

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

Clerk Lauren called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Fowler, supported by Underwood, due to the excused absence of Supervisor Kevern, approve appointing Clerk Lauren as the Chair Pro Tem to preside over tonight's meeting. Motion carried.

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

Board Members Absent: Supervisor Kevern

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2026 Board Meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda: Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve the agenda with the additions of 12n. Hazardous Waste Disposal, 12o. Library Millage Language Change and 12p. Sands Township Letter of Support. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Alan Cook with Forsyth Forward updated the Board and community of recent projects. Dave Daugherty thanked the Board for addressing his water issue.

Public Hearing: 26/27 Fiscal Year Budget: At 6:34 pm Clerk Lauren opened the Public Hearing for the 26/27 Fiscal Year Budget. He asked the public if they had any questions or comments on the upcoming budget. No questions or comments were offered. At 6:35 pm Clerk Lauren closed the Public Hearing.

Brownfield and Tax Increment Financing Presentation: Clerk Lauren introduced Marquette County Treasurer and Director of the Brownfield Authority Jackie Solomon and Director of Development and Investment Services at Invest UP Ann Giroux. Treasurer Solomon and Director Giroux presented the Board and community a slide show regarding Brownfields. They went over definitions, redevelopment authorities, taxing, eligible expenses, incentives, housing needs and grant funding. The Board thanked Treasurer Solomon and Director Giroux for their presentation.

Department Reports: Clerk Lauren asked if the Board had any questions on the department reports. No questions were offered.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Nordeen presented a written report to the Board Members. Clerk Lauren asked the Board if they had any questions. No questions were offered.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Hammond, supported by Fowler, to approve the bills and vouchers totaling \$210,258.80, as presented. Motion carried.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
3/26/26**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Airgas	PW Gas	46.62
Amazon	PD Supplies	82.83
American Welding & Gas	EMS Oxygen	137.18
Blue to Gold LLC	PD Training	495.00
Bound Tree	EMS Medical Supplies	954.86
City of Marquette	Water Testing	150.00
Cloverland Distributing	PW Cleaning Supplies	75.10
Country Mile Document Destruction	PD Shredding	117.86
Crossroads Truck Repair	Transfer Station Truck Repair	162.16
D&D Dog Dynamics	PD K9 Boarding	437.85
DSC Communications	PD Speaker	321.43
Honor CU	Various Dept Supplies	556.04
ImperialDade	Water Bleach	577.86
Integris	Computer Support	6,757.65
Karcher	PW Holder Parts	1,608.81
Lake Superior Community Partnership	Membership Dues	360.00
Menards	PW Supplies	340.85
Michelle Borrett	Reimbursement for Chore Boots	95.39
MML	Property & Liability Renewal	89,193.00
Modeltown Express	Various Dept Fuel	1,151.81
O'Dea, Nordeen, Burink & Pickens	Attorney Fees	1,606.00
Paul Vecellio	Reimburse Sewer Camera	500.00
Quill	Various Dept Supplies	299.69
Range Telecommunications	Miss Dig	106.80
Riverside Ford	PD Parts	450.80
RMS	PW Repairs	108.63
Snyder Drug	PD Supplies	230.88
State of Michigan	PD Prints	42.00
Superior Lock & Security	PD Camera Repair	200.00
The Uniform Shoppe	FD Uniforms	17,704.15
TransUnion	PD Background Checks	100.00
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Service	516.22
UP Kubota	PW Parts	2,185.98
UPSET	Law Enforcement Service Agreement	10,000.00
Wex Bank	Fuel Various Dept	2,517.86
UPEA	Engineering	13,208.60

US Postal Service	SC Newsletter	69.60
Total		153,469.51

**Forsyth Township
Additional Bills For Approval
3/26/26**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ace Hardware	Various Dept Supplies	612.79
Amazon	PW Supplies	347.31
Auto Value	Parts for Various Dept	4,515.90
Bound Tree	EMS Medical Supplies	655.37
Donald Wiartalla	Reimbursement for Clothing	243.87
Gordon Food Service	CH Concession Food	160.71
Grand Traverse Resort	MTA Conference Hotel	3,176.00
Marquette County Equalization	Assessing Contract	26,751.00
Pro-Tech Sales	PD Vests	18,298.90
Quill	Various Dept Supplies	40.00
State of Michigan	PW Hazardous Waste User	100.00
Sun Badge Co.	PD Badges	697.50
The Office Planning Group	Copier	108.77
Unifirst	Carpet/Uniform Svc	60.54
UPEA	Engineering	1,304.50
		57,073.16
	Original Bill Listing	153,469.51
	Total Accounts Payable	210,542.67

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 91759 - 91875
Voucher Numbers for Tax 2460-
2470

ACTION ITEMS:

CDBG Grant Support (12a.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, that Forsyth Township hereby affirms its support for the Rice Lake Workforce Housing Development and the extension of municipal water infrastructure necessary to serve the proposed residential development located near the intersection of M-35 and County Road 553. The Township acknowledges the submission of a

Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application requesting up to \$1,500,000 in Housing Infrastructure funding to support the extension of municipal water and infrastructure to the Rice Lake subdivision. Recognizing the need for additional workforce housing opportunities within Forsyth Township and Marquette County, the Township Board supports advancing this project and the infrastructure improvements necessary to facilitate the development. If CDBG funding is awarded, Forsyth Township agrees to work in partnership with the project developer and project engineer to identify and secure the remaining funding necessary to complete the water infrastructure extension associated with the project. The Township further authorizes Township leadership and administration to explore and pursue appropriate financing mechanisms, including but not limited to bonding, utility financing, or other lawful funding sources, to address the remaining infrastructure costs beyond the CDBG award amount. Motion carried.

USDA RD Water and Sewer Funding (12b.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve Treado Engineering and Development to complete a USDA RD Water Funding Application for Forsyth Township to extend water infrastructure to the proposed Rice Lake subdivision for a not to exceed amount of \$15,000. Motion carried.

Upper Great Lakes Family Health Support (12c.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Fowler, to approve the letter of support for the Upper Great Lakes Family Health expansion at its Sawyer location. Motion carried.

Office Fireproof Cabinet (12d.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Fowler, to approve the quote from OPG for a Fireproof cabinet to be placed in the Clerk’s office, totaling \$5,981.00. Motion carried.

Budget Adjustments (12e.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Hammond, to approve the Budget Adjustments, as presented. Motion carried.

**FORSYTH TOWNSHIP
BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS
26-Mar-26**

GENERAL FUND				
Department	Department #	Original/Amended	New	Difference
Revenue		3,488,215	3,543,680	55,465
Expense				
Township Manager	172	107,171	107,215	44
Treasurer	253	1000	1343.79	343.79
Assessing and Zoning	257	289,841	303,690	13,849
Office	261	245,100	247,300	2,200
Buildings and Grounds	265	233,896	246,990	13,093
Professional Services	267	107,080	133,491	26,411
Insurance/Supplies/Support	267	105,658	107,658	2,000
DPW	441	178,230	203,468	25,238
Transfer Station	528	285,807	290,425	4,618

Senior Citizen Director	672	274348.44	276156.49	1808.05
ZBA	722	7155	7165	10
			Total	89,615
Beginning Fund Balance	2,825,167	4/1/25		
Estimated Revenues:	3,543,680			
Estimated Expenses:	(3,862,478)			
Estimated Ending Fund Balance:	2,506,369	3/31/26		

Police				
	Original/Amended	New	Difference	
Revenue	1,349,370	1,347,182	(2,188)	
Expenses	1,419,173	1,434,558	15,385	
Beginning Fund Balance	247,793	4/1/25		
Estimated Revenues:	1,347,182			
Estimated Expenses:	(1,434,558)			
Estimated Ending Fund Balance:	160,417	3/31/26		

Ambulance Equipment Fund				
	Original/Amended	New	Difference	
Revenue	140,500	141,835	1334.96	
Expenses	70,250	70,250	0	
Beginning Fund Balance	606,245	4/1/2025		
Estimated Revenues:	141,835			
Estimated Expenses:	(70,250)			
Estimated Ending Fund Balance:	677,830	3/31/2026		

Clubhouse/Recreation				
	Original/Amended	New	Difference	
Revenue	685,405	685,404	(1)	
Expenses	709,025	730,155	21,130	
Beginning Fund Balance	492,937	4/1/2025		
Estimated Revenues:	685,404			
Estimated Expenses:	(730,155)			

Estimated Ending Fund Balance:	448,186	3/31/2026
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Library			
	Original/Amended	New	Difference
Revenue	233,738	247,688	13,950
Expenses	225,211	243,011	17,800
Beginning Fund Balance	295,367	4/1/2025	
Estimated Revenues:	247,688		
Estimated Expenses:	(243,011)		
Estimated Ending Fund Balance:	300,044	3/31/2026	

Sewer			
	Original/Amended	New	Difference
Revenue	483,000	483,000	0
Expenses	617,460	624,917	7,457
Beginning Net Position:	1,142,323	4/1/2025	
Estimated Revenues:	483,000		
Estimated Expenses:	(624,917)		
Estimated Ending Net Position:	1,000,406	3/31/2026	

Water			
	Original/Amended	New	Difference
Revenue	835,550	870,844	35,294
Expenses	1,045,337	1,050,209	4,871
Beginning Net Position:	1,684,824	4/1/2025	
Estimated Revenues:	870,844		
Estimated Expenses:	(1,050,209)		
Estimated Ending Net Position:	1,505,460	3/31/2026	

Roads			
	Original/Amended	New	Difference
Revenue	426,694	431,969	5,274

Expenses	519,972	519,972	0
Beginning Net Position:	1,684,824	4/1/2025	
Estimated Revenues:	431,969		
Estimated Expenses:	(519,972)		
Estimated Ending Net Position:	1,596,821	3/31/2026	

Fiscal Year 26/27 Budget (12f.): Motion by Lauren, supported by Underwood, to pass a General Appropriations Act, consistent with the uniform chart of accounts prescribed by the Department of Treasury as formal approval of the April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027 fiscal year budget, by department, for the following funds; General Operating, Police, Ambulance Equipment, Clubhouse/Recreation, Library, Township Improvement, Sewer system, Water system and Road Funds. Roll call: Treasurer Underwood – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Hammond – yes, Supervisor Kevern – absent. Motion carried.

