

Forsyth Township Board
Regular Meeting
Emergency Service Building
June 28, 2012

Supervisor Minelli called the Regular Meeting of the Forsyth 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 & Trustees Roberts & Armatti: All present.

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

Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2012, May 24, 2012 & June 11, 2012: Motion by Armatti, supported by Nordeen & unanimously carried to approve the April 26th, May 24th & June 11th board minutes as presented.

Public Comment: Sarah Derwin, Marquette County Health Department, addressed the board regarding adopting an ordinance supporting smoke free parks & beaches. Kaylee Place representing candidate for State Representative Tony Retaskie. Robbie Powelson, candidate for Marquette County Probate Judge addressed the board. Marilyn Logue registered a complaint, one of many, regarding the house located at 243 Ash Street and the fact nothing has been done about the situation. Zoning Administrator Henry DeGroot stated the owner recently applied for a building permit to proceed with construction. Attorney Koch has contacted the owner urging him to rectify the problem. Logue also has concerns about the house next door which is up for tax sale. Leonard Bodenus Jr. inquired as to when the street lights in Little Lake on M-35 would be fixed. Supervisor Minelli stated the street lights belong to the Township and UPPCO won't fix them & he will contact Marquette or Negaunee electrical departments for help. Brenda Veale voiced a complaint about 178-180 Maple Street rental; possible domestic abuse issues; has called police in the past. Chief Rector stated the police department has been called to the residence a number of times. Lenny Bodenus Sr. asked how the township pays for street lights & that six of thirteen lights in Little Lake are currently out. Minelli stated the Little Lake lights are on a set rate and the rest of the lights in the township are metered. Chuck Truitt stated Marquette County paid to restock Little Trout Lake with fish and a fishing derby was held with great success; stated the Sawyer Park is a great success.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Armatti, supported by Roberts & unanimously carried approving the June 28th agenda with the following additions: under Action Items add 10j. Boulevard, 10k. Employee, 10l. Air Compressor, 10m. Motor for Pick-Up Truck; table 10i. Credit Card.

Department Reports: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti & unanimously carried to accept & place on file the following reports as presented: Ambulance, Assessing/Zoning, Fire Department, Library, Police Department, Public Works Department & Senior Citizens Director. Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti & unanimously carried to accept & place on file as presented the Treasurer's Report.

Attorney's Report: The Buchler & Medi-Ride cases haven't been scheduled. The Westman case was dismissed as the offending fence has been removed. The unemployment appeal meeting for Chris was done over the phone with an Administration Law Judge and the employee was denied benefits. The criminal case against the former employee will proceed to Circuit Court. Koch visited the Tousignant site and found that the clean-up has progressed with the majority of debris being removed. Henry DeGroot and Koch will revisit the site. The Salvation Army has some interest in purchasing the property at Sawyer that they are currently leasing. Koch recommended hiring an appraiser for the Tax Tribunal cases, having contacted two appraisers. Koch recommended talking to the Tax Tribunal petitioners. Assessor DeGroot stated that there is no support to the value the petitioners have placed on the properties. There could be a two to three year wait for the appeals to be placed on the docket. Armatti asked Koch if the builders of a new home can block the snowmobile trail, as it will be their driveway. DeGroot stated the owners obtained a permit but the property is zoned seasonal dwelling and they can't live there year round. Armatti stated a house is scheduled to be delivered to the property. Armatti talked to Don Britton & he stated they're trying to get the DNR to move the trail.

Approval of Bills & Vouchers: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti & unanimously carried approving bills in the amount of \$48,139.63 & vouchers as presented.

**Forsyth Township
Bills to be Approved
28-Jun-12**

Vendor	Description	Amount
A. Jacobson Landscaping	Fertilize Clubhouse Lawn, Ballfield & Nordeen Park	1,365.00
Airgas	Supplies-EMS & Public Works	263.56
American Nameplate	Nameplate-Office	12.00
Anderson Communications Inc.	Battery Packs-EMS	396.00
Aramark Uniform Services	Uniform & Carpet Service	855.86
Auto Value	Misc Part & Supplies	3,229.20
Carquest	Misc Part & Supplies	934.36
City of Marquette	Water Analysis	80.00
Compudyne	Computer Repairs-Office & Senior Center Copier Maintenance Agreement-Senior Center	211.62
Cooper Office Equipment		298.94
Drug Scheens Plus	Employee Testing	49.00
Emergency Medical Products	EMS Supplies	297.76
Fidlar	Cemetery Deeds	47.55
Flooring Outlet Center	Office Flooring	784.86
GBS, Inc.	Elections Supplies	587.11
Gwinn Floral	Beautification Committee Expenses	225.00
H&L Mesabi	Backhoe Parts	213.00
Harris	Water/Sewer Bills	759.96
Holiday 50 Minute Cleaners	Dry Cleaning-Police	35.07
Joe & Sons	Tires & Repairs-Police	769.32
Kevin Koch	Attorney Fees	1,688.17
Larry's Family Foods	Supplies	672.41
Law Enforcement Systems	Police Supplies	43.00
Meister's	Beautification Committee Expenses	566.61
Menards	Office Project & Supplies	58.83
Michigan Sales	Parts for Lawn Mower	229.11
Michigan State University Extension	Plat Books	350.00
Michigan Townships Association	Reference Manuals	58.00
Midway Rentals and Sales	Chop Saw & Shop Supplies	1,037.61
Modeltown Express	Gas, Diesel & Supplies	185.49
Occupational Medicine	New Hire Physical-Filizetti	185.00
Pitney Bowes	Meter Supplies	46.98
Pomasl Fire Equipment	Fire Equipment	24.50
Pomp's Tire Service	Tire Tubes	36.00
Postmaster	PO Box Rental & Bulk Postage Fee	290.00
Quill	Office Supplies-EMS, Office, Police	171.86
Range Telecommunications	Miss Dig Services & Radio Repairs	206.49
RMS	Backhoe Parts	97.49
Rockler	Office Renovation	64.86
Roland Machinery	Backhoe Parts	527.33
Snyder Drug	Supplies	58.83
State of Michigan	Radio Subscriptions-EMS, Fire & Police	400.00
The Mining Journal	Publications & Subscription	1,160.08
UP Fabricating	Shop Supplies	425.00
UPEA	Tourist Park Project	2,010.64

22,009.46

**Forsyth Township
Bills to be Approved
Additions
28-Jun-12**

Vendor	Purpose	Amount
Ace Hardware	Misc Supplies	2,765.22
Airgas	EMS Supplies	104.98
AutoValue	Misc. Part/Supplies	1,150.06
Bell Forest Products	Office Renovation	531.90
Bergdahl's Farm & Equipment	Trimmer & Parts	322.58
Compudyne	Computer Support & Repairs-Office	37.50
CUPPAD	Annual Dues	965.00
DTE	Gas Line Removals-169 & 171 Maple Street	1,440.00
Duqaine	Solenoid	161.50
Holiday Cleaners	Dry Cleaning-Fire & Police	37.18
J.F. Ahern Co.	Fire Extinguisher Inspections	2,856.55
Joe & Sons	Tubes on Ford Backhoe	50.00
Marquette County Health Department	Campground Inspection	196.00
Marquette County Treasurer	Tax Publication	11.57
Menards	Supplies-Office Renovation & Public Works	683.47
Michigan Association of Planning	Annual Membership	60.00
Petty Cash	Supplies	145.34
Pomp's Tire	Tires-Fire	398.00
Quill Corporation	Office Supplies-Office & Senior Center	550.54
Sawyer 24 Hour Towing	Towing-Police	85.00
Servco	Oil	1,228.98
State of Michigan	Radio Subscription-Police	600.00
State of Michigan	Water Operator Certification Renewal-	
Stenberg Bros.	Jancsi	95.00
	Portable Rental	75.00
	Professional Services-Sewer & Water	
UPEA	Project	11,578.80
		\$26,130.17
	Original Bill Listing	\$22,009.46
	Total Accounts Payable	\$48,139.63

Voucher Numbers for GO, Police, Clubhouse, Ambulance, Library, Water & Sewer: 60608-60841

ACTION ITEMS:

Office Countertops: Two bids were received for counter tops for the office: Schwalbach Kitchen Specialists, Inc. \$2,855.00 & Champion Glass & Countertops, Inc. \$3,800.00. Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti & unanimously carried to award the bid to Schwalbach kitchen Specialists, Inc. in the amount of \$2,855.00.

Farquar Metsa Tourist Park – Cedar Siding: Three bids were obtained for cedar siding for the Tourist Park: 41 Lumber - \$6,840.00, Ace Hardware - \$6,700.00 & Paul Sirois - \$3,500.00. Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti & unanimously carried to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Paul Sirois, for cedar siding for the Tourist Park for \$3,500.00.

Fire Department: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Armatti & unanimously carried approving new firemen Tim Tellefsen, Kyle Fowler & Jacob Rolph; \$250.00 for Spin Gear Handle for 2023 Suction Valve, \$2,000.00 marching money for tournaments, \$500.00 for 5 800Mhz batteries, \$1,400.00 for side mount butterfly valve for 2027. The \$1,400.00 will be taken out of the Sawyer Fire Station revenue received from Marquette County.

Ambulance – Department Requests: Forsyth EMT's are required to take the Specialist Bridge Course by December 31, 2012 to prevent Forsyth EMS services becoming a basic unit. EMS personal attending the course are Brenda Kurian, Peter Ghiringhelli, Carolyn Froberg, Tara Armatti, Kary Sheldon & Heather Boyer. Heather will pay her own tuition & be reimbursed \$332.50 after course & exam completion, \$166.25 after one full year of service & \$166.50 after two full years of service. Motion by Nordeen, supported by Minelli & unanimously carried approving five EMT's attendance at the Specialist Bridge Course starting August 28, 2012 at a cost of \$3,325.00 with Heather Boyer being reimbursed the cost of the training, \$166.25 after one year of service & \$166.25 after two years of service to Forsyth EMS.

Library – Millage Renewal: Motion by Filizetti-Hartzell, supported by Minelli and unanimously carried approving the Library Millage Renewal be placed on the November 6, 2012 ballot. Attorney Koch will write the ballot language.

Senior Citizens – Training: Motion by Nordeen, supported by Roberts & unanimously carried approving the attendance of Senior Director, Julie Shaw, and staff members Michelle Borrott & Avis Meyers-Ketola on July 10, 2012 at the “Addressing Substance Abuse in Older Adults with Mental Illness” workshop in Escanaba at a cost of \$270.00.

Police Department – Part Time Police Officer: Minelli looking for way to crunch numbers to afford to hire a part time police officer. Lynn Rodger suggested moving one part time officer to full time and more overtime rather than hire additional part time officers requiring additional uniforms & equipment. Minelli felt the board should wait till the August election to see if the additional millage passes & if it fails look for other funding alternatives.

Credit Card: Tabled.

Boulevard: The soaker hoses on the boulevard have been pulled up; only a five year expectancy on them. The dead trees will be removed and the area cleaned up. A Jacobson Landscaping submitted drawings for the island across from St. Anthony’s Catholic church and Rodney’s Pizzeria which would include sod along with mulching around the trees and on areas to be planted, black plastic edging along with the topsoil leveled & raked. A sprinkler system would be installed which Jacobson would do the work on it. The cost for the project is \$10,600.00. Motion by Nordeen, supported by Minelli to hire A Jacobson Landscaping to re-do two boulevard islands at a cost of \$10,600.00. Motion carried 4 to 1.

Employee: Moved to end of agenda.

Air Compressor: Bids will be obtained for next meeting.

Motor for Truck: Bids will be obtained for next meeting.

DISCUSSION

Water System Project: Nordeen wants to hold two public meetings on the water project, one at Sawyer and one in Gwinn, preferably the week after the 4th. Mr. Stinson obtained the needed signatures to place the water project on the November ballot, to be voted on by all township residents. Minelli explained the project would upgrade the infrastructure, consists of loops & extensions and new paved roads, not just meters. The current interest rate for the bond proposal is 2.75%. Any repairs to the infrastructure will necessitate water rate increases if the township has to borrow money through a bank. The water system can’t be extended until meters are installed. Stinson recommended the township set up a booth for Fun Daze to inform the public about the water project. Nordeen said she would man the booth.

Clock Tower Presentation: Tabled.

OLD BUSINESS:

Salvation Army: Addressed under Attorney Report.

EDC: Minelli stated they currently owe the township \$133,000.00 & are paying \$600.00 per year. Minelli suggested the township put a lien on the building owed by EDC. The building information will be sent to Attorney Koch.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

Public Comment: Stinson suggested breaking up the water project a street or two at a time & placing an information booth in Nordeen Park during fun days. Minelli stated the water rates would have to be raised to replace infrastructure if the voters say no. The proposed water project would replace infrastructure, create a loop, and allow for extension of the water lines, along with the installation of meters. Nordeen suggested the township hold public hearings as soon as possible, one in Gwinn & one at Sawyer. Nordeen volunteered to man a booth at Nordeen Park and do “hand-out” for the public explaining the water project. D. Adams stated she likes the boulevard the way it is.

Employee: Moved from Action Items. Employee Deanna DeMars requested a closed session.

Closed Session: Motion by Minelli, supported by Nordeen to enter into closed session at 8:25 p.m. Roll call vote: Minelli – aye; Roberts – aye; Armatti – aye; Nordeen – aye; Filizetti-Hartzell – aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Minelli, supported by Filizetti-Hartzell & unanimously carried to return to open session at 8:45 p.m. It was the consensus of township board members that Ms. DeMars would not be employed by Forsyth Township in the future and would not collect unemployment from the township. Ms. DeMars temporary employment expired and she reimbursed the township the \$215.00, at this meeting, June 28, 2012. The board expressed a desire to contact the prosecuting attorney and ask for leniency for Ms. DeMars.

Adjournment: Supervisor Minelli adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Filizetti-Hartzell
Forsyth Township Clerk