

**Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
September 26, 2024**

Clerk Lauren called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He explained that Supervisor Boogren's plane was delayed, therefore would not be making the meeting.

Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve Trustee Bodenus running the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Board Members Absent: Supervisor Boogren

Also Present: Attorney Nordeen, UPEA Representative Ken Dillinger, a number of township employees and concerned citizens.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the Minutes from the August 22, 2024 Board Meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the agenda with the amendment of 13a. to Recreation Plan and Resolution, the additions of 13r. DTE/DNR Tree Grant, 13s. FD – Bunker Gear Washer and 13t. Short Term Rental Committee Pay.

Public Hearing: Proposed Recreation Plan: At 6:32 pm, Trustee Bodenus opened the public hearing. He asked if anyone had any questions or comments concerning the proposed Recreation Plan. No comments were offered. Trustee Bodenus closed the public hearing at 6:32 pm.

Community Change Grant Project at KI Sawyer: Treasurer Kevern introduced Thyra Karlstrom, the Manager of Planning for Recreation, Community Development, Forestry and Recreation Division for Marquette County. She introduced Paul Thares from Lake Superior Community Partnership, who is helping with the grant. The County is applying for an EPA Community Change Grant to be used at KI Sawyer. She went on to explain their statutory partner is the Community Foundation of Marquette County. One of the collaborating entities is Forsyth Township. The project includes the establishment of the Silver Lead Creek Greenway & Trail Project. She went on to describe the different locations of the project and the Road Commission's contribution. The Township will assume parts of the projects and submit reimbursements. She is in the process of collecting estimates. The application must be submitted before November 21st. The amounts could be between \$10 and \$20 Million with no matching funds required. The grant could include improvements to Banshee Park, Ballfields and the Disc Golf Course. The County has already obtained another grant to restore Little Trout Lake Park. She will need a letter of support from the Township as a collaborative entity. She asked the Board if they had any questions. She stated that parts of the sanitary sewer system could also be improved. Trustee Heikkila asked if West Branch Township will be involved. Ms. Karlstrom will reach out to them, but the significant portion of the projects are in Forsyth Township. Attorney Nordeen reiterated that Ms. Karlstrom has already secured the \$1 Million Dollar grant for Little Trout Lake, with no matching funds required. Ms. Karlstrom stated that on October 17th at 6:00 pm, there will be a community meeting

scheduled to discuss the plans for Little Trout Lake and other improvements. The Board thanked Ms. Karlstrom for her hard work.

Public Comment: George Sibley commented on the need for a stone tribute to local firefighters lost. He also commented on the Fralic Heights street signs. John Reyst questioned the future of the Trails Committee. Trustee Heikkila believes the Trails Committee will be disbanded, as Forsyth Forward will be working on the Trails. Joe St. Andre, a committee member from Forsyth Forward, commented on the trails and the old office building future rental proposal. Ryan Lipinski commented on the upcoming haunted trail event and the need for volunteers.

Department Reports: The following reports were placed on file: EMS, Assessing, Zoning, Senior Center, Fire, Library, Police, Public Works, General Operating Financial, Emergency Management and Water/Sewer Committee. He asked the Board if they had any questions. No questions or comments were offered.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Nordeen briefly went over a report that he distributed to the Board. He is still working on a resolution for the tax abatement and easements for Crestview. He asked the Board if they had any questions. No questions were offered.

Supervisor's Report: Trustee Bodenus referenced the report provided by Supervisor Boogren, which was included in the Board Packets.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Lauren, supported by Bodenus, to approve the bills and vouchers totaling \$159,987.90, as presented. Treasurer Kevern abstained. Motion carried 3-0.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
9/26/24**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Airgas	PW Cylinder Rental	39.12
A. Lindberg & Sons	PW Water/Sewer Line Work/Gravel	8,230.80
A1 Sport & Weld Supply	PW Safety Equip	64.50
Ace K9	PD Heat Alarm	1,361.08
Advanced Auto	PW Parts	59.07
Amazon Business	Various Dept Supplies	1,113.41
American Welding & Gas	EMS Oxygen	231.33
Auto Value	Parts Various Dept	1,140.49
Bichler	PD Tourist Park Trail Mix	566.39
Bound Tree	EMS Medical Supplies	681.23
Brian Hutchens	Fire Escrow Refund	15,520.00
Cassie Smith	Reimbursement for Training Expenses	91.49
City of Marquette	Bacteriological Analysis	75.00
Country Mile Document Destruction	PD Shredding	57.77
Dan Novak	Reimbursement for License & Testing	144.00

DLP Marquette Physician Practices	PD Physical	363.00
DTE	New Gas Service - 48 Johnson Lake Rd.	7,836.00
Elcom	PD Kennel Install	4,319.48
Eric Jancsi	Reimbursement for Concession Restroom Parts	4,986.98
Etna	PW Concession Restroom Parts	2,015.65
Financial Systems	Office Alarm	838.00
Fox Marquette	PD Parts	231.38
Galls	EMS PD Uniforms	140.56
ImperialDade	PW Supplies	1,695.04
Integris	Computer Support & Equipment	5,242.35
Jamar	Waste Water Pump	41,350.00
J. Wright & Co.	Little Lake Light Poles	4,700.00
Kim Davis	EMS Training	65.00
Lexipol	FD Training	2,103.50
Lansing Community College	SC Training	100.00
LoyalTees	PD Uniforms	62.98
Marquette Embroidery	PD Uniforms	160.00
Medline	EMS Medical Supplies	62.06
Menards	Various Dept Supplies	721.84
Michelle Borrett	Reimbursement for Senior Picnic	655.30
Michigan Townships	Election Training for Clerks	50.00
Midway Rentals	PW Tools	249.00
Mike's Auto Center	Repair Patrol Vehicle	5,454.11
Modeltown Express	Various Dept Fuel	3,738.38
Newman Sign	PW Sign Supplies	308.21
North Country Disposal	PW Dump Recycles/Blight Removal/Restrooms	6,240.00
North Country Septic	PW Portable Restrooms	460.00
Nye Uniform	PD Uniforms	8.03
O'Dea, Nordeen, Burink & Pickens	Attorney Fees	3,874.00
Pitney Bowes	Postage	502.25
Quill	Various Dept Supplies	1,507.86
R.N.O.W. Inc	PW Parts	297.85
Red Power Diesel	FD Pump Test	417.15
Remy Battery	PD Battery	216.99
Signs Unlimited	PD Graphics	750.00
Snyders	PD Supplies	146.14
State of Michigan	PD Print VPN	373.50
Steven Jakubowski	Reimbursement for Water Filters	493.24
Swick	Boiler Inspection, Repair	2,520.00
Teleflex	EMS Medical Supplies	421.50
The Office Planning Group	Copier	105.84

Trevor Salmon	Reimbursement for Dryer & Candy	159.42
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Service	616.82
UPEA	Engineering	2,563.69
US Post Office	SC Newsletter Postage	79.03
Wells Fargo	Various Dept Supplies	2,704.76
YourMembership.com Inc.	Job Posting	150.00
Zack Kevern	PW Bucket Truck	3,000.00
Total		144,432.57

**Forsyth Township
Additional Bills For Approval
9/26/24**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ace	Various Dept Supplies	3,088.68
Alzheimer's Association	SC Conference	90.00
CLIA Laboratory Program	EMS Lab Program	248.00
Financial System	Panic Button	838.00
Great Lakes Testing	FD Ladder	463.00
Lexipol	PD Annual	658.35
Marquette Embroidery	EMS Uniforms	30.00
Menards	Various Dept Supplies	2,034.90
Michigan Townships	Books, W/S Ad	419.00
MDOT	MDOT M-35 W/S Project	282.93
North Country Septic	PW Portable Restrooms	460.00
Northland	PW Parts	34.59
Nye	PD Uniforms	25.86
The Gwinn Fire Fund	Reimburse for Supplies	529.80
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Svc	63.22
White Water Assoc	Water Testing	6,289.00
		15,555.33
	Original Bill Listing	144,432.57
	Total Accounts Payable	159,987.90

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 89271 - 89435

Voucher Numbers for Tax 2267 - 2317

ACTION ITEMS:

Recreation Plan and Resolution (13a.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to adopt the Recreation Plan as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to approve the resolution to adopt the Recreation Plan with public comments included. Roll call: Treasurer Kevern – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Heikkila – yes, Trustee Bodenus – yes, Supervisor Boogren – absent. Motion carried.

Letter of Support for Community Change Grant Project (13b.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve a letter of support for the Community Change Grant Project. Motion carried.

Zoning – Updated Blight Ordinance (13c.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve the updated Blight Ordinance, as presented. Roll call: Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Heikkila – yes, Trustee Bodenus – yes, Treasurer Kevern – yes, Supervisor Boogren – absent. Motion carried.

Zoning – Volunteer Service Policy Review (13d.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the reviewed Forsyth Township Volunteer Service Policy, as presented. Motion carried.

FD – Hire Firefighters (13e.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve hiring Frederick Magdaleno and Aaron Johnson as Forsyth Township Firefighters, as recommended. Motion carried.

FD – Care Fire Training (13f.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve the Fire Department doing a live car fire for training purposes. Trustee Heikkila asked where the training will take place. Assistant Fire Chief Hammond stated they will decide on the safest place. Motion carried.

PD - Promotions (13g.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve promoting Patrol Sergeant Jesse Cadwell to Detective Sergeant, Patrol Corporal Cole Kempainen to Patrol Sergeant and Officer Cassie Smith to Road Corporal, as recommended. Motion carried.

W/S Committee – 287 S. River Dr. (13h.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve taking no action on the 287 S. River Drive water bill, as recommended. Motion carried.

Payroll/Billing Specialist Job Description (13i.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to approve the revised Payroll/Billing Specialist job description, as presented. Clerk Lauren stated the description was updated. Motion carried.

Concession Stand/Ice Track Surveillance Cameras (13j.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve the quote from Superior Lock and Security, for the Ballpark Concession Stand totaling \$3,524.00. Treasurer Kevern referenced the vandalism that has been occurring there and at the Ice Track. UMIRA will buy the equipment to be used at the Ice Track, which will also be monitored at the Police Station. Motion carried.

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Pass Through Agent (13k.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Heikkila, to approve accepting funding for and support the Sawyer Community Building Holiday Events Program on behalf of the “You People” organization from the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Motion carried.

Keweenaw Bay Tribal Council Pass Through Agent (13l.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve accepting funding for and support the Sawyer Community Building Holiday Events Program on behalf of the “You People” organization from the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Council. Motion carried.

PW – Tree Removal Quote (13m.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the quote from A Cut Above Tree & Lawn Care totaling \$3,300.00, for removal of a white pine located at the cemetery. Motion carried.

EMS – Sponsor EMT Basic Class (13n.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve sponsorship of Emma Clairmont, John Detrick and Grace Johnson to attend the EMT Basic class, as presented. Motion carried.

EMS – Hire EMT (13o.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve hiring EMT Basic Gabriel Simon, as recommended. Motion carried.

EMS – WIFI Quote (13p.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve upgrading the WIFI at the Emergency Services Building as presented, totaling \$2,870.76. Motion carried.

Resignation of Public Works Superintendent (13q.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Heikkila, to approve the resignation letter from the Superintendent of Public Works, as presented. Discussion ensued. Clerk Lauren asked why 1 year of insurance. He would like it to be month by month. Treasurer Kevern confirmed the health insurance would be single for a year with on call duty for questions. Superintendent Jancsi confirmed he would be available for calls to answer questions. Motion carried.

Treasurer Kevern would like this option available for future employees. Attorney Nordeen stated he spoke to Supervisor Boogren, who appointed Trustee Bodenus to head a committee to start advertising to replace the Superintendent of Public Works. Treasurer Kevern would like Attorney Nordeen to look into a contract for select future retirees to be retained for on call basis, with the reward of insurance. Superintendent Jancsi will be presented a contract also.

DTE/DNR Tree Grant (13r.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve UPEA applying for the DTE/DNR Tree Grant with matching funds up to \$4,000.00. Trustee Bodenus asked where the trees will be planted. UPEA Representative Ken Dillinger stated they can be planted on any township property. Superintendent Jancsi said they have been planted on the Boulevard, Tourist Park and Nordeen Park. Motion carried.

FD – Bunker Gear Washer (13s.): Motion by Heikkila, supported by Lauren, to purchase the washer for the Fire Department totaling \$17,479.86. Clerk Lauren explained the requirements for carcinogen removal from the Bunker Gear. Motion carried.

Short Term Rental Committee Pay (13t.): Motion by Heikkila, supported by Lauren, to approve a one-time payment of \$100 to the non-employee committee members for services already rendered, and future meetings at \$60 per meeting, \$70 for the chairperson. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Community Cleanup Costs (13a.): Trustee Bodenus stated it was an ongoing item.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Public Comment: George Bodenus asked if there was a fall cleanup this year. Clerk Lauren clarified there will not be a cleanup this fall due to the expense of the spring cleanup.

Board Comment: Trustee Bodenus asked about the tire grant issue. Attorney Nordeen stated the tire grant is still being reviewed by the Landfill. The Board thanked Trustee Bodenus for chairing the meeting.

Adjournment: Trustee Bodenus adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk