

FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 9, 2023 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, R. Valentine, A. Wagner and J. Church
Members absent: NONE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

R. Fettig: Concerning 14A, were all residents affected notified?

5. AGENDA

Supervisor added: 14f iii - Accusation of violating open meetings act.
14g - Escanaba Electrical ordinance
15c -ARPA funds

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by J. Church, CARRIED to approve the agenda with changes.

6. MINUTES

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine CARRIED to approve the September 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

- **The actual meeting date was September 11, 2023 as printed on the October agenda. Not Sep 14, 2023 as printed on the actual minutes. A Correction will take place at the November meeting**

7. CONSENT TO AGENDA

- a. Financial Reports September 2023.
- b. Tax Collection Report September 2023.
- c. Assessors Report for September 2023.

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to approve the Consent to agenda.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes September 6, 2023.

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

- a. Fire Reports/Calls September 2023
Brian Nelson, Fire Chief, was present.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church, CARRIED to approve the fire report for September 2023

- b. The Fire Chief gave updates.

Raffle tickets now on sale \$5.00 each, drawing in December.
Pancake breakfast October 22nd at the Highland.

10. WATER SYSTEM BUSINESS

- a. Water system report-September 2023

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church, CARRIED to accept the water report for September 2023.

- b. Water operator updates. Troy Rodman, Water Operator, gave updates.
- c. Billing Register.
- d. Water forgiveness letter

Motion, R. Valentine, support, A. Wagner, CARRIED to deny water forgiveness to Meisters Store.

12. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR BUSINESS

- a. The Zoning Administrator gave updates and the September 2023 Zoning report.

Motion, A. Wagner, support, R. Valentine, CARRIED to acknowledge the Zoning report for September 2023

- b. Master plan update: No draft yet. Should be received by October 18,2023

13. COUNTY COMMISSIONER BUSINESS

- a. District #3 report/update

ABSENT

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 911 signs: The residents were notified of address changes and given 30 days to change.
- b. Playground grant. In the process of setting up bids.
- c. Policy updates. TABLED until November to give Trustee Church time to put something together.
- d. Audit 2022 is complete and F65 is filed.
- e. F65- We can pay Campbell to do F65 for 2023 for \$1000.00. Trustee Valentine will look into it, and perhaps complete it. We will look into yearly audits even though we are not required to do them every year.

Motion, A. Wagner, support, J. Church, CARRIED to hire Campbell auditing to complete the F65 for \$1000.00 if we can't do it internally.

- f. Litigation updates:
 - i. Ford River Township vs Batini: multiple zoning violations. Court hearing Feb 23, 2024
Supervisor Nelson: No update.
 - ii Kaplan vs Ford River Township: FOIA violation. Court hearing October 6, 2023
Supervisor Nelson gave updates.
 - iii. Accusation of violating open meetings act. Supervisor Nelson had a meeting with State Police.
- g. Escanaba Electrical Ordinance. Will be on the November agenda.

14. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Payment of bills

- i. GF Total: \$ 32,216.24
- ii. WF Total: \$ 9,783.53
- iii. LF Total: \$ 279.85

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED, to pay the bills as presented.

- b. Proposal for ground penetrating radar. Will seek another bid or two.
- c. ARPA funds: Supervisor gave information on what grants we can use our ARPA funds for matching

15. PUBLIC COMMENT.

S. Ribble: asked questions about the policies and cemeteries. Trustee Valentine said public comments should be restricted to comment as opposed to questions.

J. Kaplan gave his synopsis of the Court hearing on Friday.

G. LaFave: asked if he can remove blue flags from Township grounds. Trustee Valentine again reminded the public this is comments only. No questions should be asked during this time.

G. Kleikamp asked about the COVID money in May or June. She again asked for a report for next month.

16. BOARD COMMENT.

Treasurer Wagner said the COVID fund report is online and anyone can see it there. She will print it for next month. All money received has been in the financial reports that have been available to the public since the beginning.

Trustee Church: Trustees attended a training session and they will provide a synopsis next month.

Trustee Valentine: We should utilize MTA to answer questions. MTA is a good source of information

Supervisor Nelson said he uses them often.

Clerk Brown reminds the public the Cemetery memorials must be removed by October 15th. Informational purposes only. It appears the Recall for Bob Barron has been rejected.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church, CARRIED to adjourn at 8:16 pm
Minutes approved by:

Debbi R. Brown, Township Clerk

Date