

**Forsyth Township Board
Special Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
March 21, 2025**

Supervisor Kevern called the meeting to order at 4:04 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 employees and concerned citizens.

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

Public Comment: George Sibley commented on the Manager Candidates and the Ambulance Service. Ken Barrett commented on Blight.

Interviews:

At 4:07pm Richard Lock started his interview via zoom. He thanked the Board for their time, service and permitting him to interview using zoom. He proceeded to introduce himself. The Board asked him a series of questions. Mr. Lock answered each question in detail. At 4:52pm Supervisor Kevern thanked Mr. Lock for his time and the interview ended.

Supervisor Kevern recessed the meeting at 4:53pm. At 4:57pm Supervisor Kevern called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Anderson asked candidate Paul Back to join the meeting. At 5:00pm Mr. Back introduced himself and went over the highlights listed on his resume. He explained he had driven around the area to acquaint himself with the community prior to the interview. The Board asked him a series of questions. Mr. Back answered each question. Mr. Anderson then asked Mr. Back to highlight accomplishments that were in addition to his resume. Mr. Back explained the additional accomplishments. At 5:47pm Supervisor Kevern thanked Mr. Back for his time and the interview ended.

Supervisor Kevern recessed the meeting at 5:47pm. At 5:54pm Supervisor Kevern called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Anderson asked candidate Darcy Long to join the meeting. At 5:54pm Mr. Long introduced himself. The Board asked Mr. Long a series of questions. Mr. Long answered each question. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Long to share his experiences in Gladstone and St. Ignace. Mr. Long detailed his experiences and reasons for leaving. At 6:33pm Supervisor Kevern thanked Mr. Long for his time and the interview ended.

Supervisor Kevern recessed the meeting at 6:33pm. At 6:39pm Supervisor Kevern called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Anderson asked candidate Jeff Thornton to join the meeting. At 6:39pm Mr. Thornton introduced himself and stated he had revisited areas within the township to see how things had changed. The Board asked Mr. Thornton a series of questions. Mr. Thornton answered each question. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Thornton to share why ~~Gladstone~~ **Escanaba (as amended at the 3/27/25 meeting)** had withdrawn their offer of employment. Mr. Thornton explained. Treasurer Underwood asked why he had left Negaunee. Mr. Thornton explained that also. At 7:23pm Supervisor Kevern thanked Mr. Thornton for his time and the interview ended.

The Board discussed the candidates' strengths and weaknesses. They each rated the candidates.

Motion by Underwood, supported by Fowler, to extend a conditional offer of employment to Paul Back for the position of township manager conditioned on successful completion of a background check and a tentative employment agreement. Roll call: Trustee Hammond – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Supervisor Kevern – yes, Treasurer Underwood – yes. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Board that Supervisor Kevern and Clerk Lauren would negotiate the contract. Treasurer Underwood will be the alternate.

ACTION ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

Public Comment: None

Board Comment: Clerk Lauren and Supervisor Kevern thanked Trustee Fowler for suggesting Paul Back be put into the candidate interview list.

Adjournment: Supervisor Kevern adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk