

**Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
February 26, 2026**

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

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Lauren, supported by Hammond, to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2026 Board Meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Lauren, supported by Underwood, to approve the agenda, with the additions of 10j. Township Manager Resignation Letter, 10k. Purchasing Policy, 10l. Emergency Manager, 10m. Public Works Director, 17. Closed Session: Collective Bargaining for POAM, moving Adjournment to 18 and deleting 10h.Tower Lease. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Dave Daugherty commented on the water problem at 219 Jasper Street, stating it was a safety hazard. Supervisor Kevern said he would have an engineer look at it in the spring. Forsyth Forward Representative Alan Cook commented on the Pump Track and Lecture Series. Jill Froberg commented on the burned-out lights in the gym. Jeff Hart commented on garbage burning in his neighborhood.

Manager's Report: None

Attorney's Report: Attorney Nordeen provide a written report to the Board Members. He highlighted items he has been working on, such as the Blight Ordinance and is continuing to work on items such as VFW cemetery lots, Mike Jakubowski sewer easement, Glen Boogren hydrant lease and Medical Examiner's payments. Clerk Lauren would like to be notified when the Medical Examiner goes into Bankruptcy.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Lauren, supported by Underwood, to approve the bills and vouchers totaling \$81,637.76, as presented. Supervisor Kevern abstained. Motion carried 4-0.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
2/26/26**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Airgas	PW Gas	58.49
Amazon	PW PD Supplies	530.56
American Welding & Gas	EMS Oxygen	149.06

Barrett Auto	PD Repair	64.00
Bound Tree	EMS Medical Supplies	506.49
Comfort Inn	Zoning Training	308.70
Crossroads Truck Repair	Transfer Station Truck Repair	918.00
Crystal Carter	Training Expenses	638.00
EJ USA	Sewer Grate	338.80
GFS	SC Party Food	168.73
Great Lakes Testing	FD Ladder Testing	540.00
Honor CU	Various Dept Supplies	549.00
IamResponding	FD Annual Subscription	660.00
Integris	Computer Support	27,141.67
Jefferson Fire & Safety	FD SCBA Repair	951.41
Karcher	PW Holder Parts	1,509.40
Larson Radiator	PW Transfer Station Truck Part	1,145.00
Menards	PW PD Supplies	1,407.91
Michelle Belcher	Reimbursement for Clothing	173.30
Michelle Borrett	Reimbursement for Supplies	237.79
Modeltown Express	Various Dept Fuel	1,004.33
MSU	Zoning Training	500.00
Nathan Carter	Reimbursement for Clothing	407.60
North Country Disposal	PW Rental, Hauling & Tipping	2,895.25
O'Dea, Nordeen, Burink & Pickens	Attorney Fees	1,696.00
OK Industrial	PW Parts	505.04
O'Reilly Auto Parts	PW Parts	349.13
Packer City Trucks	PW Parts	260.02
Phoenix Safety Outfitters	FD Uniforms	418.00
Pitney Bowes	Postage Supplies	82.99
Pomasl	FD Uniforms	292.00
Quill	Various Dept Supplies	1,020.23
Range Telecommunications	Miss Dig	53.00
Red Power Diesel	FD DOT Inspections & Repairs	1,333.77
RMS	PW Repairs	53.57
Snyder Drug	PD PW Supplies	233.63
Spring City Electrical	PW Parts	6,657.00
State of Michigan	EMS PD Assessment, Prints, Dry Gas	521.29
Summit Fire Protection	FD SCBA	276.50
Superior Lock & Security	PW Alarm & Lock Repair	1,015.00
Swailles Plumbing & Heating	CH Boiler Repair	2,402.37
Swick	PD Boiler Repair	2,648.00
The Mining Journal	Publishing	1,170.80
The Office Planning Group	SC OFF Copier Maintenance	349.97

TransUnion	PD Background Checks	110.00
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Service	552.23
Wex Bank	Fuel Various Dept	2,135.72
US Postal Service	SC Newsletter	70.45
Zer0127 Motorsports & Designs	PW PD Signage	481.33
Total		67,491.53

**Forsyth Township
Additional Bills For Approval
2/26/26**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ace Hardware	Various Dept Supplies	181.36
A Cut Above Tree & Lawn	Snow Removal on Bldg Ledge	130.00
Amazon	Various Dept Supplies	319.89
Auto Value	Parts for Various Dept	6,332.74
Core & Main	PW Water Equip	1,963.31
GEI	Water Tower Engineering	1,500.00
Menards	Various Dept Supplies	191.85
Michelle Belcher	Reimbursement for Clothing	74.13
Nathan Carter	Reimbursement for Clothing	119.98
Pitney Bowes	Postage	1,009.75
Pomasl	FD Uniforms	153.00
Superior Lock & Security	PW Alarm Repair	262.50
Swick	PD Heating Repairs	1,677.78
The Office Planning Group	SC Copier	169.40
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Svc	60.54
		14,146.23
	Original Bill Listing	67,491.53
	Total Accounts Payable	81,637.76

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 91628-91758

Voucher Numbers for Tax 2450-2459

ACTION ITEMS:

Blight Ordinance – As Amended (10a.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to adopt the Blight Ordinance –As Amended, as presented. Roll call: Supervisor Kevern – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Treasurer Underwood – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Trustee Hammond – yes. Motion carried.

W/S Committee – 24 N. Pearce St. (10b.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Lauren, to approve adjusting the water/sewer bill for 24 N. Pearce St., as presented. Motion carried.

Annual Poverty Resolution (10c.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Underwood, to adopt the Annual Poverty Resolution, as presented. Roll call: Clerk Lauren - yes, Supervisor Kevern – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Trustee Hammond – yes, Treasurer Underwood – yes. Motion carried.

Dust Control (10d.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve the Marquette County Road Commission’s Letter of Understanding for Dust Control, estimated to be \$9,402.29, as presented. Motion carried.

UPSET Funding (10e.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Hammond, to approve the UPSET Agreement for Law Enforcement Services for \$10,000.00, as presented. Motion carried.

Liability and Property Insurance (10f.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Fowler, to approve the MML Liability and Property Insurance renewal for \$89,193.00, as recommended. Clerk Lauren informed the Board of a \$2,820 dividend check that will be issued. Motion carried.

Employee Vacation Buyback (10g.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Hammond, to approve raising Zack Kevern’s vacation limit to 283.5 hours, as requested. Discussion ensued. Motion amended by Underwood, support amended by Hammond, to approve raising Zack Kevern’s vacation limit to 283.5 hours, as requested, for one time. Motion carried.

Tower Lease (10h.): Deleted

UPEA Engineering Agreement (10i.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Kevern, to approve UPEA’s Amendment Number 1 to the Agreement for the Provision, adding \$20,000, as presented. Supervisor Kevern explained the amendment. Motion carried.

Township Manager Resignation Letter (10j.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Lauren, to accept Paul Back’s Resignation letter, as presented. Motion carried.

Purchasing Policy (10k.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Underwood, to approve the revised Purchasing Policy, as presented. Attorney Nordeen reiterated they must be legitimate department expenses. Motion carried.

Emergency Manager (10l.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Fowler, to appoint Larry Hammond as Emergency Manager, effective immediately. Motion carried.

Public Works Director (10m.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Underwood, to appoint Len Fowler as Volunteer Interim Public Works Director, effective immediately. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mqt Co. Planning – Master Plan Zoning Map (13a.): Clerk Lauren clarified nothing had to be done with this until after the Planning Commission Meeting. Zoning Administrator Carter affirmed Clerk Lauren. It will be presented during the March meeting. This will be a 5-year plan.

Mqt Co. Planning – Master Plan Corrections (13b.): The corrections for this are in reference to the Master Plan which will be presented during the March meeting.

Public Comment: Dave Daugherty commented on the lack of visibility on the side streets by stop signs and questioned hydrant clearing. Trustee Hammond stated Pine Street snow will be removed by the county next week. Trustee Fowler stated that currently Public Works cannot put snow in resident's yards. This will be researched. Jill Froberg asked if the Manager resigned. Attorney Nordeen read Mr. Back's resignation letter aloud. Jill Froberg asked who was taking care of our Water Department. Supervisor Kevern repeated that Marquette County is overseeing our water department. Clerk Lauren explained the reason for the Water Boil Advisory.

Board Comment: Trustee Hammond asked if the MAVIS contract could be signed. He will bring it to the office for signatures. Attorney Nordeen suggested making a motion.

Motion by Hammond, supported by Lauren, to have the Board sign off on the MAVIS Agreement through the Fire Department, which is to follow on to the previous one that was already approved. Clerk Lauren explained it was a Mutual Aid Agreement for the state of Michigan. It is reimbursable. Motion carried.

Closed Session: Employee Discipline/Complaint:

At 7:06 pm a motion was made by Treasurer Underwood, supported by Trustee Fowler, to approve going into closed session for Employee Discipline/Complaint, pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(a). Roll call: Clerk Lauren – yes, Supervisor Kevern – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Trustee Hammond – yes, Treasurer Underwood – yes. Motion carried.

At 7:44 motion was made by Trustee Hammond, supported by Trustee Fowler, to approve coming out of closed session. Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Kevern, supported by Trustee Hammond, to immediately amend the EMS SOPs to have 5 officer positions with majority vote on issues. A special election must occur in no more than 30 days to elect said officers. Kim Davis will act as Interim EMS Director and there will be no Assistant EMS Director until the election occurs. Anthony Baez is removed from suspension. Motion carried.

Closed Session: Collective Bargaining for POAM:

At 7:45 pm a motion was made by Treasurer Underwood, supported by Trustee Fowler, to approve going into closed session for Collective Bargaining for the POAM Union, pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(c).

Roll call: Treasurer Underwood – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Supervisor Kevern – yes, Trustee Hammond – yes. Motion carried.

At 8:21 motion was made by Trustee Kevern, supported by Trustee Fowler, to approve coming out of closed session. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Supervisor Kevern adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk