

**Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
September 22, 2022**

Supervisor Boogren called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the Minutes from the August 25, 2022 Board Meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the agenda with the additions of 10o. MERS Defined Contribution Plan, 10p. 2023 Road Projects Recommendations, 10q. Hire Firefighter, 10r. Marihuana Ordinance Amendment, 11f. Future Public Works positions/hiring and 11g. Political Signs. Trustee Bodenus would like to limit late additions because of the research involved in making decisions. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Rich Johnson commented on the Life Tracker presentation next week and the Drug Take Back Day at the end of October. Dennis Dufek commented on taekwondo classes in the Clubhouse.

Department Reports: The following reports were placed on file: EMS, Assessing, Zoning, Senior Center, Library, Police, General Operating Financial, Emergency Management and Water/Sewer Committee.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Pickens had nothing to report.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the bills and vouchers totaling \$125,067.38, as presented. Motion carried.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
9/22/22**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Auto Value	Various Dept Parts	5,084.98
A Lindberg & Sons	Gravel	225.18
Airgas	PW/FD Cylinder Rental	1,472.64
Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating	CH Refrigerator Repair	227.50
Bergdahl's Inc.	PW Parts	63.99
Michelle Borrett	SC Reimbursement for Picnic	378.04
City of Marquette	Water Testing	75.00

County of Marquette	Assessing Contract	26,751.00
College Laundry & Rentals	Uniform & Carpet Service	94.11
Crossroads Truck Repair	Garbage Truck Part	45.00
Dalco	PW Supplies	427.02
Dixon Engineering	Water Tower Inspection	4,850.00
Elcom	EMS Charger	410.40
Emergency Medical Products	EMS Medical Supplies	342.81
Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes	Audit Letter	27.50
Ferno	EMS Medical Supplies	944.00
Froberg's Clothing	PW Clothing	169.32
Galls	PD Uniforms	626.48
Great Lakes Testing	FD Hose/Ladder Testing	2,756.20
Holiday Cleaners	PD FD Dry Cleaning	380.93
Industrial Marketing & Consulting	PW Holder Repairs	996.84
Infinity Family Limited Partnership	Land Purchase	15,000.00
Integris	Computer Support	1,435.80
Jaqueline Clairmont	EMS Reimbursement for License and Exam	138.00
Kountry Korner	PW Oil	990.00
Menards	Various Dept Supplies	23.74
MML Work Comp	Audit	17,832.00
MRWA	PW Training	160.00
MTA	Clerk Training	50.00
North Country Disposal	Dump Recycle	295.00
Northland Lawn Sport & Equip	PW Mower Parts	159.09
Nye Uniform	PD Uniforms	37.39
Pomasl Fire Equip	FD Equipment	922.13
Quill	Various Dept Supplies	535.41
Range Telecommunications	Miss Dig/Batteries	459.00
State of Michigan	EMS Quality Assurance Assess	237.60
Talsma Controls	Princeton Booster Station Repair	1,680.00
Task Force Tips	FD Truck Repair	161.08
The Mining Journal	Publishing	1,111.21
The Office Planning Group	Copier Maintenance	219.49
UPHS DLP Marquette General	EMS Medical Supplies	1,003.17
UPHS Rampart	EMS Billing	3,633.00
Wells Fargo	Various Dept Supplies	344.62
White Water Associates	Water Analysis	2,583.29
Willey's Tire Shop	PW Tires	378.61
Total		95,738.57

**Forsyth Township
Additional Bills For Approval
9/22/22**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ace Hardware	Various Dept Supplies	696.07
American Welding & Gas	EMS Cylinder Rental	58.82
Auto Value	Previously Paid / On last month's Report	(3,480.16)
Emergency Medical Products	EMS Medical Supplies	1.20
Integris	Computer Support	525.00
Michigan Police Equipment	PD Ammunition	52.00
Modeltowner Mark	Zoning Signs	430.00
North Country Septic	Portable Restroom	165.00
Pomasl	FD Breathing Compressor	29,914.50
State of Michigan	PD Printing, Token, VPN / EMS License	566.75
Superior Lock	CH Alarm, DVR Repair	241.50
Transunion	PD Background Checks	75.00
US Postal Service	SC Postage	83.13
		29,328.81
Original Bill Listing		95,738.57
Total Accounts Payable		125,067.38

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 85937 - 86113
 Voucher Numbers for Tax 2130 - 2141

ACTION ITEMS:

PD – Cost Increase for Patrol Vehicle (10a.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Bodenus, to approve increasing the cost for a new patrol vehicle to \$45,240.00 plus ancillary equipment. Motion carried.

W/S Committee – 125 E. Sands St. (10b.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve taking no action on the water/sewer bill for 125 E. Sands Street, as recommended by the Water/Sewer Committee. Motion carried.

W/S Committee – NorthernAire Mobile Estates (10c.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Boogren, to approve amending the water/sewer bill for NorthernAire Mobile Estates, as recommended by the Water/Sewer Committee. Alternative rate structures will be researched. Motion carried.

Easement (10d.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Kevern, to approve the easement for Kyle and Autumn Aho, as presented. Discussion ensued. Motion amended by Boogren, support amended by Kevern, to approve the easement for Kyle and Autumn Aho with the amendment for utilities as discussed in last month's meeting. Motion carried.

A/Z – Marihuana Grow Facility (10e.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Boogren, to approve Briz Farms as a Marihuana Grow Operation, as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

A/Z – Marihuana Retail Facility (10f.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Lauren, to approve Custom Cannabis as a Marihuana Retail Operation, as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

PW – Roofing Quote for Museum (10g.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Kevern, to approve the quote from Bell Roofing for the Museum roof for \$32,600.00, as presented. Superintendent of Public Works explained some details of the quote. Motion carried.

Road Committee Appointment (10h.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve appointing Brad Johnson to the open position on the Roads Committee, as recommended by the Roads Committee. Supervisor Boogren stated there were great applicants. Motion carried.

EM – Office Equipment (10i.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve purchasing office equipment for the Emergency Management Office, not to exceed \$1,150.00. Motion carried.

EMS – Football Game Standby (10j.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Boogren, to approve billing the Gwinn Area Community Schools for EMS Standby at the football games, as presented. Motion carried.

EMS – EMT Basic Training (10k.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve paying for two candidates to attend EMT Basic training totaling \$2,600, as presented. Trustee Heikkila asked if the signed contract would be appropriate for grant money. EMS Director Baez explained it would be for the portion of costs not included in the grant. Motion carried.

EMS – EMT Training (10l.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Bodenus, to approve paying for one EMT to attend EMT Advanced training for \$850.00, as presented. Motion carried.

PW – Miscellaneous Debris Quote for Stratofort St. (10m.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve the quote for \$7,250.00 from North Country Disposal, as presented, for the debris cleanup on Stratofort. The cost will be put on the tax bill. Motion carried.

PW – Miscellaneous Debris Quote for Sands St. (10n.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Lauren, to approve the quote of \$1,500.00 from North Country Disposal, as presented, for debris cleanup at 140 Sands Street. Trustee Heikkila stated the quote does not include hazardous waste. Superintendent of Public Works Jancsi explained a company that specializes in hazard waste would be called in to address the material. Motion carried.

MERS Defined Contribution Plan (10o.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Kevern, to approve the MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement, as presented. Bookkeeper Rodgers explained the agreement was for setting up defined contributions that are now included in the union contracts. Motion carried.

2023 Road Projects Recommendations (10p.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve the 2023 Recommendations for Road Projects, as recommended by the Roads Committee. Treasurer Kevern explained the 2 roads were from last year's project, which were not completed. The other 2 road options were included to encompass any cost variations. Supervisor Boogren stated the streets listed are Blueberry, Sands, Billings and Jackpine. Motion carried.

Hire Firefighter (10q.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve hiring Nick Bjork as a Forsyth Township Firefighter. Motion carried.

Marihuana Ordinance Amendment (10r.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Kevern, to approve amending the Marihuana Ordinance, as presented. Supervisor Boogren explained the word Marihuana and Cannabis cannot currently be used in signage, which is precisely what the business is, therefore needs to be changed. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CDL Bonus (11a.): Attorney Pickens explained his research found there was a business in Escanaba that has online classes for \$79.00. Then a test through the State of Michigan needs to be passed. Originally it was thought that the class would cost \$2,900. The \$2,900 cost would be for driving through the class. This will be an ongoing discussion item.

Wage/Pay/Stipend Review (11b.): Clerk Lauren stated the committee met and they are still researching wages. He would like the changes to concur with the budget. Supervisor Boogren stated the annual audit was completed by the State of Michigan and zero discrepancies were found.

Board Meeting Video (11c.): Trustee Bodenus would like the Board Meetings televised for more community awareness and participation. Supervisor Boogren does not support. He will research a previous attorney's recommendation. This item will have action at next month's meeting.

Transfer Station Rate Assessment (11d.): Treasurer Kevern stated the current Transfer Station rate is adequate. However, the tire cost is not sufficient. Superintendent of Public Works Jancsi recommends raising the rate to \$5.00 per tire.

Motion by Boogren, supported by Kevern, to increase the tire rate at the Transfer Station to \$5.00 per tire. This will be effective October 1st. Motion carried.

Supervisor Boogren stated that there may be a need for two people at the Transfer Station, as it is being increasingly used.

Blight/Sanitation Services (11e.): Treasurer Kevern stated blight issues are being continually addressed. Supervisor Boogren brought up the issue of recycling at the Transfer Station, versus forcing residents to use a sanitation company. Superintendent of Public Works Jancsi explained the Township was collecting garbage, but it was voted down, so the Township is no longer providing that service.

UPEA Representative Ken Dillinger stated the house at 231 N. Maple is structurally sufficient, but unsafe as it stands. The entrances need to be secured for safety. Attorney Pickens will draft a letter to the owner to secure the house.

Future Public Works positions/hiring (11f.): Supervisor Boogren stated one Public Works employee will be retiring very soon, and two other laborers have resigned. He stated that perhaps a permanent position for the Transfer Station, with a CDL, should be considered. This position will be split to do other tasks in Public Works, as the Transfer Station is only open part time.

Political Signs (11g.): Clerk Lauren stated that a candidate has the word “re-elect” which is a liability to the Township. He will contact that candidate to correct the issue.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Public Comment: Michelle Borrett commented on the Clubhouse being closed on Monday and CDL permits. Rich Johnson commented on the Roads Committee Secretary and Crossing Guard wages and responsibilities. Brenda Veale commented on Crossing Guard Wages. Jane Nordeen commented on gym usage at the Clubhouse. Eric Jancsi commented on alternate places for taekwondo. Peggy Noha commented on the Supervisor’s attendance at the Sawyer Alliance meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to correct the Crossing Guard wage to \$12.00, as all other part time employees receive \$12.00 per hour.

Board Comment: Treasurer Kevern stated he was still working on a Cemetery Ordinance. He believes the savings of having a roll off truck will offset the cost. He then alerted the Board of hunters at the Ice Track. There is a playground close by. Trustee Bodenus questioned the legality of prohibiting hunting at that location. Attorney Pickens will look into the possibility of prohibiting hunting on Township property. Supervisor Boogren met with individuals interested in reestablishing the Farmers Market. He will do more research. Dumpster day will be Saturday.

Adjournment: Supervisor Boogren adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk