

Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Emergency Service Building
December 15, 2011

Supervisor Minelli called the Regular Meeting of the Forsyth Township Board to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

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

Board Member Absent: Trustee Armatti.

Also present: Attorney Kevin Koch, County Commissioner William Nordeen & number of township employees & interested citizens.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts to accept the November 12th Special Meeting & the November 17th Regular Meeting minutes with the following corrections: November 12th change Resolution motion to read " Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti to adopt the Resolution granting Discovery Air Technical Services, located in Parcel AL-38, Hangar 663, Renaissance Zone status for a period of seven (7) years & remove the Medical Marijuana Ordinance from the November 17th minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Sawyer resident Sharon McMullen recently passed away. She volunteered with the Sawyer park project and will be missed. Her family started a fund for donations for Sawyer park improvements which currently has a balance of \$500.00 with another 500 to 800 pledged. Fire Chief Larry Hammond thanked the board for their support for the last four years of his term.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts to adopt the agenda with the following addition: under Discussion Items add 11b. Applications for Laborer. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

The following reports were accepted & placed on file: Ambulance, Assessing/Zoning, Library, Police Department, Public Works Department & Senior Citizens Director. No reports were received from the Clubhouse or Fire Department.

Roberts inquired as to the status of the Tousignant violation. Minelli stated Tousignant paid the Township \$5,000.00 as a guarantee the property will be cleaned up by June 15, 2012.

Treasurer's Report: Placed on file.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Koch stated nothing has changed on the on the Sawyer or the Civil Rights Complaint. Koch stated he would proceed with zoning violations if the board so desires. The board requested Koch take action on the John Manninen violation. Koch will write a letter to the Salvation Army asking that they clarify their intentions regarding the building. Koch stated that Don Britton will be opening the gate for the snowmobile trail and that the Township will receive a deed the 1st of 2012.

Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Minelli approving bills in the amount of \$66,189.08 and voucher numbers 59268 – 59473 along with tax vouchers 1271 – 1277. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Send Out for Audit Bids: Bids will be obtained for the 2012 audit for all funds.

Application for Laborer: Minelli stated he met with Trustee Armatti & Superintendent of Public Works to review the applicants, picking the top five for interviews. The Superintendent of Public Works will create a list of questions to ask the applicants for the interview. The board will meet on Monday night at 5:30 in the Assessing/Zoning office to interview the applicants at fifteen minute intervals with Tuesday being the alternate night.

OLD BUSINESS:

Economic Vitality Incentive Program: Roberts recommended adding collaboration at Sawyer for the Fire Department consolidations.

ACTION ITEMS:

2012 Board Meeting Schedule: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts & unanimously carried to approve the 2012 Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

Ambulance Write-Offs: Motion by Filizetti-Hartzell, supported by Nordeen & unanimously carried to write off uncollectible ambulance bills in the amount of \$71,802.68.

Gwinn Schools Water/Sewer Penalty Write-Off: Vicki Nelson, Acct's Payable/Secretary requested the late penalty be removed from the Water/Sewer bill due to her absence from the office for two weeks. The board took no action on this matter, thereby leaving the penalty as owing. The Gwinn school has placed future water/sewer billings on auto-pay.

Millage Proposal for the Police Department: Chief Rector is requesting an additional one (1) mill be placed on a future ballot in 2012. Lynn Rogers, Bookkeeper, suggested the additional millage and the one (1) mill renewal millage run concurrently. The current one (1) mill will expire in 2013. The wording for the millage proposal will be written and presented to the board with an election date being decided on at that time.

Holiday Pay for Part-Time Police Officers: Chief Rector requested the part-time police officers be given Holiday pay; their regular wage plus time and a half. Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen to pay the part-time employees time and a half for holidays. Motion by Roberts, supported by Nordeen to amend the previous motion to pay part-time police officers time and a half for all holidays. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Case #16-11: Motion by Filizetti-Hartzelli, supported by Minelli approving the rezoning of Parcel Number 52-05-340-053-00 located at 17 E. Stephenson Avenue from Commercial – Two (C-2) to Residential-One (R-1). Motion carried. Treasurer Nordeen abstained from voting due to family relationship.

Planning Commission Vacancy: Two applicants, Chris Adams & Larry Kytasaari applied for the vacancy created due to the expiration date of one term. Motion by Minelli, supported by Filizetti-Hartzell to reappoint Chris Adams to the Forsyth Township Planning & Zoning Commission for one term. Motion carried.

Approval of Draft of Master Plan Prepared by UPEA: Motion by Roberts, supported by Minelli to adopt the draft of the Master Plan. Motion carried. Nordeen recommended all pictures on the cover be of Forsyth Township.

Aircraft Emergency Response Agreement: Minelli thanked County Commissioner Nordeen for his help in obtaining \$15,000.00 for the fire station at Sawyer. Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts approving the agreement between the County of Marquette and Forsyth Township. Motion carried. The County will pay Forsyth Township \$15,000.00 in quarterly payments of \$3,500.00 over a two year period, 2012 & 2013, reimburse the Township of actual documented costs for aircraft emergencies or county approved training & will provide at no cost to the township up to ten (10) hours used of the Sawyer Water/Wastewater sanitary sewer vacuum truck with county operator.

Approval of \$1,000.00 for Basic EMT Class for Gaylord Hamm & Kim Davis: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts approving EMT training for Gaylord Hamm & Kim Davis at a cost of \$1000.00 each with the cost being split between the trainees & the township. Motion carried. The trainees will be reimbursed their cost of \$500.00 over a two year period providing they remain with the ambulance service during that time.

Increase of pay for EMT's on Hourly & Per Run Pay: Minelli stated he feels the EMT Specialists should receive an additional \$10.00 per run more than the basic EMT's. Motion by Minelli, supported by Nordeen to pay the EMT Specialists \$10.00 more per run. The Township Board will look at the feasibility of increasing the on-call pay for the EMTs.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Emergency Rescue Equipment Letter from Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The request for 2% monies was turned down.

Asbestos Letter from Anne Giroux for Duplex on Maple Street: Minelli asked Larry Hammond to inquire whether or on the Fire Department can do a controlled burn on the duplex on Maple Street . The Land Bank will pay to remove the siding which has asbestos in it. The DEQ stated the building could be burned.

Public Comment: The Library is considering running a millage election in May. Larry Hammond stated the new Fire Department officers are as follow: Don Hutchens – Fire Chief, Jason Stansky –First Assistant, Mike Yunk – Second Assistant, Mike Jakubowski Jr. – Ladder Captain, Greg Orchard – Hose Captain, Michele Copley – Secretary & State Recorder, Matt Herman & Matthew Bathke – Training Officers, Gaylord Hamm – Sawyer Bldg. Lt., Lawrence Copley – Forsyth Bldg. Lt. & Ron Lauren – Treasurer. Obtaining water to flood the Sawyer ice rink was brought up.

Board Member Comment: Treasure Nordeen stated she attended the Fire Department Christmas party where a number of firemen were recognized for their years of service to the department.

Closed Session – Henry DeGroot's Contract Negotiations: Motion by Filizetti-Hartzell, supported by Nordeen to go into closed session at 7:53 p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations with the Assessor/Zoning Administrator. Roll call vote: Minelli – aye; Nordeen – aye; Roberts – aye; Filizetti-Hartzell – aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Filizetti-Hartzell, supported by Nordeen to return to open session at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Motion by Minelli, supported by Filizetti-Hartzell to approve a three (3) year contract between Henry DeGroot, Assessor/Zoning Administrator and Forsyth Township with the following pay increase: three (3) percent the first year, two (2) percent the second year & two (2) percent the third year with the first year pay increase being retroactive to April 1, 2011. Motion carried. Any overtime will be approved by the Township Supervisor or other township board member if the Supervisor is absent with overtime paid according to the law.

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Filizetti-Hartzell, Clerk

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Bonnie Filizetti-Hartzell

Forsyth Township Clerk

