

**Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
February 22, 2024**

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

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the Minutes from the January 25, 2024 Board Meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

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

Public Comment: Aaron Jacobs commented on heavy truck restriction on Crestview. Jack Sedar thanked the Board and First Responders. He also commented on the progress of the Dog Ordinance. Ken Robers commented on the availability of the Board Packets and Planning Commission Packets to the public. Gene Suardini commented on the heavy truck traffic on Iron Street.

Department Reports: The following reports were placed on file: EMS, Assessing, Zoning, Senior Center, Fire, Library, Police, Public Works, General Operating Financial and Emergency Management.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Nordeen referred to a report he handed out to the Board Members. He stated he was working on a couple of Blight issues. Trustee Heikkila asked if the Zoning Ordinance needed to be amended for the Right to Farm Act. Attorney Nordeen explained the Right to Farm Act and GAAMPs. He will write a summary that can be used on the website.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Boogren referred to a report he distributed with the Board Packets. This report included Water/Sewer Project, DWAM grant, Water Tower painting, Ballfield Concession Stand and Pavilion and Recreation Plan. He also commented on the duties of the Water/Sewer Committee. The committee will advise the Board on projects and funding issues.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve the bills and vouchers totaling \$59,965.21, as presented. Motion carried.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
2/22/24**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Auto Value	Various Dept Parts	818.41
Airgas	PW Cylinder Rental	39.12

American Welding & Gas	EMS Oxygen	213.63
Beauchamp Plumbing and Heating	CH Kitchen Sink Repair	141.99
Michelle Borrett	SC Reimbursement for Party Supplies	197.78
City of Marquette	PW Bacteriological Analysis	75.00
Dalco	PW Supplies	321.15
Elcom	FD Pagers PD Patrol Vehicle Set Up	4,865.67
Emergency Medical Products	EMS Medical Supplies	653.80
Everbridge	Mass Notification Renewal	4,074.36
Fox Marquette	PD Parts	162.46
FoxFury LLC	FD Helmet Lights	499.76
Galls	PD Uniforms	605.13
Integris	Computer Support & Equipment	4,722.90
Industrial Marketing	PW Parts	319.04
Josh Preston	Reimbursement for Supplies	74.19
Marquette GMC	PW Parts	356.50
Menards	Various Dept Supplies	534.18
North Country Disposal	Dump Recycles	305.00
O'Dea, Nordeen and Pickens	Attorney Fees	850.00
Pomasl	FD Supplies	1,218.94
Quill	Various Dept Supplies	1,228.57
Range Telecommunications	FD Radio Parts PW Miss Dig	79.93
Remy Battery	PW Batteries	12.24
Snyder Drug	PD Supplies	77.71
Spectrum Printers	Election Supplies	3,688.08
State of Michigan	PD Services, EMS QA Assess, PW Training, FD Radio	2,967.50
The Mining Journal	Publishing	264.48
UPEA	Engineering	170.00
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Service	283.62
UPHS - Rampart	EMS Billing	6,069.00
UP Kubota	PW Parts	384.16
USA Bluebook	PW Parts	284.49
Wells Fargo	Various Dept Supplies	1,714.37
US Post Office	SC Postage	76.78
Total		38,349.94

**Forsyth Township
Additional Bills For Approval
2/22/24**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ace Hardware	Various Dept Supplies	218.71
10-8 Video	PD Cameras	573.00
Amazon	PD Supplies	63.17
Jacobson Excavating	Shady Lane Final Pmt	6,800.00
Menards	Various Dept Supplies	466.89
Miss Dig	Annual Fees	1,081.66
MDOT	Water Construction Fees	5,538.26
North Country Disposal	Transfer Dump Fees	305.00
Pomasl	FD Helmet	624.47
Pomp's	PD Tire	1,168.00
Quill	Supplies for Various Dept	45.28
Safariland Group	PD Supplies	22.00
Unifirst	Uniform & Carpet Various Dept	191.83
UPEA	Engineering	4,517.00
		21,615.27
	Original Bill Listing	38,349.94
	Total Accounts Payable	59,965.21

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 88309-88436
Voucher Numbers for Tax 2245-2255

ACTION ITEMS:

Budget Workshop Meeting Date (11a.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Lauren, to approve setting the Budget Workshop for Wednesday March 13th at 6:30 in the Clubhouse Lion’s Room. Discussion ensued. Motion amended by Boogren, support amended by Lauren, to approve setting the Budget Workshop for March 6th at 6:30 in the Clubhouse Big Room. Motion carried.

Ambulance Write Offs (11b.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve writing off the ambulance uncollectible depts totaling \$37,281.45, as presented. Trustee Heikkila asked if this was a typical year. Bookkeeper Rodgers stated the amount is similar to previous years. Motion carried.

Tourist Park Host Pay (11c.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Kevern, to approve increasing the camp host pay to \$13.00 per hour, as recommended. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Boogren would like nonunion part-time employees to get paid the same as part-time union members. Motion amended by Bodenus, support amended by Kevern, to have nonunion part time employees paid the same as union part time members. Motion carried.

Welcome Signs (11d.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the quote from Interstate Traffic Control Products for Welcome signs totaling \$1,632.00, as presented. These signs will be replacing the current signs. Attorney Nordeen stated the signs must be in compliance with MDOT guidelines. Motion carried.

MML Property and Liability Renewal (11e.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Kevern, to approve renewing the Property and Liability insurance with MML for \$80,805.00, as presented. Supervisor Boogren stated it was an increase of \$3,500.00. An application needs to be completed to look into increased cyber security coverage. Motion carried.

State of Michigan Audit Quote (11f.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Lauren, to approve the State of Michigan Audit quote for 2024-2026, as presented. Motion carried.

Employee Vacation Roll Over (11g.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Bodenus, to approve the vacation hour roll-over request, as presented. Motion carried.

MML Manager Search Quote (11h.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Bodenus, to approve the MML quote for an executive search, totaling \$23,000.00, as presented. Discussion ensued. Treasurer Kevern would like confirmation that the Board is going to hire a manager prior to searching. Clerk Lauren went through reasons to have a manager. Trustee Heikkila expressed her reasons for searching locally by the Township Board and her opinion for not hiring a manager. Supervisor Boogren believes the timing is not right. Trustee Bodenus would like to move forward with the plan of hiring a manager. Roll call: Clerk Lauren – yes, Supervisor Boogren – no, Trustee Heikkila – no, Trustee Bodenus – yes, Treasurer Kevern – no. Motion failed.

Trustee Bodenus suggested forming a committee to research hiring a manager. Trustee Bodenus and Clerk Lauren will spearhead the committee.

EMS – Paramedic Resignation (11i.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Boogren, to approve removing Britney Ekdalh from EMS due to her work schedule, as recommended. Motion carried.

EMS – Purchase Radios (11j.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Heikkila, to approve EMS purchasing radios totaling \$11,908.50, as requested. Motion carried.

EMS – Purchase Pagers (11k.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Heikkila, to approve EMS purchasing pagers totaling \$13,110.20, as requested. Motion carried.

MML Claim (11l.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve requesting a check from the MML for \$68,100.00, for the claim at the Clerk’s Office. Supervisor Boogren stated the claim is complete. Trustee Bodenus expressed the need to move forward with a plan for the building. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Capital Improvement Plan (12a.): Supervisor Boogren referred to the capital improvement handout that was included in the Board Packets. Superintendent Jancsi explained the uses of a roll-off truck versus a garbage truck. Trustee Bodenus asked if the old backhoes will be sold if a new backhoe is purchased. Treasurer Kevern asked if a scoreboard is included in the lights at the ballfield.

Superintendent Jancsi stated the scoreboard is not included. It works intermittently, therefore it is hard to diagnose for repair. Trustee Heikkila questioned the roof at the KI Sawyer Fire Station.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water/Sewer/Clean Water Grant (13a.): Lead Man Public Works Paul Sirois is working the numbers of repairs needed for the EGLE lead requirements. Trustee Bodenus reminded Superintendent Jancsi of the free training next week. UPEA will be sending out bid requests for the repairs. The grant will cover the repairs.

Historical Society (13b.): Supervisor Boogren will meet with Historical Society Representative Rick Wills. Different options were offered for funding the Historical Society.

CORRESPONDENCE:

TEAM Riders (14a.): Supervisor Boogren informed the Board that TEAM Riders is interested in purchasing the Assessing and Zoning building and property. They are willing to wait, if the office is relocated.

Public Comment: A resident commented on the ice racing.

Closed Session – Collective Bargaining: At 7:46pm, motion by Boogren, supported by Bodenus, to approve going into closed session for Collective Bargaining of the POAM and TPOAM contracts per MCL 15.268(c). Roll call: Treasurer Kevern – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Heikkila – yes, Supervisor Boogren – yes, Trustee Bodenus – yes. Motion carried.

At 8:31pm, motion by Bodenus, supported by Lauren, to come out of closed session. Motion carried.

Board Comment: Treasurer Kevern inquired if the Recreation Plan and Master Plan are being done by CUPPAD. Attorney Nordeen stated that MDOT has sign requirements and may pay for highway signs. Treasurer Kevern informed the Board that Fire Signs need to be installed. Trustee Heikkila stated the Trails Committee met. She also stated Public Works is going great and BS&A has a work order module. Supervisor Boogren commented on the Board Packet request. Treasurer Kevern is concerned with the low number of people signed up for the Emergency Mass Notification system.

Adjournment: Supervisor Boogren adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk