

**Forsyth Township
Special Meeting
Emergency Service Building
September 6, 2011**

Supervisor Minelli called the Special Meeting of the Forsyth Township Board to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Minelli, Clerk Filizetti-Hartzell, Treasurer Nordeen and Trustees Roberts & Armatti.

Also Present: USW Representative Mike Bellmore, Lynn Rodgers, Lenny Fowler & Dennis Norman.

Agenda: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts & unanimously carried approving the agenda with the following additions: under Action Items add; d. Garbage Truck.

USW Union Negotiations: Minelli stated the board gave the union their final best offer at the previous negotiation session but due to the health insurance changes at the state level it was agreed another meeting would take place. Minelli stated the state level changes are confusing.

Bellmore stated he is frustrated with the changes at the state level & understands that Governor Snyder will sign the SB7 bill on September 7th. He further stated that a ratified contract is needed or the contract will be subject to the SB7 80/20 or cap on health insurance. Also, the township can no longer provide step increases for new employees. He suggested a performance review for all employees be added to the contract, not just new employees with suggested wording, "All Employees are subject to performance review every six months," with wage increases being adjusted at that time to address the step increase problem. Since retroactive pay is not longer allowed & the contract ended on 3/31/11 it was suggested the contract start on the ratification date. Minelli suggested the job descriptions be re-written with more pay being added. Minelli suggested a performance review for all employees, not just new employees, doing such every six months. The following proposal was presented by the Steelworkers: 1. 4 to 5 year contract; wage increase of 2%, 2% & 2.5% with the 4th & 5th year being looked at later; 2 weeks' vacation (10 days after 2 years employment); employees subject to a performance review every 6 months.

Bellmore recommended bringing the employees up to the two year step increase pay stated in the contract.

Motion by Filizetti-Hartzell, supported by Minelli to go into closed session at 7:25 p.m. Roll call vote: Minelli – aye; Armatti – aye, Nordeen – aye, Roberts – aye, Filizetti-Hartzell – aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Minelli, supported by Nordeen to return to open session at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

A discussion ensued regarding adding extra duties to the job descriptions such as needing additional skill, training. Bellmore stated additional duties could be required by the board but mediation can be called by the union to adjust the pay rate. The union asked that the Zoning Aide position be set at 22 points since that employee would be assuming all zoning duties. The township board offered 18 points.

Determine Minimum bids for Ambulance & Pick-Up Truck/Plow to Republish for Re-bid: Motion by Roberts, supported by Filizetti-Hartzell to accept no less than \$2,500.00 as the minimum bid for the truck/plow. Motion carried. Motion by Roberts, supported by Minelli to accept no less than \$3,000.00 for the minimum bid for the ambulance. Motion carried.

Garbage Truck: Armatti addressed the garbage truck issue stating the garbage truck was obsolete and the cost to fix it is \$18,000.00 which includes the \$10,000.00 already sent in. Armatti further stated the township could get \$10,000.00 for the truck. He stated he talked to Delta Disposal and they could find another garbage truck for around \$25,000.00. Armatti will contact the company to ask if the township can get the \$10,000.00 back.

Union representative Bellmore presented the following contract proposals to the township board:

1. Four (4) year contract from September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2015.
2. Wage increases of 1%, 1%, 1.5% & 1.5%.
3. Vacation okay as is.
4. Zoning Aide at eighteen (18) points.
5. New employees at two (2) year pay, eliminating step increases.
6. Emergency financial manager language in the contract.

Closed session: Motion by Minelli, supported by Nordeen to go into closed session at 9:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Roberts – aye; Minelli – aye; Nordeen –aye; Armatti – aye; Filizetti-Hartzell – aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen to return to open session at 9:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Filizetti-Hartzell, supported by Nordeen approving a tentative agreement between the United Steelworkers and Forsyth Township with the above stated proposals being part of the agreement. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Filizetti-Hartzell
Forsyth Township Clerk