

**Forsyth Township Board
Special Meeting
Emergency Services Building
March 24, 2014**

Supervisor Minelli called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Minelli, Clerk Nordeen, Treasurer Roberts, and Trustees Adams and Bodenus.

Board Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Jerry Boles and Mr. Kim Lawrence of the MSU School of Criminal Justice, Attorney Koch, Chief Rector, a number of township employees and interested residents.

Minutes: Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to approve the minutes of March 8, 2014 as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Agenda: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts, to approve the agenda as presented amending Action Items, **8a.** and **8b.** to be held in closed session . Motion carried.

Police Analyst Presentation: Supervisor Minelli requested that Attorney Koch give an introduction of the Analyst Team. Attorney Koch introduced Mr. Boles and Mr. Lawrence and gave a brief description of their credentials. He also stated that the Board Members and members of the Forsyth Township Police Department all had copies of the report and were able to review the findings. He thanked the Analyst Team for being present to represent their findings and answer any questions that may arise.

Mr. Boles went on to explain that he was contacted by Supervisor Minelli and requested to analyze the Police Department. He then gave a brief description of how the report was constructed. He did emphasize the fact that absolutely nothing in the report was “single sourced” or “hear say”. He also informed the Board that their interviews included many sources in Marquette County, all of which had stated there was a need for a Police Department in Forsyth Township. He also noted that some of the suggestions they made in the report have already been implemented, or were currently in the process of being implemented.

Various questions from the Board, Attorney, and Audience were addressed. These included the need for training, equipment, applicable policy and procedures, scheduling, data gathering to address various issues, and the use of various administrative rolls for various positions. Also brought up was the need for communication throughout the department. Currently members of the Police Department do not feel they have any direction. Mr. Boles and Mr. Lawrence gave suggestions of various ways to possibly correct the situation. The common thread was if the suggestions in their report were put to use, some of these concerns could, and would, correct themselves. They also stressed the importance of using each position as what the position was intended to be. Training would be an imperative part of this process. They included the Board as an important part of the Department itself. All opinions should be valued as important, there must be appropriate policies and procedures, there must be accountability, and there must be delegation of supervisory positions.

The Board thanked the Analysts for their presentation and expressed a possibility of future reviews.

Supervisor Minelli called for a short break at 7:55 p.m.

Supervisor Minelli called meeting back to order at 8:03 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

Police Chief Contract (8a.) and POAM Contract (8b.): Motion by Nordeen, supported by Adams, to approve going into closed session for strategy of collective bargaining negotiations and Attorney/Client privileged letter. Motion carried.

Roll call: Nordeen – aye
Bodenus – aye
Adams – aye
Roberts – aye
Minelli – aye

Motion by Nordeen, supported by Adams to come out of Closed Session. Motion carried.

Roll call: Nordeen – aye
Bodenus – aye
Adams – aye
Roberts – aye
Minelli – aye

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

BOARD COMMENT: None.

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Filizetti
Secretary/Clerk

Jane Nordeen
Township Clerk