024-03, Appointing August Primary and November General election judges.

*Charlie made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-03, Appointing August Primary and November General election judges. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

The Rice County Fair Board thanked the Township for their support.

Elaine shared her thanks for her retirement card. The board approved that Elaine keep her 4-year-old used printer.

Kolacky Days is hosting a gravel bike ride on July 27. The route is on a county road, not a township road.

CLID is receiving calls about recent weed spraying by Circle Lake. There was concern that the chemicals were getting in the water table. Charlie stays away from the water. A resident mowed at Circle Lake Estates around the fence at the SSD system and informed the board of a deep spot.

Bill went to the Northfield Fire Meeting.

If Charlie gets elected as County Commissioner, he could not continue to serve on the Town Board. He would consider being a consultant for the Township regarding the SSDs. Ashley will call the MN Association of Townships to find out the process for filling Charlie's seat in January and what the election process is.

Charlie talked to Ben about the SSD system given all the rain fall.

## **5. ADJOURN**

*Bill made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 pm. Charlie seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*