

**Forsyth Township Board
Special Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
May 11, 2026**

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: Attorney Nordeen, Interim Manager Ray Anderson and a resident.

Agenda: Motion by Hammond, supported by Fowler, to approve the agenda, as presented. Discussion ensued. Motion amended by Hammond, support amended by Fowler, to approve the agenda with the additions of 7b. Planting of the Ice Track, 7c. MML Manager Search Salary, 7d. Ballfield Roads, 7e. Trail Grant, 7f. Garbage Truck and 7g. Big 3 Security. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

ACTION ITEMS:

FD – Fire Truck Equipment (6a.): Motion by Underwood, supported by Fowler, to approve additional equipment for the new fire truck, not to exceed \$40,000.00, as presented. Motion carried.

FD – Bunker Gear (6b.): Motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve the Fire Department Bunker Gear quote for \$26,530.00, as presented. Clerk Lauren confirmed the Bunker Gear is under rotation. Motion carried.

Boulevard Maintenance (6c.): Motion by Fowler, supported by Lauren, to approve the quotes from A Cut Above Tree and Lawn Care LLC for sod applications totaling \$8,000.00 and grounds maintenance totaling \$17,800.00, as presented. Clerk Lauren confirmed there were other bids provided. Motion carried.

Playground Mulch (6d.): Motion by Kevern, supported by Underwood, to approve playground mulch from Menards, not to exceed \$6,000, as presented. Discussion ensued. More research will have to be done on the cost of wood chips and the safety of rubber mulch. Kevern withdrew his motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Transfer Station Vouchers (7a.): Manager Anderson stated there were residents asking about the free dump day. Treasurer Underwood liked the voucher system used last year. Clerk Lauren said the cost was significantly lower. Supervisor Kevern would like it the same as last year.

Motion by Kevern, supported by Fowler, to have the dump day using the voucher system, with the date to be announced. Manager Anderson will choose the dates. Motion carried.

Planting of the Ice Track (7b.): Supervisor Kevern stated much of the grass died off because of the harsh winter. Kody Peterson would like to get started as soon as possible. Zack Kevern will be donating his equipment and time. Mr. Peterson will use the Township's topsoil.

Motion by Kevern, supported by Lauren, to approve Kody Peterson putting grass in the Ice Track area, not to exceed \$6,000.00. Motion carried.

MML Manager Search Salary (7c.): Supervisor Kevern stated there were a few things changed on the ad for the Manager. The salary will go up to \$100,00.00. Manager Anderson suggested getting a Manager that is more in touch with the operations as the Office Staff is very strong.

Motion by Kevern, supported by Fowler, to adopt the ad with the changes. Motion carried.

Ballfield Roads (7d.): Trustee Hammond stated the Ballfield road is horribly dusty. The players have to stop playing when the dust goes through. Treasurer Underwood informed the Board of a dust control system which could be purchased for \$500.00. It was the consensus of the board to have a tire on the grader tubed so the road could be graded at any time. Treasurer Underwood reiterated how convenient it would be to dust control at our leisure. Manager Anderson will contact MJ VanDamme to see when dust control is possible.

Trail Grant (7e.): Manager Anderson and Supervisor Kevern explained a \$30,000.00 matching grant opportunity with Forsyth Forward which was approved 2024, however the grant was not received. Executive Director Cook reapplied for the grant which was awarded. He would like the Township to match the \$30,000.00 funds now. Manager Anderson stated it could be split into two fiscal years. The Board discussed the engineer grant, the location of the trail, the easements involved and the implications of declining the grant.

Garbage Truck (7f.): Manager Anderson explained the repairs of the Garbage truck have been \$28,000 to date. It will be another \$11,500.00 to get the engine. Supervisor Kevern would like to use the budgeted items to replace the Garbage truck. Manager Anderson commented on compiling the actual costs of the Transfer Station. Treasurer Underwood believes each event should be responsible for their trash.

Big 3 Security (7g.): Manager Anderson informed the Board of the security request from the Big 3. He explained the cost of overtime. He then referenced the Agreement signed by the Township and the Big 3. It spells out they are not required to follow the Outdoor Gathering Ordinance, but they are responsible for the grounds. The security is vague. Treasurer Underwood does not believe we should be responsible for the security because of the liability. Supervisor Kevern believes the security was volunteer. Attorney Nordeen does not recommend the Township be responsible for the security at the event.

Attorney Nordeen had a previous engagement and left the meeting.

Public Comment: A resident asked about the Big 3. Supervisor Kevern explained.

Closed Session: Collective Bargaining: At 4:05 pm, motion by Hammond, supported by Underwood, to approve going into closed session for Collective Bargaining per MCL 15.268(1)(c). Roll call: Supervisor

Kevern – yes, Treasurer Underwood – yes, Clerk Lauren – yes, Trustee Hammond – yes, Trustee Fowler – yes. Motion carried.

At 4:56 pm, motion by Kevern, supported by Fowler, to approve coming out of closed session. Motion carried.

Board Comment: Trustee Fowler asked if the posting for the Transfer Station Attendant was a full-time position. Manager Anderson stated job descriptions need updating, including the Public Works Director. Treasurer Underwood thanked Trustee/Emergency Manager Hammond for his hard work during the flooding. Supervisor Kevern asked if there was paperwork for the flooding damage. Trustee/Emergency Manager Hammond stated we need updated EOP's for emergencies.

Adjournment: Supervisor Kevern adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Linnee
Board Secretary

Ron Lauren
Forsyth Township Clerk