

**FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JUNE 13, 2022 FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP HALL**

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor, S. Nelson, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Members present: S. Nelson, D. Brown, A Wagner, J. Church, R. Scott
Members absent: NONE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

G. Kleikamp commented on the junk in our Township. Nothing has been done in over a year and the property J.5 still isn't cleaned up. She demands the Board to act on these properties.

5. AGENDA

Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED to approve the agenda.

6. MINUTES

Received Minutes:

Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes –May 9, 2022

Motion, R. Scott, support, A. Wagner, CARRIED, to accept the Township Board Regular meeting minutes for May 9, 2022.

7. REPORTS

The following reports were acknowledged:

- a. Financial Reports. The Treasurer and Clerk were in balance with the bank.
- b. Assessors Report for April 2022.

8. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Ford River Planning Commission Meeting Minutes May 4, 2022
- b. Delta Solid Waste Management Authority Meeting Minutes March 22, 2022

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

- a. Fire Reports/Calls May 2022
Brian Nelson, Fire Chief, was present.
- b. Fire Chief Updates

Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED, to acknowledge the fire report.
Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED, to purchase a light for \$179.00.
Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED, to replace the end of nozzle for \$399.00.

10. WATER SYSTEM BUSINESS

- a. Water system report-May 2022

Motion, A. Wagner, support J. Church, CARRIED, to acknowledge the Water System report.

- b. Water Operator Mike Smith was present and gave updates.
- c. Billing Register May 2022.
- d. Water upgrades. Tabled.

- e. Hook up policy fees. Tabled.
- f. An estimate was from Delta Fence to put up a fence at the Water Tower. Tabled.
- g. Relief Water Operator

Motion, A. Wagner, support, R. Scott, CARRIED to hire Curtis Labadie as the relief Water Operator.

11. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR BUSINESS

- a. Zoning Administrator gave updates and the May Zoning report. R. Scott would like Charles to attend the meeting with other Townships concerning the Zoning in the County. He will let Charlie know when this meeting will take place.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Audit. Supervisor Nelson gave update on progress. A meeting is scheduled..
- b. Marijuana.

Motion, R. Scott, support, J. Church, CARRIED to hire Attorney Burkhart to draw up the Marijuana Ordinance in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Roll Call:

Ayes.	Nays:
J. Church	NONE
A. Wagner	
R. Scott	
D. Brown	
S. Nelson	

- c. Public Comment Policy

Motion, A. Wagner, R. Scott to adopt the Public Comment Policy presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes.	Nays:
J. Church	NONE
A. Wagner	
R. Scott	
D. Brown	
S. Nelson	

- d. Lawn Mower: One bid was received in the amount of \$81.00 from Larry Brown, 516 South 13th Street, Escanaba MI. The bid does not state which mower he is bidding on.

Motion, J. Church, support, R. Scott to accept the bid of \$81.00 and let the bidder pick which mower he wants.

A Roll call vote was taken.

Ayes:	Nays:
J. Church	NONE
R. Scott	Abstain do to conflict:
S. Nelson	D. Brown
	A. Wagner

Motion, J. Church, support A. Wagner, CARRIED to dispose of the other lawn mower.

e. Rory Mattson Delta Conservation District gave an update on recreation money. \$250 million dollars have been set aside for recreation grants. Rory will let us know how to apply for this grant when it becomes available.

f. Ater Rory Mattson discussed the Cemetery project with his board, they have determined we as a board need to make a decision on how to proceed with this project because of the ongoing issues with the neighbor.

J. Church thanks Rory Mattson and agrees we need to end this issue. She thinks we need to talk to our Attorney and see what the options are.

Joe Kaplan gave the history of the problems he's been having since he purchased the property. He claims he had a confrontation with Scott Pendergraft on June 21st 2021. He appreciates the Township finally putting the Easement Agreement on file.

Scott Pendergraft spoke up and wants the record to reflect that he has never talked to Joe Kaplan a day in his life. Ever. Mr. Kaplan disagreed with him and Supervisor Nelson stopped the conversation.

Supervisor Nelson would like to stop the project at this time.

J. Church feels this problem will never go away until it gets settled.

R. Mattson informed the board there is now a cut in the fence.

A. Wagner said we need to fix the fence.

J. Church would like to see signage for the public to use the Easement to walk to the Cemetery.

The fishing is a non-issue with the Township.

Joe Kaplan will provide his documentation of the Cemetery signage.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. Payment of bills:

- i. GF Total: \$ 32,245.35
- ii. WF Total: \$ 16,906.82
- iii. LF Total: \$ 279.29

Motion, J. Church, support, R. Scott, CARRIED to pay the bills as presented.

b. Ford River Lions Club has asked the Township for assistance on becoming a water customer. A. Wagner will look into the legal end of this. Tabled.

c. Board of Appeals/Alternate member

Supervisor Nelson recommended that Andrew DeGrand be appointed as the Alternate member to the Board of Review.

Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED to approve the appointment of Andrew DeGrand

d. Andrew DeGrand has questions concerning the financial reports and due to the nature of the topics he discusses, a full transcript follows:

AD: Andrew DeGrand
AW: Amanda Wagner
DB: Debbi Brown
SN: Steve Nelson
RS: Randy Scott

AD: Alright so I got a couple questions on the financial part here that just didn't make sense. On this sheet here,

AW: Can you just show me real quick?

AD: It's the one with two pages, the back page, it shows the cemetery fund of income worth of 1,600, and then when you go to the other page, it shows the cemetery fund, no money coming in.

AW: Yep, the deposit was a cemetery deposit, but we're running seventeen hundred and fifty dollars over in the cemetery perpetual fund so until that is used up, we don't add money to that fund. So they both go to the general savings account, but we're not adding to the perpetual fund by fifty dollar increments until we use up that 1,750 overage that's in that account, and yes, it's been there for like two years because a former clerk put it in the fund in quickbooks and didn't know how to get it back out. So, once it's put in you can't remove it so we couldn't reverse her mistake, so that's what we're doing, we're just tracking the balance that we have to use up.

AD: And then, like I see on the general fund here, it shows our balance is three hundred eight nine thousand blah blah blah, now if I go to the minutes from the last one it says we have over five million dollars.

AW: No minutes say we have five million dollars.

AD: Well, this right here does. Not the minutes, the transaction accounts.

AW: Yep, so, in accounting, a negative balance is denoted by parentheses. So, what you see in the paid amount column is every individual check written in that calendar month. And then quickbooks gives you a lovely ongoing balance of every reduction to your account since the inception of the company. So we have spent 5 million dollars since about 2010 or so since quickbooks was started in the township. So this is just a running tally of how much we've spent.

DB: The only purpose of that report is to show the board, and the public, the exact checks that were written that month. And that's the part that they approve for the bill pays. That right column has absolutely nothing to do with the current month. That's forever.

AD: Well then I mean that kind of brings out my next question. Cuz it says bill payment bill payment bill payment blah blah blah, it says who they're going out to, the paid amount, and the balance on that five million goes up. The only time it goes down..

DB: It never goes down

AD: Yes it does, yes it does.

AW: Let him finish

AD: ...is when you guys get paid.

AW: When we're what?

AD: When you guys get paid, then it goes down. Well it did on the other one... Maybe on this one here.. well wait, it doesn't, I guess I didn't look close enough to notice the check balance.

AW: So sometimes, Andy, we will share with the board transactions that have deposits and checks, so when deposits are added to the transaction detail, the amount will go down and up, but that's a plus and minus credit debit report, but this one alone just shows withdrawals from the account. That's a different type of report.

AD: And then, for clerks, we appoint someone, or you get to appoint someone, to cover for you or what..

AW: All three, it's mandatory that all three positions have chosen deputies, I'm sorry, it's not. It's mandatory for the treasurer and clerk to have appointed deputies, it's optional for the supervisor.

AD: Ok so.. do they gotta live in the township?

AW: Nope.

AD: Does it state that in the bylaws?

AW: Yep, the state of MI statutes are absolutely clear, that they don't have to live in Ford River Township.

AD: Ok. I'd like to see a copy of them bylaws. Not today.

DB: They're on the website

AW: I mean it's the state of Michigan laws it's not our law.

RS: I do believe the state of Michigan overwrote all that stuff a number of years ago, cities were having a terrible time keeping employees, so they, the state, acted on this.

AD: And that's why I said, I'd like to just..

DB: Well not that it really makes a big difference, but the only deputy right now that isn't living in the township is moving into the township next month.

AD: Well I mean if the bylaws stated that that person shouldn't have been, but obviously it doesn't... that's why I'm just asking the question, not saying anyone's wrong.

AW: Andy, I wish every resident cared as much as these questions insinuate that you care. That's good. I've been doing this for ten years, people rarely question things, so I appreciate it .

AD: Like I said, I wasn't coming to say that nobody was doing their job, I just needed you to explain so I could understand how this is figured out.

AW: Absolutely. And I'm happy to show you anything, if you want to have a one on one, and look into anything to make sure you're understanding what you're reading, what we present, because the board has a pretty good understanding, because they get the bills, they get the bank statements, they get everything in front of us. The township residents don't. So if you want copies of anything, you..

AD: It's just the five million dollar thing that blew my mind so I had to question it.

AW: If we had five million dollars as a positive, we wouldn't have half the problems we have. Our budget a year is about 600,000 on average and we spend about 590,000 a year, so we don't have a lot of money just rotating out. Our current balances are probably about 719,000, we're really doing well and that includes the water fund. And that's because we got COVID relief money. That's why we're flush on the year, but yeah.. I wish we had five million.

Group banter ensues

AW: Did you have anything else?

AD: There was one more thing.

AW: Sure

AD: This month that I have here is from earlier on. and it had people getting paid from it would be the general fund and then there's people that also got paid again from the water fund.

AW: Yep. So, again, back to that separation of taxes and utilities, we cannot fund anything related to water from tax payer money, because not all tax payers benefit.

AD: So, I mean you got paid, just for you, and then there are this ones..

AW: Yep, so say the pay is a thousand dollars, I don't know what it is, but, say it's a thousand, we take either 5 % of that thousand comes from water, the other 95 from general. The clerk however because they do water billing which is not a statutory duty of the clerk, gets paid maybe \$200 on top of their pay for adding that duty which is not a part of their normal duties.

AD: perfect, thank you for that clarification.

DB: I think yours is \$25 a month though.

AW: I think we changed it in the new budget, you're right, I think it's \$25 a month now that I get on top of my pay because I enter deposits, which I cannot be paid for on the tax payer funds.

DB: And I as the clerk don't touch the money, I only do the billing. She does the money part.

AD: Right. Like I said, this is no personal attack, it's just what, with the paperwork that's in front of me, this is all I can see, is what I had questions on.

AW: I don't feel in any way attacked, I appreciate the questions.

SN: Any other questions Andy?

AD: Nope, I think that pretty much covers that. Thanks for your time.

AW: No problem!

e. Bob Baron, County Commissioner introduced himself to the Board/Public and explained the merging of the two districts.

f. Cemetery Generator

Motion, A. Wagner, Support, J. Church CARRIED to purchase a generator from Cycle City for the Cemeteries for 1,199.00.

g. Russ Nelson explained there has been a mix up at the Cemetery with a grave involving Salmons.

Supervisor thanks Dan Salmon for volunteering to move their spots.

h. MTA dues

Motion, A. Wagner, support J.. Church, CARRIED to pay the MTA dues as presented in the amount of \$1,565.72 for July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. Noting there is a typo on the date on the invoice which covers 2021-2022.

14. PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENT.

D. Kleikamp would like to see a stop sign at the corner of K. road and 11th road. He will speak to Jody Norman or email him with signatures in support.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion, A. Wagner, Support, R. Scott, CARRIED to adjourn at 9:18pm

Julius Brewer, Clerk
7-11-2022