

**Forsyth Township Board
Special Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
May 23, 2022**

Supervisor Boogren called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Boogren, Clerk Lauren, Trustee Bodenus and Trustee Heikkila

Board Members Absent: Treasurer Kevern

Also Present: UPEA Representatives Matt Treado and Carr Baldwin, Court Reporter Sandra Larson, a number of township employees and concerned citizens.

Agenda: Motion by Lauren, supported by Bodenus, to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

Public Hearing: Sewer System Improvements Project:

Supervisor Boogren opened the public hearing at 4:30 p.m. UPEA Representative Matt Treado introduced himself and read a document explaining the CWRP Project Plan and possible funding. Priscilla Rucha asked if ARPA funds could be used for the project. Supervisor Boogren explained the ARPA funds could be used for many things, but timing and amount may be better suited for other projects. He also stated that it would be the best time to repair the sewer system during the M-35 MDOT project slated for next year. The savings for the Township would be immense. Joseph Shubitsner questioned the former water project area. Supervisor Boogren stated that project did not touch the proposed project. Andrew Keating asked if the proposed increase of \$5.50, would be in effect until the entire loan was paid off. Mr. Treado affirmed any increase would be in effect until the loan was paid off. Clerk Lauren stated the most cost effective time to do the project is when MDOT replaces the highway. Supervisor Boogren reminded the residents the people that use the water and sewer system, will be the ones that will pay for it. Trustee Bodenus clarified that the resolution listed on the agenda will be for moving forward in the process. It is not for specific funding. Mr. Treado stated the resolution presented is to submit a project plan to the state, which will make a formal offer of funding. The township will chose which offer will be most cost effective, at a later date. The rates will not be raised until a funding option is chosen and a study is done to decide what money is needed to pay the loan. Erin Bertocchi asked if the collective project would have one contractor or the sewer project would need an additional contractor. Mr. Treado explained that the portions of the sewer project that were involved in the MDOT project would be with the MDOT contractor. The portions that were outside the scope of the MDOT project would have its own contractor. After no other comments were offered, Supervisor Boogren closed the public hearing at 4:45 p.m.

Public Comment: None

ACTION ITEMS:

CWRP Resolution (7a.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Lauren, to approve the Resolution Adopting a Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements and Designating an Authorized Project

Representative, as presented. Roll call: Trustee Bodenus – yes, Trustee Heikkila – yes, Supervisor Boogren – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Treasurer Kevern – absent. Motion carried.

Discussion: None

Recess: Motion by Boogren, supported by Bodenus, to recess the meeting at 4:47 p.m. The meeting will be called back to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Supervisor Boogren called the meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Boogren, Clerk Lauren and Trustee Heikkila

Board Members Absent: Treasurer Kevern and Trustee Bodenus

Also Present: Attorney Bill Nordeen, a number of township employees and concerned citizens.

Public Hearing: Short Term Rentals Ordinance:

Supervisor Boogren opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. Trustee Heikkila thanked the committee for their hard work. She further explained that they had modeled the proposed ordinance after Munising's and Michigamme's, but had revised it to meet the needs of Forsyth Township. Meagan Hornbogen suggested adding the Boating No Wake regulations. Supervisor Boogren stated he did not approve of the Policing Power items being in the ordinance. The Township has laws governing those items so they should not be in the Short Term Rental Ordinance. Ms. Hornbogen questioned the violation fees. Trustee Heikkila recognized they should be changed to the civil infraction fees, then asked Attorney Nordeen to clarify. Clerk Lauren stated the violations should be corrected from "and" to "or". Supervisor Boogren explained there were many bills currently being reviewed in Lansing on this topic. The Townships may be stripped of making many regulations concerning Short Term Rentals. He would like the proposed ordinance to be less restrictive. Trustee Heikkila believes these are businesses acting in residential areas and need to have restrictions. Brian Nelson confirmed Police action is often dismissed with Short Term Rental policing complaints. Many residents complained about the lack of response when calling the Short Term Rental owners. Other residents confirmed Police do nothing when called to the properties. Supervisor Boogren stated to call the Township office if the Police do not respond. He will address the issues immediately. Many residents referenced strict bylaws used in many Short Term Rental homes and platforms. A few bad Short Term Rental owners make things difficult for the many good and responsible Short Term Rental owners. The Short Term Rental Committee will meet to address some of the concerns commented on during the Public Hearing. Attorney Nordeen will rewrite the Ordinance. A revised ordinance will be presented to the Board when complete. After no other comments were offered, Supervisor Boogren closed the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: Trustee Heikkila will meet with the Short Term Rental Committee soon.

Adjournment: Supervisor Boogren adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ronald Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk