

**Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Emergency Services Building
June 26, 2014**

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

Board Members Present: Clerk Nordeen, Treasurer Roberts, Trustee Adams and Trustee Bodenus

Board Members Absent: Supervisor Minelli, excused.

Also Present: Assessor Henry DeGroot, Interim Police Chief Adam LaFave, Fire Chief Don Hutchens, EMS Director Peter Ghiringhelli, Public Works Superintendent Eric Jancsi, UPEA Representative Ben Banfield, Library Board President Donna Adams, Steve Rodgers, Tim Rector, Dale Ackerly, Lawrence Wolfe, Carl Bryzek, Dave Beaudette, Bob VanStee, Tara Armatti, Ruth Forgette, George Sibly, a number of township employees and concerned citizens.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Roberts, supported by Adams, to approve the minutes for June 11, 2014 Special Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Mr. Wolfe expressed his interest in the information regarding the Police Analysts Report and his interest in a Freedom of Information Request regarding the information. Carl Bryzek stated the respect he had for Mr. Rector when he was the Chief of Police and spoke for his support. Dave Beaudette stated that the Police Department Analyst Report stated it was not a “normal review”. What prompted the Board to request MSU to do the report? Clerk Nordeen explained she could not answer this question during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Bob VanStee stated he has not been a resident of Forsyth Township long, but was in full support of Mr. Rector. Dale Ackerly stated he retired from the Forsyth Township Police Department and was a partner of Mr. Rector’s for many years. He is very disappointed in the Board and how they treated the entire situation. He stated the new Chief should be a resident of Forsyth Township. He also asked if all the departments were going to be evaluated. He questioned the current police coverage, as the department is so short staffed. Steve Rodgers stated he gathered extensive information through the Freedom of Information Act. Through all the information gathered, he found no reason for Mr. Rector’s contract to not be renewed. He stressed his support for Mr. Rector and his disappointment in the behavior of the Board Members and the Township Attorney. He also questioned the money spent on the services contracted for the Police Department evaluation and attorney fees. Tara Armatti spoke of her support of Mr. Rector and her disrespect for the Board. UPEA Representative Ben Banfield stated they had submitted plans to the USDA for the Water System and are waiting on easements. Ruth Forgette read a letter from Maureen (Chic) Hakes, a retired township employee and current resident, stating her support for Mr. Rector and lack of professionalism from the Board Members. Ms. Forgette also stated her support of Mr. Rector. Police Interim Chief Adam LaFave read his letter informing the Board of departmental activities taking place in the Police Department.

Agenda: Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to approve the agenda with the following additions: **10n. EMS Hire, 10o. Marquette County Treasurer Request, 10p. Add 1 Full-Time Hire to the Police Department.** Motion carried.

Department Reports: The following reports were accepted and placed on file: Assessing/Zoning, Senior Citizens, Fire Department, Library, Police Department, and Financial. Reports not filed: Ambulance, Public Works Department, Parks Committee, Water Project, and KI Sawyer Community Center. UPEA Representative, Ben Banfield, gave an oral report on the Water Project during Public Comment.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Koch informed the Board that the Zoning Violation by Beaudette was being heard June 30th. The Zoning Violation of Manninen would be the following Monday. He has filed on 2 others, one is requesting a variance now, and the other is pending a default judgment. Superior Extrusion Inc. Tax Tribunal has filed a motion. He is waiting on the Kanerva violation, as they have filed a bench warrant on the Miscellaneous Debris ticket that had been issued.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Roberts, supported by Adams, to approve bills and vouchers totaling, \$97,290.37, as presented. Motion carried.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
6/26/14**

Vendor	Description	Amount
A Jacobson Landscaping	Landscaping Services and Supplies	9,081.00
4 Safety	Safety Equipment	83.75
Ahern	Extinguisher Service	1,197.70
Airgas	Gas and Cylinder Rental	175.65
All-Phase	Clock Tower Supplies	25.23
Aramark	Carpet and Uniform Service	1,127.15
Auto Value	Parts for Various Departments	1,592.79
Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating	Tourist Park Project	528.45
Bergdahls	Trimmers and Supplies	535.20
City of Marquette	Bacteriological Analysis	100.00
City Sales	SCBA Supplies	81.00
Count of Marquette	Copper Tubing for Water	164.94
Crossroads Truck Repair	Parts for Garbage and Fire Trucks	146.15
Dalco	Clubhouse & Park Supplies	466.96
Fox Marquette	Repair Police Vehicle	95.00
Fox Negaunee	Parts for Police Vehicle	313.38
Frobergs Clothing	PW Boots	300.00
Galls	PD Medical and Uniform Supplies	682.56
Jerry's Small Engine Supply	Parts for Mower	15.83
Kevin Koch PC	Attorney Fees	2,661.50

Leutz's Sign	Safety Signs	25.00
DLP Marquette General	Ambulance Supplies	1,016.82
Mike's Auto Center	Mount & Balance Tires	26.24
Meisters	Beautification Flowers and Supplies	777.00
Menards	Supplies for Various Depts	958.18
MML Work Comp	Policy Premium Renewal	23,359.00
Michigan Sales	Kubota Parts	59.00
MyTana	Sewer Parts	60.35
North Country Septic	Portable Restroom - June	100.00
Pomasl Fire Equipment	Fire Equipment	3,320.51
Pomps	Police Vehicle Repairs	1,201.60
Quill	Supplies for Various Depts	611.75
Range Telecommunications	Miss Dig Calls	18.50
Sagola Contracting Inc	Cleaning of Police Department	1,350.00
Sim Supply	Emergency Services Bldg Supplies	229.09
Superior Electric	Transfer Station Equip Repair	431.36
Superior Lock & Security	Change Keypad Codes	70.00
Swick	Salvation Army Fountain Repair	838.00
The Mining Journal	Publishing	422.40
UPEA	Engineering Services	18,351.84
US Postal Service	Box Renewal & Permit Renewal	330.00
VFW	Flag Reimbursement	682.85
WS Darley	Fire Department Supplies	295.82
		73,909.55

**Forsyth Township
Bills Additional For Approval
6/26/14**

Vendor	Purpose	Amount
Auto Armor	Police Vehicle Cleaning	114.95
Ace Hardware	Supplies for Various Depts	1,167.84
Airgas	PW Supplies	78.67
County of Marquette	Water Supplies	334.18
Compudyne	Computer Support	90.00
Dennis' Tech Supply	PW Parts	9.26
Frischman Appraisal & Consulting	SEI Appraisal Review	1,200.00
Fire-Rescue Supply	FD Hose	693.50
Fox Marquette	PD Vehicle Pars	254.12
Gwinn-Sawyer Area Chamber	Annual Dues	25.00
Holiday Cleaners	PD Uniform Service	78.42

Joe & Son's Service Center	Tire Repair PD & PW	21.59
Menards	Water Supplies	118.80
Pomasl Fire Equipment	FD Guage Line	334.33
Heric Painting	Bandstand Repairs	685.00
Petty Cash	Supplies for Various Depts	102.73
Quill	Office Supplies	31.98
Remy Battery Co. Inc.	Batteries	342.08
The Office Planning Group	Copier Maintenance	484.66
UPEA	Water Project, Water, Sewer, Engineering	17,213.71
		23,380.82
	Original Bill Listing	73,909.55
	Total Accounts Payable	97,290.37

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 66006-62252
Voucher Numbers for Tax

ACTION ITEMS:

Fire Dept – Training Funds, Purchase Strainer, Stay Back Pay, Life Line and PFD Devices, Purchase Hose

(10a. – 10e.): Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to approve Fire Department training expenses for the Fire Department Tournament, purchase a low level strainer, Stay Back Pay for 5 crew members for July 24th and 25th, purchase Life Line and PFD devices, purchase 900’ of hose, all totaling \$5,250.00. Motion carried.

Clubhouse Equipment (10f.): Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to approve purchasing 2 backed benches, 2 flat benches and 1 capped trash can for the Clubhouse, totaling \$1,585.96. Motion carried.

Fire Bill (10g.): No action taken.

Balsam Street Easement (10h.): Department Supervisors need to research the effect the easement would have on their departments. No action taken.

Sign Requests (10i.): Motion by Adams, supported by Bodenus, to approve placing “Children at Play signs at 1400 Setter Drive and 408 W. Burt Street, per residents request. Motion carried.

Police Dept – Building Plans for Locker Room (10j.): Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to approve purchasing engineering plans for the Ambulance Bay section at the Police Department from UPEA, not to exceed \$2,500.00. Discussion ensued. The department cannot get construction bids for a new locker room until the engineering plans are completed for this section. Motion carried.

Police Dept – New Vehicle Equipment (10k.): Motion by Roberts, supported by Adams, to approve equipping the new Police Patrol Vehicle with the budgeted \$8,000.00. Motion carried.

Police Dept – New Hire Testing (10l.): Motion by Adams, supported by Bodenus, to approve sending the 2 recently hired police officers for psychological evaluations in Traverse City. Discussion ensued. The Board would like more information on that clinic and how it compares with more localized clinics. Motion failed 2-2.

Assessing/Zoning – Zoning Correction (10m.): Motion by Roberts, supported by Adams, to approve the zoning amendment correcting the zoning error on the presented parcels, known as the Gwinn Business District, from Residential-1 to Commercial-2. Motion carried.

EMS Hire (10n.): Motion by Roberts, supported by Adams, to accept the EMS new hire, Becky Barrett. Motion carried.

Marquette County Treasurer Request (10o.): Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to approve funding 75% of the cost for demolition/debris removal to the Land Bank Authority for demolition at 47 E. Jackpine. Discussion ensued. There are 2 bids listed on the request. Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to amend the motion to approve funding 75% of the cost for demolition/debris removal to the Land Bank Authority for demolition at 47 E. Jackpine, not to exceed \$3,900.00. Motion carried.

Police Dept – Add 1 Full-Time Officer (10p.): Motion by Roberts, supported by Adams, to hire 1 Full-Time Police Officer. Discussion ensued. Deputy Treasurer Rodgers explained what items were currently budgeted. There are variables that are not available at this time, such as retirement options for new hires and the option to hire a new Police Chief. The board discussed if both of the currently hired Part-Time Police Officers could remain if 1 Full-Time Police Officer was hired. Motion by Roberts, supported by Adams, to amend the motion to postpone the item until more information is available. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Interim Co-Directors for Library (11a.): Clerk Nordeen stated that the Library Director position is still currently open. Two of the staff members are temporarily taking on the duties of the Library Director until one is permanently hired. Donna Adams, Library President, stated that the applications will be narrowed down to three for interviewing next week. They are hoping to have a permanent Library Director by the end of July or the beginning of August.

Senior Director Resignation (11b.): Clerk Nordeen announced that Julie Shaw, current Senior Director, has accepted a position with another agency. The Board and Community are sorry to see her go. They have started the process of hiring a Senior Director to fill the position.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Gwinn Area Community Schools Thank You Letter: The Board received a letter from the Gwinn Area Community Schools thanking the Public Works Department for their outstanding work on getting the softball field ready for an unexpected district softball contest.

Public Comment: George Sibly stated he was a Police Officer in Ishpeming for 27 years. He shared his support for Mr. Rector. He explained that a position like that is sometimes a 24 hour job, and that

having time for outside services isn't always an option. He also thanked the Public Works department for their attention to his water issues that occurred after regular working hours. Library President Donna Adams stated that the Library renovation process is coming along. They are hoping to break ground in August. Dale Ackerly requested that future Agendas be emailed to him. He also asked the Board to look into residents being able to bring shingles to the landfill. He explained that other townships allow their residents to bring them, and asked why Forsyth doesn't. He also acknowledged the nice article in the paper regarding the Senior Director leaving and stated Mr. Rector deserved the same. Fire Chief Don Hutchens stated he appreciated the support of the Board, but his top priority is for the safety of his crew and the safety of the community. Carl Bryzek stated, again, his support for Mr. Rector. Dave Beaudette asked again why the need for the MSU Analysts. Clerk Nordeen explained he would need to ask to be put on the agenda for that question to be answered. Lawrence Wolfe asked if all information could be requested through the Freedom of Information Act. He referenced a perception of a shadow and would like to know what is going on behind closed doors.

Board Member Comment: Attorney Koch thanked Julie Shaw for her years of service. Trustee Adams told Fire Chief Hutchens to do research for a possible millage for the fire department and thanked the Fire Chief for his service. Treasurer Roberts wished the Fire Department good luck at the upcoming Tournament. Clerk Nordeen explained the crucial timing of asking for a millage. She also thanked the community for supporting Mr. Rector.

Adjournment: Clerk Nordeen adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Filizetti
Clerk/Secretary

Jane Nordeen
Forsyth Township Clerk