

**Forsyth Township Board
Special Meeting
February 9, 2010**

Supervisor Minelli called the Special Meeting of the Forsyth Township Board to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Emergency Service Building.

Board Members Present: Minelli, Filizetti-Hartzell, Nordeen, Roberts & Armatti. All were present.

Also Present: E.C.I. representatives Carr Baldwin & Dave Lampinen along with Bookkeeper Lynn Rodgers. Superintendent of Public Works, Eric Jansci, arrived later.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti & unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following additions: Discussion; a. Sawyer W.

ACTION ITEMS:

Water Upgrade Project: Dave Lampinen & Carr Baldwin addressed the Township Board regarding Water System Improvements. Three options were presented for consideration: 1. Staying with the original plan with the exception of New Swanzy & Fralick Heights thereby reducing the cost by \$313,000 which could be used to pave some of the ineligible streets. 2. Use directional boring along Iron Street & M-35 thus reducing construction costs by \$467,000 which would increase the amount available to pave streets. 3. Eliminating the loop along M-553. The construction cost of this loop is \$271,700 which could be used with either of the first two options. Discussion ensued pertaining to paving the roads by doing some completely & others on the construction side only, raising water rates now rather than all at once, purchasing the New Swanzy well property from the State of Michigan. The initial application for funding was \$5,444,000.00 with Rural Development offering to fund \$5,287,000.00, requiring a contribution of \$157,000.00 from the Water Fund. However, when an error was discovered in the estimated paving it was necessary to look at reducing the cost of the project. The estimated cost of paving the ineligible portion of the streets is \$500,000.00. The possibility of floating a bank loan for some of the paving costs was brought up by Supervisor Minelli. Amending the Water System Ordinance to read that all customers located within the water system are required to be connected was brought up. **Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti authorizing Lynn Rodgers to contact Rural Development regarding signing a project letter stating the 2.75% interest rate or less. Motion carried.**

Set Budget Workshop: It was the consensus of board members to hold a budget workshop on February 22nd at 6:00 P.M. at the Emergency Service Building.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Minelli informed the board that an "ad hoc" committee will be formed to look at the "W" which is currently owned by West Branch Township but located in Forsyth Township. The building was slated for auction by West Branch Township but stopped but postponed. If the building should be auctioned off it could become a dilapidated building and end up costing Forsyth Township an estimated \$500,000.00 to tear down. The "ad hoc" committee, chaired by Bill Nordeen, will meet to consider the possibility of Marquette County purchasing the building with Forsyth Township possibly helping if feasible. Ms. Johnson stated she has a five year business plan to operate the "W", along with a pending \$640,000.00 federal grant for upgrades.

Public Comment: None

Closed Session – Union Negotiations: Moved by Minelli, supported by Nordeen to go into closed session for the purpose of union negotiations at 7:52 P.M. Roll call vote: Minelli – aye; Nordeen – aye; Armatti – aye; Roberts – aye; Filizetti-Hartzell – aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Filizetti-Hartzell, supported by Nordeen to return to open session at 8:09 P.M. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Filizetti-Hartzell
Forsyth Township Clerk

