

**Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
April 25, 2024**

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

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

Board Members Absent: Trustee Heikkila

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Bodenus, supported by Kevern, to approve the Minutes from the March 21, 2024 and April 1, 2024 Board Meetings, as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Bodenus, supported by Kevern, to approve the agenda with the additions of 12m. 3rd Street Paving and 13f. Animal Control Ordinance. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Gene Suardini commented on the use of drones. Supervisor Boogren, Chief Kjellin and Attorney Nordeen offered information regarding drones. David Jacobson commented on heavy truck traffic on Crestview Drive. Supervisor Boogren commented on heavy truck traffic on Crestview Drive. Myron Hillock thanked the Gwinn Area Community Schools for opening one of their schools as a warming shelter in a recent power outage. Jim Jackson commented on burning barrels.

CUPPAD Recreation Plan Presentation: Clerk Lauren introduce Julia Cogger, Community Innovation Specialist with Central U.P. Planning and Development (CUPPAD). Ms. Cogger presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation explaining the processes involved with writing the Recreation Plan.

Department Reports: The following reports were placed on file: Assessing, Zoning, Senior Center, Fire, Library, Police, Public Works, General Operating Financial and Emergency Management. Trustee Bodenus inquired about the light poles in Little Lake. Superintendent Jancsi will do a follow-up.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Nordeen stated there is no litigation at this time. He then referred to a report distributed to the Board Members at the meeting. He asked the Board if they had any questions. Supervisor Boogren asked Attorney Nordeen to highlight the Crestview Drive Ordinance. Attorney Nordeen summarized the draft and asked if he could meet with Supervisor Boogren and Treasurer Kevern prior to bringing it to the full Board. Supervisor Boogren is concerned primarily with safety issues.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Boogren referred to a report he distributed via emailed to the Board Members. He stated the bonding and loan is in holding. This will impact the Water Tower painting project, which can wait. Trustee Bodenus inquired about the guarantee of the loan. UPEA Representative Ken Dillinger assured the Board that they will be receiving the loan.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Boogren, supported by Kevern, to approve the bills and vouchers totaling \$134,778.57, as presented. Treasurer Kevern abstained. Motion carried 3-0.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
4/25/24**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Auto Value	Various Dept Parts	1,862.31
Adventure Centre	PD Snowmobile Parts	157.60
Airgas	PW Cylinder Rental	39.12
Amazon Business	AZ Supplies	365.70
American Welding & Gas	EMS Oxygen	213.63
Avis Meyers Ketola	SC Reimbursement for Supplies	78.60
Bound Tree	EMS Medical Supplies	404.99
City of Marquette	PW Bacteriological Analysis	75.00
Drug Screen Plus	Drug Screening	16.00
Emergency Medical Products	EMS Medical Supplies	241.12
Froberg's Clothing	PW Clothing	592.20
Galls	PD Uniforms	694.01
Iam Responding	FD Monitoring System	710.00
Integris	Computer Support & Equipment	4,787.00
Jerry's Small Engine Supply	PW Parts	475.29
Josh Preston	Reimbursement for Fuel and Permit	509.58
Kustom Signals	PD Radar	1,710.00
LEDLightingExpert.com	Ballfield Lights	21,951.84
Leutz Racing	PW MDOT Inspections	1,800.00
Marquette Clerks Assoc	Membership Dues	20.00
Marquette County Equalization	Assessing Fees	26,751.00
Marquette GMC	PD Parts	376.60
Menards	Various Dept Supplies	2,016.90
Modeltown Express	Various Dept Fuel	3,047.11
North Country Disposal	Dump Recycles	305.00
Northland	PW Parts	264.64
Nye Uniform Co.	PD Uniforms	205.04
Pomp's Tire	PW Tires	941.17
Quill	Various Dept Supplies	520.19
R.N.O.W.	PW Parts	417.73
Range Telecommunications	PW Miss Dig	55.00
Red Power Diesel	FD Truck Repairs	1,170.38
Spring City Electrical	Streetlight	6,402.00
State of Michigan	PD Printing	86.50
State of Michigan	MDOT Project	2,340.75

Superior Eagle Communications	Office Wiring	4,060.00
Swick	Boiler Repairs	952.00
The Mining Journal	Publishing	1,204.16
The Office Planning Group	Copier	423.72
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Service	475.27
UPEA	Engineering	1,386.00
USA Bluebook	PW Parts	213.93
Wells Fargo	Various Dept Supplies	2,192.98
Wolfe Communications	EMS Pagers	12,537.00
Zack Kevern	Reimbursement for CDL Physical	166.00
Total		105,215.06

**Forsyth Township
Additional Bills For Approval
4/25/24**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ace Hardware	Various Dept Supplies	2,062.97
Amazon	PD Office Supplies	76.06
Bound Tree	EMS Medical Supplies	289.27
BS&A Software	A/Z Bldg Software	1,231.00
Country Mile Doc Destruction	PD Shredding	57.77
Fraco	Office Flooring	6,554.96
Marquette Township Fire	FD Fit Testing	250.00
Michigan Assoc. of Planning	A/Z Membership Renewal	65.00
O'Dea, Nordeen and Pickens PC	Attorney Fees	1,390.00
Paul Sirois	Office Remodel Supplies	82.84
Quill	Supplies for Various Dept	369.72
Remy Battery	PW Batteries	47.64
State of Michigan	EMS Pager Activation	3,000.00
Swales Plumbing	Office Heat Remodel	13,246.12
Unifirst	Uniform & Carpet Various Dept	78.55
UP Fabricating	PW Concession Stand Parts	684.00
US Postal Service	SC Postage	77.61
		29,563.51
	Original Bill Listing	105,215.06
	Total Accounts Payable	134,778.57

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 88595-88719

Voucher Numbers for Tax 2261-2266

ACTION ITEMS:

HMA Paving Bid (12a.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Lauren, to approve the Marquette County Road Commission's Construction Agreement for HMA Resurfacing totaling \$302,110.54, as presented. Motion carried.

A Jacobson Landscaping Estimates (12b.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve A Jacobson Landscaping bids totaling \$22,326.00, as presented. Trustee Bodenus asked if Public Works will be addressing the empty tree boxes on the boulevard. Superintendent Jancsi stated they will be mulched. UPEA Representative Ken Dillinger informed the Board of the DTE Tree Grant. Trees may be planted in some of the empty boxes. Motion carried.

W/S Committee – 156 N. Low St. (12c.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Kevern, to approve adjusting the water/sewer bill for 156 N. Low Street as recommended by the Water/Sewer Committee. Motion carried.

North Country Disposal Proposal (12d.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the annual clean up proposal from North Country Disposal of \$401.00 per container and \$192.50 per hour for truck, as presented. Supervisor Boogren stated the township wide collection will be May 4th. Trustee Bodenus would like proof of residency for those using the event. Motion carried.

UPHS Rampart Billing Increase (12e.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the 5% increase in billing contract fees from UPHS-Rampart. Motion carried.

FD – Firework Training Expenses (12f.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Kevern, to approve the Fire Department Fireworks Training expenses totaling \$1,278.20. Motion carried.

PD – K9 Proposal (12g.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve the Police Departments K-9 Proposal with an adjusted start-up cost of \$3,400 due to an anonymous donation. Supervisor Boogren thanked the donor. He also thanked the department for pursuing the K9 unit. Clerk Lauren informed the public that the startup cost was \$23,800.00. Motion carried.

PD – Purchase Computer (12h.): Motion by Bodenus, supported by Lauren, to approve replacing the Police Departments report writing computer, not to exceed \$1,200.00. Motion carried.

UPSET Agreement (12i.): Motion by Boogren, supported by Lauren, to approve the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services from UPSET with the sum of \$10,000.00. Motion carried.

ME Ambulance Runs (12j.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve proceeding with the collection of outstanding ambulance bills from the Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine. Discussion ensued. Bookkeeper Rodgers asked for clarification on the collection process. She explained the ambulance is transporting the deceased to the morgue, but the institute is not paying. Trustee Bodenus verified the cost of transport is more than the amount the Medical Examiners office is willing to

pay. Attorney Nordeen will contact the Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine to discuss payment. Motion carried.

BS&A Quote (12k.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve the BS&A Proposal for Work Orders and Inventory Management totaling \$18,160.00. The quote has been revised for broader services totaling \$97,075.00. Discussion ensued. More research should be done prior to approving the quote. Motion rescinded by Kevern, and support rescinded by Bodenus.

Big Three Liquor License Resolution (12l.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Bodenus, to approve the application from The Big 3 for a Special License to serve alcohol on July 6th, 2024, to be located at 50 W. Johnson Lake Road, Gwinn. Attorney Nordeen pointed out that their correct name is Big 3 Gwinn MI Inc. The name will be corrected. Trustee Bodenus stated the Township must be listed as additional insured. Roll call: Trustee Bodenus – yes, Trustee Heikkila – absent, Clerk Lauren – yes, Treasurer Kevern – yes, Supervisor Boogren – yes. Motion carried.

3rd Street Paving (12m.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the funding of \$26,462.00 to joint fund 3rd street paving at KI Sawyer. Supervisor Boogren explained the project. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Clubhouse Rentals (13a.): Supervisor Boogren questioned the current agreements. Board Secretary Linnee explained the history of the current agreements. Attorney Nordeen summarized the current laws. It was the consensus of the Board to enforce the document and leave it as written.

Township Garbage Collection (13b.): Supervisor Boogren explained that years ago garbage collection was provided by the township. He believes that not mandating garbage collection has contributed to blight. Clerk Lauren stated that he was on the Board when this subject was brought up in the past. It was not favored by the residents. Different opinions were offered by each Board Member. Supervisor Boogren will research other communities and their costs associated with garbage collection.

Flood Plain (13c.): Clerk Lauren stated the county has asked local communities if they would like to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. There are many requirements that go along with this action. UPEA Representative Ken Dillinger explained the study that was done previously and stated at that time the Board elected not to be included. Clerk Lauren stated all home borrowers would be forced to buy flood insurance if the Township was to participate. It was the consensus of the Board that no action would be taken.

Historical Society (13d.): Supervisor Boogren met with members of the Historical Society. He reassured them that the Board has no intention of closing them. He also talked to them about digitally cataloging their inventory for safety. The cost to maintain the footprint that they are in is approximately \$1,000 per month. He has asked to meet with them again and hoped more of their Board Members be present.

Trails Committee (13e.): Supervisor Boogren stated that although Trustee Heikkila is not here to speak on this matter she has been moving forward and has been working with many people and groups.

Animal Control Ordinance (13f.): Trustee Bodenus stated that there have been problems with loose animals. He, Treasurer Kevern and members of the committee have drafted an ordinance and have sent it to the Board Members and Attorney Nordeen. He explained they have been working with federal,

state and local laws to draft the ordinance, so it works in conjunction with those laws. They welcome any suggestions. Treasurer Kevern has asked the Police Department to review the ordinance. He also expressed his desire for a tiered fine. Supervisor Boogren pointed out the Police Department is the only agent that is appropriate. Attorney Nordeen suggested wording to include other law enforcement agencies and perhaps employees designated by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Superior Trade Zone (15a.): Supervisor Boogren referred to a letter from the Superior Trade Zone. It stated that dues of \$500 will begin in 2025. Supervisor Boogren attends the quarterly meetings.

Motion by Boogren, supported by Lauren, to agree to provide the \$500 annual fee, if it is adopted by the Superior Trade Zone. Good things do come from these meetings. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Ken Robar commented on garbage collection and board packets. Jim Jackson commented on the Baker Tilly rate restructure and flags in the park. Ken Dillinger commented on Crestview Drive heavy truck traffic. Stacy Linnee commented on Crestview Drive heavy truck traffic. Marie Bodenus commented on the Historical Society's Museum.

Board Comment: Trustee Bodenus stated we should keep thinking of ways to preserve the museum. He also informed the Board of a resident that approached him on a plastic recycling plan. He will do more research on this subject. Supervisor Boogren explained he does not want to dispose of physical items at the museum, just digitalize in case of disasters. He stated he, Trustee Heikkila and Assessing/Zoning Assistant Carter went to the MTA conference. They were updated on many subjects and laws. Treasurer Kevern stated more people need to sign up for the Mass Notification System. This system will alert the public on their phones regarding emergencies, events and special news items.

Closed Session – Collective Bargaining: At 8:41 pm, motion by Bodenus, supported by Lauren, to go into closed session for Collective Bargaining of the POAM contract. Roll call: Treasurer Kevern – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Heikkila – absent, Supervisor Boogren – yes, Trustee Bodenus – yes. Motion carried.

At 8:57 pm, motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to approve coming out of closed session. Motion carried.

Motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to accept the negotiation team's recommendations for the POAM contract. Roll call: Supervisor Boogren – yes, Treasurer Kevern – yes, Trustee Heikkila – absent, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Bodenus – yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Supervisor Boogren adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk