

**FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JULY 12, 2021 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**

None

**5. AGENDA**

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

**6. MINUTES**

Received Minutes:

Township Board Regular Meeting Minutes –June 14, 2021

Motion, R. Scott, support, A. Wagner, CARRIED, to accept the Township Board Regular meeting minutes for June 14, 2021.

**7. REPORTS**

The following reports were acknowledged:

- a. Financial Reports for June, 2021. The Treasurer and Clerk were in balance with the bank.
- b. Zoning Administrator Report for June, 2021.
- c. Assessors Report for June, 2021.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Ford River Access site to close for site enhancements
- b. Delta Solid Waste Management Authority Meeting Minutes May 25, 2021
- c. Delta County Township Association Picnic Invitation

**9. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

The following report was acknowledged:

- a. Fireman's Report for June, 2021– Maintenance Reports  
Brian Nelson, Fire Chief, was present.

Motion, A. Wagner, support, R. Scott, CARRIED, to acknowledge the fire report.

**10. WATER SYSTEM BUSINESS**

The following reports were acknowledged:

- a. Water system report

Motion, D. Brown, support, A. Wagner, CARRIED, to acknowledge the Water System report.

- b. Water Operator Mark Rose was present and gave updates.
- c. Billing Register June 2021.

- d. Water upgrades. Water Operator has not obtained any more quotes for the repairs we need to do.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Audit. Still nothing from Auditor.
- b. Marijuana. A. Wagner will put a facebook post and website post to see if there is any new interest from the public. She will forward all replies to Zoning Administrator.
- c. Junk complaint: Supervisor gave updates.
- d. Network: Tabled.
- e. 911 Signs. Supervisor still hasn't heard from Emily and understands she is very busy right now.
- f. River Cemetery/K Road Property surveys. Supervisor has contacted survey company who indicated these properties have already been surveyed. The board feels it is still necessary to mark the easement and Cemetery property to allow people to access the Cemetery without trespassing on private property. Supervisor will contact survey company again.
- g. MDOT speed limit signs. J.5 Road probably won't qualify for lower speed limit do to the number of residences in that area.
- h. COVID-19. We can now put in a request for COVID relief money.

**12. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Payment of bills:
  - i. GF Total: \$25,295.14
  - ii. WF Total: \$2,385.15
  - iii. LF Total: \$158.10

Motion, R. Scott, support, J. Church, CARRIED to pay the bills \$25,295.14 from the General fund, \$2,385.15 from the Water fund and \$158.10 from the Liquor fund.

- b. Rory Mattson addressed the Board to talk about the River Property recently auctioned by the DNR. It appears the sale of this land may have fallen through, and Mr. Mattson would like either the Township to apply to acquire the land or he would be willing to acquire it for the County. He thinks the Township has an interest in it as we have a water line easement through it.

Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED to move forward to see if it is possible to acquire the land owned by DNR on K Road. In the event we can't for some reason, we will inform Rory Mattson who will pursue it for the County.

Question comes up from S. Pendergraft if Rory Mattson is going to help Township with easement marking at River cemetery. Rory had previously volunteered to show the Township where the lines are for the Cemetery. He states the Township definitely owns to the River and the bank restoration would have never taken place if the Township didn't own the property. He went on to inform the Board there were Federal Engineers who came out and looked at it and there was no interest from Federal, State or Local Government to save the house. The Township was first to move by paying \$2000.00 for permit. Then the project was able to move forward. J. Martin then kicked in her payment of either \$20,000.00 or \$40,000.00 (Rory apologizes he couldn't remember the amount) so that her house could be included in the project. After some conversation Rory suggests we have the property surveyed again. The Board did approve this in June. We need to get this surveyed and marked so there is no doubt where the easement and property lines are for people to access the Cemetery. We need to get

people that are using the Cemetery to use the easement and not trespass on private property.

- c. Dual cremations/Burials. Our sexton wants to be paid for two burials even if he only digs one hole.

Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED to continue the same rate of pay for a dual cremation because it is only one hole.

R. Nelson reported there was an illegal creation burial at the South Cemetery.

Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED to file a police report of the unauthorized burial but give the person the opportunity to pay the fees and obtain a burial permit without pressing charges.

Motion, D. Brown, support, J. Church, CARRIED to pay Russ Nelson \$150.00 per month to be the assistant Sexton at both cemeteries to handle collecting money for burials, selling of lots and handling of paperwork.

- d. Delta County Road Commission.  
Received a letter from Jody Norman, DCRC on the process of changing speed limits and purchasing road signs. He also informs us they are having problems ordering the chip sealing product.
- e. Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and asset level test.  
An amended Resolution was presented by A. Wagner with changes noted on behalf of the Township Assessor.

Motion, A. Wagner, Support, D. Brown to adopt the new Resolution for the Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Level Test.

A roll call vote was taken:

S. Nelson	AYE
A. Wagner	AYE
D. Brown	AYE
R. Scott	AYE
J. Church	NAY

Motion passed.

### **13. PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENT**

**C. Detiege** would like to discuss "Ford River Township Zoning Enforced" signs to be placed at Township lines. Clerk will add to August agenda

**C. Detiege** would like to discuss an upgrade on media for presentations. Clerk will add to agenda.

**M. Rose** concerned about customers who refuse to pay the \$25.00 availability charge to the water system.

**J. Church** would like this added to August agenda.

**J. Deloria** asked if the survey for River cemetery will be done by next meeting so we can proceed with markings through the easement for access to cemetery. Supervisor will try to get them going on it quickly but they indicated they are very busy right now.

**D. Brown** states that after it get marked, people will no longer have to use private property (even though it's all private property) but will be able to use the easement to access cemetery. This way people won't be intruding on the property owners.

**J. Deloria** asked if they will then have access to the River.

**D. Brown** stated we are having it surveyed because there is a misunderstanding whether or not the Township owns to the river.

**T. Nelson** asked if the kids know so they don't go down there fishing so something doesn't happen to them with those dogs.

**C. Williams** states she doesn't know what T. Nelson is referring to.

She states the easement doesn't allow for recreation.

She states they have been allowing people to come and fish that they just want them to notify them ahead of time, "They text us, they let us know and they come on the property and they fish. And we have allowed everyone that has asked to come and fish."

She states its odd to them what this is all about.

She wants to be clear, that even if The Township marks the easement there is still no recreation.

Regarding her dogs, she states it is her private property and her dogs can run free on her land and there has never been a threat on her property with her dogs.

**D. Brown** asked why we are even having this conversation if there is no problem

**C. Williams** addresses S. Pendergraft and L. Fehrenbach's boys. The kids have in the past, text about fishing, but one day did not, "so when my husband went to talk to the kids they said they didn't have to this anymore."

She stated there was a misunderstanding and they boys were asked to leave. They left. That was the day her husband Joe was confronted on the road.

**S. Pendergraft** comments that Joe chased the kids out with his dogs.

**C. Williams** claims this to be untrue.

**D. Brown** says there is no reason for them to go in to Township property via the slough, visitors who want to go to the Cemetery should use the easement in the driveway. The property owners have no right to police Township property, and then if someone breaks the easement agreement, it not up to them to enforce it. It would then be up to them to file a complaint.

**C. Williams** states: "that's correct." She said it's really quite simple right now for anyone to come fishing. It is not a problem. She doesn't understand why this is such a big deal.

**T. Nelson** would like to know when survey will take place.

**S. Nelson** states they will get to it as soon as they can.

**D. Brown** states there is other Township property so the boys can access the river with their Kayaks.

**C. Williams** asked about a meeting that took place where someone on the board gave wrong information concerning their property and that the public had the right to use it.

**A. Wagner** states it was her. She understood it that way originally because it was stated that way in the real estate listing. She knew that because she was interested in buying the property when it was for sale. She has since looked into it and found the listing to be wrong and had already clarified.

**D. Brown** states to C. Williams that the only intention of the Township getting involved in this is to make it so people do not come on to your property when there is an actual easement available for them to get to the cemetery.

**C. Williams** says they are not coming to go to the cemetery and that they are coming to fish and they are welcome to fish.

**R. Mattson** asked C. Williams, "you're going to allow them to fish, why do they have to contact you?"

**C. Williams:** "Because we want to know when people are on our property."

**R. Mattson:** "On your property, but not necessarily the Township property."

**C. Williams:** "That is correct. The Township, I don't even know if the Township wants people to fish there but they are coming on our property to get to the Ford River."

**R. Mattson:** "So getting the easement marked, getting the property marked beyond a question of a doubt should solve everybody's problems."

**C. Williams:** "Except for there is no recreation allowed."

**R. Mattson:** "That's something the Township can challenge whenever the time comes."

**T. Nelson** asks everyone to consider shopping at Meisters Store as he has been hit hard by the Fishing site closure.

Motion, A. Wagner, Support, R. Scott, CARRIED to adjourn at 9:06pm

*Ann Brown . 8-9-2021*