

**Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Emergency Services Building
August 28, 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, Trustee Adams and Trustee Bodenus

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Interim Police Chief Adam LaFave, Fire Captain Don Eplett, Public Works Superintendent Eric Jancsi, UPEA Representative Ben Banfield and Ken Dillinger, Assessor DeGroot, a number of township employees and concerned citizens.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to approve the minutes for the August 25, 2014 Special Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Jean Armatti stated the Board has a Miscellaneous Debris Ordinance, so why does Gwinn look like a city dump. Supervisor Minelli stated we will be addressing a new Ordinance later in the meeting. A Library Board Member read a statement regarding the bids for the Library construction. They have adjusted the plans and are getting new bids. They are still hoping to break ground before the end of the year. The Library thanked the Board, patrons and donors for all their support. A resident stated there was talk at a Sawyer Community Alliance meeting about working on getting programs for adults out at the KI Sawyer Community Center. He feels that the Center is only for children. Clerk Nordeen welcomed adult groups, and listed a few of the adult groups that are using it now. Bonnie Hartzell stated the boulevard looks good, but questioned the weeding of the bushes. Steve Rodgers would like the Board to advertise for a Police Chief. He does not feel the Interim Police Chief should be appointed. Dale Ackerly stated the new Police Chief would serve the community better if he/she had ties to the community. He would also suggest someone with more experience. A resident stated the ATV use on Sands Street is dangerous. By the time they call 911, the ATVs are gone. Another resident also commented on the dangerous ATV use on Sands Street. He has tried to talk to the youths, but they are very disrespectful. They do not use the stop sign. They have also spread gravel into the intersection, making it dangerous to all vehicles, especially motorcycles. Supervisor Minelli asked Interim Police Chief LaFave to put more attention on the ATV issues in New Swanzy. Resident Peggy Noe stated the children at the KI Sawyer Community Center are out of control and asked what kind of discipline program was being used. Supervisor Minelli stated it was the decision of the Center Director on how to discipline the children. He stated that perhaps an additional person may be needed. Dale Throenle commented that Clerk Nordeen stated only children were allowed at the KI Sawyer Community Center, which was very discouraging. He also stated that the Center was dirty, uncontrolled, needing rules, and in need of repair. This is a bad example for the community. He suggested that contact information, and hours of operation, should be posted at the building. Supervisor Minelli gave a brief list of things that have been fixed at the Center, and a list of suggested uses for the Center. He stated things are moving ahead. Clerk Nordeen stated adults are welcome, and have been using the Center. Don Tickler remarked he had attended a meeting at West Branch with some people from the

Sawyer Community Alliance regarding the SOA. He has been watching the KI Sawyer Community Center, and has noticed it has been opening late and that there should not be smoking around the children. Bruce Graham asked the Board to please meet with West Branch and SOA, regarding the citizens living at KI Sawyer. Another resident asked the Board to meet with West Branch and the Sawyer Community Alliance regarding rules in the community. The KI Sawyer Community Center is not clean. Supervisor Minelli stated that the meeting held in the Center was not scheduled. The Center is cleaned, but was not scheduled to be cleaned until the morning. If the meeting had been placed on a schedule, the room would have been cleaned. Greg Yelland commented that the Board should have a meeting with West Branch regarding the SOA. He asked why the window had not been repaired yet at the KI Sawyer Community Center. He also stated he had a buffer he was using on the floors at the Center that disappeared. He commented he had contacted Clerk Nordeen, but was not informed as to what had happened. Superintendent Jancsi remarked it was located by the trash, so it was thought to be trash and had been recycled. Supervisor Minelli told Mr. Yelland to meet with him next week with a value of the Buffer. Mr. Yelland also questioned why none of the job openings at the Center had been posted so anyone could apply. Carl Bryzek stated the boulevard looked nice and was less dangerous. He also commented on the Taxable Value of his property being incorrect.

Agenda: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Bodenus, to approve the agenda with the following additions: **10r. Tourist Park, 10s. Blacktop, 10t. Police Chief Promotion.** Motion carried.

Department Reports: The following reports were accepted and placed on file: Assessing/Zoning, Fire Department, Library, Police Department, and General Operating Financial Report. Reports not filed: Ambulance, Public Works Department, KI Sawyer Community Center and Parks Committee. UPEA Representative, Ben Banfield, gave an oral report on the Water Project. Clerk Nordeen updated the Board on the KI Sawyer Community Center.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Koch informed the Board that the Johnson Zoning Violation is in fact resolving. All parties involved are moving ahead. The Vultaggio Violation has defaulted, due to lack of response. Attorney Koch has made several attempts to contact Mr. Vultaggio, but has had no response. Manninen continues to be in violation. The Kanerva Violation was dismissed, as he no longer owns property in Forsyth Township. He has now filed a counter claim. Progress is being made on the Water Project Easements. One property owner will not grant an easement, so other means will need to be used to obtain the easement. Attorney Koch explained they will need to get an appraisal for Fair Market Value in order to proceed. Supervisor Minelli asked Attorney Koch to proceed with the appraisal.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to approve bills and vouchers totaling, \$58,437.56, as presented. Motion carried.

**Forsyth Township
Bills For Approval
8/28/14**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ahern	Extinguisher Service	509.55
Airgas	Gas and Cylinder Rental	179.34
Anderson Communications	Radio Battery	368.00
Aramark	Carpet and Uniform Service	1,101.69

Auto Armor	Patrol Vehicle Cleaning	50.00
Auto Value	Parts for Various Departments	648.04
Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating	PD Furnace Repair	245.95
Bergdahls	Parks Maintenance Parts	159.72
BS&A	Assessing Annual Support/Service Fee	1,219.00
City of Marquette	Bacteriological Analysis	80.00
Compudyne	Computer Support	190.60
Cooper	Senior Center Copier	416.30
County of Marquette	Tax Deferment Ad	20.59
Crossroads Minimart	PD Fuel	42.74
Crossroads Truck Repair	Fire and Garbage Truck Repairs	1,047.26
Digital Highway Inc	PD	2,815.17
Dalco	Clubhouse Supplies	173.39
Elcom Systems	PD Equipment	343.92
Fabco	FD Parts	111.30
Galls	PD Uniform and Supplies	190.55
GBS	Election Supplies	33.14
Harris	Flexibill PACE Certification	60.00
HD Supply	Water Dept Parts	2,016.24
Holiday 50 Minute Cleaners	PD Dry-cleaning	59.93
Joe & Sons	Kubota Parts	15.45
Kevin Koch PC	Attorney Fees	2,024.74
DLP Marquette General	Ambulance Supplies	280.97
Marquette Machining & Fabricating	PD Building Supplies	939.50
Menards	Supplies for Various Depts	3,285.91
Menominee Granite	Brick	20.86
Michigan State Police	PD LEIN Toke	297.00
Midway Rentals	PD Remodel Supplies	62.80
Motorola Solutions	PD Radio	3,710.88
MyTana	Sewer Dept Parts	340.35
Nip & Tuck Alterations	PD Uniform Alteration	40.00
Norm's Service	Patrol Vehicle Service	52.95
North Country Septic	Portable Restroom August	95.00
Nye Uniform	PD Uniforms	535.13
Peninsula Glass Co.	Windshield	255.00
Pomasl Fire Equipment	Fire Equipment	2,542.03
Quill	Supplies for Various Depts	974.65
R&R Fire Truck Repair	FD Equipment and Uniforms	2,959.92
Range Telecommunications	Miss Dig Calls	18.50
Remy Battery	KISCC Fire Alarm Batteries	34.14
JT Motor Sports/Snap-On	PW Shop Supplies	21.10

Snyder Drug	Supplies for Various Depts	123.44
Superior Lock & Security	Annual Monthly Monitoring Lift Station	359.88
The Mining Journal	Publishing	308.85
USA Blue Book	Water and Sewer Dept Supplies	1,843.44
UPEA	Engineering Services	5,861.07
V Groos & Co.	Sewer Repairs	166.60
Wilson Auto Collision	FD Towing	150.00
Winder Police Equipment	PD Patrol Vehicle Equipment	1,585.70
		40,988.28

**Forsyth Township
Additional Bills For Approval
8/28/14**

Vendor	Description	Amount
Ace Hardware	Supplies for Various Depts	3,135.45
Beauchamp Plumbing & Heating	Police Dept Furnace Repair	182.30
CarQuest Auto	Fire Truck Parts	47.31
Clarey's Safety Equipment	Fire Dept Supplies	618.99
Compudyne	Computer Support	595.00
Cornelius Spring	Clocktower Door Repair	75.00
Dalco	TP and Paper Towel	98.61
DTE	Damaged Gas Line	667.94
Fox Negaunee	PD Patrol Vehicle Parts	546.98
Galls	PD Uniforms and Equipment	1,289.88
GBS	Election Supplies	840.00
HD Supply	Water Department Parts	1,471.81
Marquette County Clerk	Election Costs	437.57
Marquette County Health Dept	Tourist Park Inspection	196.00
Menards	Supplies for Various Depts	1,906.00
Peter Ghiringhelli	Laptop Cord for EMS	7.27
Quill	Office Supplies	446.47
The Office Planning Group	Copier Maintenance	1,560.89
UPEA	PD Locker Room	2,500.00
Winder Police Equipment	PD Patrol Vehicle Parts	825.81
		17,449.28
Original Bill Listing		40,988.28
Total Accounts Payable		58,437.56

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 66475-66773

Voucher Numbers for Tax 1518-1524

ACTION ITEMS:

Senior Center Director New Hire (10a.): Treasurer Roberts stated that all the applicants interviewed were excellent, and it was a hard decision to make. She also asked if the Union had voted on a Memorandum of Understanding regarding new hires and a revised retirement package. Supervisor Minelli explained that there had been a “straw” vote and the Union Members declined to use the revised retirement package, as it was a negotiation item. Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to approve hiring Brian Veale as the Senior Center Director. Motion failed 3-2.

Motion by Bodenus to hire Michelle Borrett as the Senior Center Director. No support. Motion failed.

Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to hire Heather LaFave as Senior Center Director. Motion failed 3-2.

Motion by Adams, supported by Minelli, to approve hiring Lynn Stahmann as Senior Center Director. Motion failed 3-2.

Advertise for Chief of Police (10b.): Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to approve advertising for a Police Chief. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Minelli stated a committee consisting of Supervisor Minelli and Treasurer Roberts will research a compensation package. The ad should run for two weeks. Motion carried 4-1.

Appoint Fire Department Liaisons (10c.): Motion by Nordeen, supported by Minelli, to appoint Trustee Bodenus and Trustee Adams as the replacement Fire Department Liaisons. **Clarification was made by Trustee Roberts that Trustee Bodenus is the Primary Liaison and Trustee Adams would fill in if Trustee Bodenus is not available.** Motion carried.

Water Bill (10d.): Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts, to forgive one month in fees for Mr. Bryzek’s water bill. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Minelli and Superintendent of Public Works Jancsi explained how the extreme cold played into the decisions to not shut off delinquent bills. Trustee Adams reiterated the responsibility the landlord has for the renter’s bills. The current Water Ordinance states the home owner is responsible for payment. Motion carried.

Water Project Easements – Attorney Koch (10e.): Motion by Nordeen, supported by Adams, to approve the Utility Easement Agreement from Attorney Nordeen as presented. Attorney Koch explained the wording for item 9. Reimbursement Contingency, as it is not totally normal in these type of easements. Motion carried.

Replacement of Trees on Sidewalk (10f.): Supervisor Minelli suggested we replace the dead trees on the boulevard sidewalks with new trees or flowers. Superintendent of Public Works Jancsi explained that A Jacobson Landscaping was researching the types of trees that are currently thriving on the boulevard. Supervisor Minelli will revisit the subject at next month’s meeting when the research has been reviewed. No action taken.

Fire Dept – Purchase PPE Items (10g.): Motion by Adams, supported by Bodenus, to approve purchase of PPE items for new hires at the Fire Department totaling \$2,500.00. Motion carried.

Fire Dept – Purchase MIOSHA Items (10h.): Motion by Adams, supported by Nordeen, to approve purchase of MIOSHA items for the Fire Department totaling \$880.00. Motion carried.

Police Dept – New Hire Testing (10i.): Supervisor Minelli asked Interim Police Chief LaFave to explain. Interim Police Chief explained that he was interested in stream lining the hiring process. His recommendation is to use the clinic in Traverse City for psychological testing in the future. Trustee Adams would like detailed costs to attend the clinic in Traverse City versus closer options. No action taken.

Police Dept – Work Comp Uncompensated Missed Days (10j.): Supervisor Minelli and Attorney Koch gave a brief explanation on the Worker’s Disability Compensation Act. Motion by Adams that the officer be reimburse for the 6 days that she was out for work related injury for which she cannot be compensated for any other way. No support. Motion failed.

Motion by Nordeen, supported by Adams, to enact the Work Related Injury Policy as presented. Discussion ensued. Trustee Roberts stated that she does not support enacting this policy at all and that the employee’s sick days should be used for the days not covered by the Worker’s Disability Compensation Act. Trustee Adams explained the difference between sick and injured. He believes a work related injury should be treated differently. Trustee Bodenus questioned what to do if the employee does not have sick time left. Interim Police Chief LaFave explained how an officer had recently been kicked in the head by a suspect. She sustained a concussion and had to miss work for a few days. Because the Worker’s Disability Compensation Act regulates when benefits start, she was forced to use her sick days. Supervisor Minelli stated that sick and vacation time are benefits. If a person gets injured doing their job, they should not have to use a benefit to compensate their pay. Motion carried 3-2.

Work Related Injury Policy

Let it be the policy of the Forsyth Township Board that any regularly scheduled work time missed because of a work related injury, the employee shall be paid his or her regular daily wages for the first week following the date of injury. If work time missed exceeds the seven days, then worker’s compensation benefits will apply.

Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to amend the agenda to address 10j., to compensate our police officer, who used sick days for a work related injury. The Work Related Injury Policy will be effective August 1st. Motion carried.

***Supervisor Minelli called for a short break at 8:07 pm
Supervisor Minelli called the meeting back to order at 8:13 pm***

Police Dept – Purchase Cameras for Patrol Vehicles (10k.): Motion by Adams, supported by Nordeen, to purchase video cameras for two Police Department Patrol Vehicles totaling \$2,990.00. He clarified that installation is not included in this amount. Motion carried.

Police Dept – Purchase Equipment for Computer in Patrol Vehicles (10l. and 10m.): Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to approve the purchase of a replacement computer for one vehicle for \$1,034.00

and the purchase of a computer for use in another vehicle for \$1,929.00, for a total of \$2,963.00. Motion carried.

Police Dept – Hire Police Officers10n.): Motion by Nordeen to approve hiring one full time Police Officer. No support. Motion failed.

Police Dept – School Liaison Officer (10o.): Supervisor Minelli asked Interim Police Chief LaFave to explain what was involved with having a School Liaison Officer. School Board Member Gloria Bigelow stated the School Board has not determined how the Liaison would work. Supervisor Minelli stated more information needs to be gathered to determine how the Liaison would work, and what action the School Board will play. He requested Interim Police Chief LaFave gather more information prior to any action being taken. No action taken.

Assessing/Zoning – Blight Ordinance (10p.): Assessing Assistant Rebecca Stachewicz gave a brief description on the Blight Ordinance. She stated it would replace the Dilapidated Building Ordinance and the Miscellaneous Debris Ordinance. Attorney Koch explained why the Penalty section should be amended prior to Board action. Assessing Assistant Stachewicz will have the Ordinance revised. No action taken.

Assessing/Zoning – NMU Intern (10q.): Assessing Assistant Rebecca Stachewicz explained how an Intern from the GIS program at NMU could be used to help with the new GIS program at the Assessing and Zoning Office. It has, however, come to her attention that the intern is required to work 80 hours to complete their class project. Currently the job would not take that long. She will research options to encompass the qualifications required for the project. No action taken.

Tourist Park (10r.): UPEA Representative Ben Banfield gave a brief description of items needed to close out the Tourist Park Grant. Motion by Adams, supported by Nordeen, to approve the two items, as presented, needed by UPEA to complete the Tourist Park Grant. Motion carried.

- 1. Jacobson Change Order for Landscaping Improvements near the Entrance and for Tree replacement. Lump Sum Fee of \$6,000.00.***
- 2. Wright Electric Change Order Not-to-Exceed \$2,500.00 to install one additional pedestal in the new camping area.***

Blacktop (10s.): Motion by Adams, supported by Roberts, to approve the repaving quote from Marquette County Road Commission for \$7,683.75 to repave a portion of Johnson Lake Road. Supervisor Minelli stated that the road was deteriorating and repaving it would make it a Class A road. Motion carried.

Police Chief Promotion (10t.): Motion by Adams to promote the Interim Chief of Police to the Full Acting Chief of Police. No support. Motion failed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Clock Tower (11a.): Supervisor Minelli explained that the Township had received a letter from an attorney regarding a bill from the Clock Tower Mason Contractor. He brought the minutes from the meeting regarding the work and instructed Attorney Koch to answer the letter.

Transfer Station Cameras (11b.): Supervisor Minelli stated that the quality of the cameras currently used at the Transfer Station cannot zoom at license plates of people illegally dumping. More research needs to be done to see if the current cameras can be enhanced or transferred to the Police Station camera bank.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Public Comment: Jean Armatti asked if the Board could send a letter to all residents regarding the details of the Miscellaneous Debris Ordinance and define the penalties if the Ordinance is not followed. Supervisor Minelli stated he would get with Jeanette Maki and put something in the Gwinn Quarterly. Sherry Juidici stated other towns have stiffer fines. She also alleged that our Ordinance is not enforced enough. She asked if people could put memorial trees in the boulevard. Bonnie Hartzell thanked the Board for advertising for a Police Chief. She also asked if the sprinkler system in the boulevard could be extended to water the flowers. Maureen Hakes commented on the Blight Ordinance. She pointed out that the Board would need to make a commitment to enforce the Ordinance. Steve Rodgers announced he was running for the Board in the upcoming election. He believes there is no transparency and still would like to know why there was a closed meeting on March 24th. He cited the Open Meetings Act and referenced the Freedom of Information Act. He thanked the Board for advertising for the Chief of Police position. Dale Ackerly offered his help with the Police Department, as they are understaffed. He also suggested using new technology body camera's for the Police Department rather than spending the money to equip the patrol vehicles, which would limit the service. He questioned the budget for the Police Department and how it could be down, as we are understaffed in that department. Supervisor Minelli invited him to come in to go over the budget. Mr. Ackerly appreciated the openness in today's meeting, but would still like the answer he has been questioning for the past several meetings, why the Board did not renewed Mr. Rector's contract. Paula Rector questioned the same thing and announced that this was the second time she felt Tim Rector was betrayed by Supervisor Minelli. She asked for a meeting with Supervisor Minelli so he could tell her why they did not renew his contract. Supervisor Minelli stated Mr. Rector did a great job, and 5 members of the Board did not renew the contract. Mr. Bryzek asked if the children on the ATV's could clean the properties involved with the Miscellaneous Debris Ordinance violations. Dale Throenle suggested bringing in clubs or using prisoners to help with Public Works, as they are understaffed. He also suggested sharing the GIS student intern with other townships in order to meet the qualification criteria. Don Tickler commented he was grateful for the Forsyth Township Police Department, but there is problems with motorcycle traffic on Aircobra. He also commented on the Manninen Zoning Violation. Another resident stated that the sidewalks on KI Sawyer are dangerous. They need ramps to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Clerk Nordeen reminded him that Scott Erbisich had explained in a previous meeting, the sidewalks were under the Marquette County Road Commission. Michelle Borrett pointed out that the Board missed her presentation earlier in the meeting. She stated she was also very disappointed that the Board did not hire a Senior Center Director, and that it was a great disservice to the Senior Community, which encompasses seven neighboring townships. All the candidates were very qualified and it would be a pleasure to work with any of them. Officer U'ren questioned if she fell under the new policy passed. Trustee Roberts asked Supervisor Minelli to reopen the action item regarding Officer U'ren getting reimbursement for the work related injury. ***(See motion under 10j.)*** A resident asked if there was currently people doing community service at the KI Sawyer Community Center. Clerk Nordeen stated that she does background checks.

Board Member Comment: Trustee Adams thanked everyone for their patience. Clerk Nordeen invited everyone to stop by the KI Sawyer Community Center to see all the changes. Supervisor Minelli announced that the Assessing and Zoning office will remain in the current office until the Library starts the physical portion of the building process. He also asked if the costs involved with the move would come out of the Library fund or the General Operating fund. This should be clarified at the next meeting.

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Filizetti
Clerk/Secretary

Jane Nordeen
Forsyth Township Clerk