

**Forsyth Township Board
Special Meeting
Gwinn Community Center
March 14, 2015**

Supervisor Minelli called the meeting to order at 10:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Public Works Superintendent Eric Jancsi, Bookkeeper Lynn Rodgers, EMS Director Peter Ghiringhelli, Fire Chief Don Hutchens, Senior Center Director Brian Veale, Police Chief Gordon Warchock, Library Board President Donna Adams, a number of township employees and concerned citizens.

Public Comment: Library Board President Donna Adams announced that the Library opening is targeted for April 13th.

Agenda: Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen, to approve the agenda with the addition of **6b. Employee Leave Time**. Motion carried.

Budget Workshop: The draft budget for fiscal year 2015-16 was presented by Supervisor Minelli. Discussion ensued. Trustee Adams suggested running a millage to help fund fire department equipment. Trustee Bodenus suggested replacing burned out street lights with more efficient lights. EMS Director Peter Ghiringhelli stated that there were approximately 650 Ambulance runs this year. Some Board Members suggested placing a larger amount of money in Tax Refunds because of the "Big Box" lawsuits, as requests may go back 3 years. Police Chief Gordon Warchock explained his plan for the Police Department. He would like to include a full time School Liaison Officer. He also informed the Board on suggestions to help defray the costs for 24 hour coverage. There was discussion on continually replacing clubhouse items, as needed, with more efficient items. Library Board President Adams stated there are many Budget unknowns because of the new building. Bookkeeper Lynn Rodgers expressed concern with the Sewer Fund. She stated that the expenditures are beginning to exceed revenues and the board should consider a rate increase. Supervisor Minelli suggested that a rate increase may need to be addressed at the next meeting. Superintendent Jancsi explained the options from UPEA regarding a new well and generator for the Water Department.

ACTION ITEMS:

Insurance (6a.): Supervisor Minelli explained that the Property and Casualty insurance was put out on bids. There were ads run. He announced that only one bid was received. He opened the bid from City Insurance Agency. Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts, to accept the bid from City Insurance Agency for \$55,846.00, as presented. Motion carried.

Employee Leave Time (6b.): Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts, to approve the request from Alison Thomma to carry over the balance of her comp time and one personal day to the new fiscal year. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Library Board President Donna Adams asked if the Budget included replacing the cement caps at Nordeen Park. Supervisor Minelli and Bookkeeper Rodgers stated that it was not currently in the budget, but could be adjusted when the replacement took place. Kathy Archibald questioned the Board if they had an estimate of how the “Big Box” lawsuit would affect us down the road. Trustee Bodenus explained that this subject was at the beginning stages and that it was impossible at this time to estimate any effects. Police Chief Warchock announced that the remodeling at the Police Department was almost done. He invited the Board to come over to look at the transformation. He stated he had been in many departments in the U.P., and this is one of the nicest. He stated the second floor is inefficient. He suggested updating the second floor so the space could be shared. This could offset the costs.

Board Member Comment: Treasurer Roberts thanked Bookkeeper Rodgers for a good job done on the Budget. Supervisor Minelli stated that the Police Department will be taking over the Stone Building once the new building is built. Superintendent Jancsi is working with an engineer on building specifications. Supervisor Minelli asked Bookkeeper Rodgers what amount was available to replace the building. Bookkeeper Rodgers stated that \$53,000 is available right now, but more could be available if invoices were submitted. Public Works Superintendent Jancsi will continue to work on the project.

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 11:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Filizetti
Clerk/Secretary

Jane Nordeen
Forsyth Township Clerk