Serenity Drive HMA Paving Bid (12g.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Hammond, to approve the Marquette County Road Commission’s 2026 Primary Road and Township Local Road HMA Paving Bid from Bacco, with an estimated cost of \$293,000 for Serenity Drive, as presented. Attorney Nordeen stated this should be a connector road also. Treasurer Underwood asked about the restrictions from the bridge going out of town. Attorney Nordeen will get with MDOT to remove that restriction. Motion carried.

EMS – Purchase Supplies for Open House (12h.): Motion by Fowler, supported by Hammond, to approve the EMS purchasing 300 hotdogs, hotdog buns, utensils and 200 beverages for the Open House Celebration. Motion carried.

EMS – Wage Increases (12i.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Hammond, to approve the EMS Wage increases, as presented. Motion carried.

FD – Fireworks Training (12j.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Fowler, to approve the Fire Departments Fireworks training expenses not to exceed \$5,000.00. Clerk Lauren stated this training saves \$10,000 that it would cost for hiring a company to ignite the fireworks. Clerk Lauren abstained. Motion carried 3-0.

PD – Tentative Offer of Employment (12k.): Motion by Fowler, supported by Hammond, to approve the Police Department’s Tentative Offer of Employment to Ethan Holman, as presented. Motion carried.

Principles of Governance (12l.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve the Principles of Governance, as presented. Motion carried.

Big 3 Liquor License (12m.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Fowler, to approve the Big 3 Gwinn MI Inc application for a Special License to serve alcohol on June 26, 2027, at 50 Johnson Lake Rd, Gwinn MI, as presented. Roll call: Trustee Hammond – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Treasurer Underwood – yes, Supervisor Kevern – absent. Motion carried.

Hazardous Waste Disposal (12n.): Motion by Fowler, supported by Underwood, to approve Public Works disposing of Hazardous Waste, not to exceed \$10,000.00. Treasurer Underwood clarified it was for used oil. Motion carried.

Library Millage Language (12o.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve removing the Headlee language from the Library's millage language, as requested. Discussion ensued. Attorney Nordeen questioned the Police and General Operating millage language. Motion amended by Hammond, support amended by Underwood, to approve removing the Headlee language from all millage renewals, as requested. Motion carried.

Sands Township Letter of Support (12p.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Hammond, to approve the Letter of Support for Sands Township's Recreation Project, as presented. Clerk Lauren stated it was a very nice project. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Snow Blowing Sidewalks (14a): Trustee Fowler explained that in 2011 it was mentioned in the minutes that snow will not be blown in resident's yards. He clarified it was not an ordinance or a motion. We recently had a significant amount of snow fall. Due to the safety of the public, the township will blow snow in the residents' yards along Pine Street if needed. All efforts will be made to blow it roadside, but should the need arise, it will be blown in yards.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Public Comment: Dave Daugherty commented on hydrant snow removal and paved road conditions. Chief Kjellin thanked the Board for the contingent hire and explained grants that will be applied. EMS Director Kim Davis updated the Board on the Open House and updated the Board on call statistics and EMS issues. Marie Bodenus commented on the fast response of first responders to a recent accident. Jessica Styer thanked the Board for the support of the Gus Macker and Big 3 events. Jeff Hart commented on stray dogs and calls to the Police Department. Chief Kjellin defended the Police Department.

Board Comment: Trustee Hammond informed the Board of a car fire. He thanked Chief Kjellin for his help with that fire. Treasurer Underwood thanked Public Works for the snow removal during and after the blizzard. Clerk Lauren thanked Len Bodenus for helping with water and sewer issues.

Closed Session: POAM and TPOAM Collective Bargaining:

At 7:26 p.m. a motion was made by Treasurer Underwood, supported by Trustee Fowler, to approve going into closed session for Collective Bargaining for the POAM and TPOAM Unions, pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(c). Roll call: Treasurer Underwood – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes, Trustee Hammond – yes, Supervisor Kevern – absent. Motion carried.

At 7:50 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Fowler, supported by Trustee Hammond, to approve coming out of closed session. Motion carried.

Board Comment: Trustee Hammond stated a tag is needed for charging at GFS. He has asked Jeff Milner to be his Assistant Emergency Manager. Attorney Nordeen explained the history of the VFW cemetery area. This is not for burials but for ceremonies. The area cannot be gifted for burials. The Board discussed the issue of Marquette County not declaring a State of Emergency for the recent blizzard.

Adjournment: Clerk Lauren adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk