

**Forsyth Township Board
Special Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
March 14, 2025**

Supervisor Kevern called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Kevern, Clerk Lauren, Treasurer Underwood, Trustee Fowler and Trustee Hammond

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: MML Representative Glenn Anderson, Township Department Supervisors, Bookkeeper Rodgers, Bookkeeper Carter and concerned citizens.

Agenda: Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the agenda with the additions of 7c. Letter of Support for the Police Department School Officer Grant and 7d. Letter of Support for the Marquette County Grant. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Budget Workshop: Supervisor Kevern asked Bookkeeper Rodgers to summarize the upcoming budget. She went on to highlight some of the capital improvements, such as: purchasing a police vehicle, building improvements at the Police Department, EMS cot purchase, painting the water tower, purchasing a water truck, purchasing an office server, mapping water lines, mapping in the cemetery, fire radios, fire bunker gear, fire uniforms, clubhouse roof, electrical upgrades at the Tourist Park, restroom upgrade at the Tourist Park, ballfield scoreboard, enclose the concession stand, MERS transfer of \$250,000. She then went over the General Operating Transfers and other expenditures for the community Clean-up. Clerk Lauren asked about the Police millage. Bookkeeper Rodgers clarified the transfer was in addition to the millage. Supervisor Kevern asked if anyone had any questions, comments or concerns. Clerk Lauren asked for clarification of the Assessing Fees. Bookkeeper Rodgers gave a brief explanation of the Assessing and Zoning expenses.

ACTION ITEMS:

Hire Operator (7a.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Kevern, to approve hiring Mike Palm for the open Operator's position, as recommended. Discussion ensued. Clerk Lauren is concerned about his job history and experience. Treasurer Underwood explained the job history was because of union participation. Trustee Hammond believes other applicants were more qualified. Trustee Fowler would like our current laborers to be trained, so they have opportunities for job advancement. He also referenced the resident policy for hiring. He was also concerned about the conflict of interest in the hiring committee. Supervisor Kevern expressed his concern for the safety of fellow employees if the operator does not have experience. Trustee Hammond feels training should be offered to the current employees. Treasurer Underwood said he had another issue to express. He received an email on February 23rd. He read the email. He would like it put on record. It is an **alleged (as amended at the 3/27/25 meeting)** violation of the Open Meetings Act. He has been in contact with an Attorney. Motion failed 3-2.

Transfer Station Schedule (7b.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve the Transfer Station Hours as presented. Discussion ensued. More time may be required to bring the truck to the landfill. Closing at 3:00 will not give the attendant time to close the Transfer Station properly. The Transfer Station Attendant will start work at 7:30 and will leave at 3:30. Motion amended by Kevern, support amended by Lauren, to approve the Transfer Station Hours, delaying the start time half an hour for the scheduled day. These hours will take effect April 1st. The Transfer Station will be open from 9:30am to 3:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Thursday will be from 1:30pm to 7:00pm. It will be closed on Mondays and Sundays. Interim Superintendent Zack Kevern stated the hours should be 10:00am, for the attendant to have the same allotted time to go to the Landfill. Motion rescinded by Kevern, support rescinded by Lauren. Motion by Kevern, supported by Hammond, to approve the Transfer Station hours with a half hour later start time for the employee and a half hour later start time for the Transfer Station. Motion carried.

Supervisor Kevern clarified the Transfer Station will be open from 10:00am to 3:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Thursday will be 2:00pm to 7:00pm. It will be closed on Mondays and Sundays.

Letter of Support for the Police Department School Officer Grant (7c.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Fowler, to support the school officer. Motion carried.

Letter of Support for the Marquette County Grant (7d.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to support a grant for the tree guild project for KI Sawyer. Clerk Lauren explained the county would like to plant trees near Little Trout Lake. The Township would be responsible for watering them once a week. He then stated it is a DNR grant with no match. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

Public Comment: Patricia Fowler commented on Public Works' work obligations. Pat Johnson asked about the Transfer Station hours.

Board Comment: None

Closed Session: Review/Consider Township Manager Applications: At 3:36pm, motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to approve going into closed session to consider employment applications for Township Manager pursuant to section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act. Roll call: Trustee Hammond – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Supervisor Kevern – yes, Treasurer Underwood – yes. Motion carried.

At 4:28pm, motion by Hammond, supported by Lauren, to approve coming out of closed session. Motion carried.

Motion by Lauren, supported by Kevern, to interview candidate number 6, 7, 10 and 11. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Supervisor Kevern adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Linnee

Ron Lauren

Board Secretary

Forsyth Township Clerk