



**FOREST TOWNSHIP
2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Date and Time of Meeting: March 14, 2017, 6:30 p.m.		
Present: Tim Holzkamm, Barb Christiansen, Lynn Lindow; Supervisors, Carol Peterson; Clerk, Donna Walizcek; Treasurer		
Absent:		
Visitors: Rolf Christiansen, Steve Lindow, Lisa Jackson, John LaFond, Karen LaFond, Ray Vlasak, Jack Wattenhofer, Ruth Wattenhofer, Don Wattenhofer		
Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Notes	Actions/Follow-up Needed
Pledge of Allegiance Visitor Sign in Introduction of Board of Supervisors, Treasurer and Clerk		
AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • Meeting Agenda • Review 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes – copies available • Audit Report • Treasurers Report- Copies available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk opened the floor to nominations for Moderator. Tim Holzkamm nominated John Lafond and second by Rolf Christiansen. Hearing no others, nominations closed. • The Forest Township Board conducted an audit of Treasure and Clerk on February 14, 2017. It was determined that the financial data was accurate for the year 2016. The Board unanimously agreed and signed both Treasurer's and Clerk's books. • Financial Report- Revenue breakouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote was called and carried unanimously • Motion by Lynn Lindow to approve Agenda, second by Barb Christiansen. Motion carried • Motion by Tim Holzkamm to approve 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes, second by Don Wattenhofer. Motion carried.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS Report – Steve Lindow (report attached) Reviewed 2016 Inspections and findings. Becker County contributed extra money so Lake Assoc. and Township money will be used for 2017. 2 inspectors are planned for 	

	<p>2017 and County is hiring inspectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legacy Fund & Public Land – Steve Lindow reviewed proposed legislation that would encourage sales of more public land to private landowners and would make it harder for Legacy dollars to be spent to purchase land for management. Issue at stake is the value of having public land that is open to public use. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are payments by the state to the county and to the township to offset some of the tax lost on public land. The county land is also logged and township gets dollars from the county for that. Senators Green and Utke can be contacted with comments about this legislation that they are proposing. 	
<p>Board Member Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall • Trash/Recycle • Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Dumpsters • Trash /Recycling Discussion about policy and enforcement Fluorescent and CFL bulbs can be put in Shed, padlock key for gate works on that lock. • Road maintenance – (report attached.) Discussion about road conditions and plowing. Barb should be called immediately when there are concerns. Discussion on application of Calcium Chloride Recommendation for road signage when gravel is being applied In May supervisors will do annual Road tour. Date will be posted and public is welcome. Question about whether Loggers are required to repair any damage to the roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion by Lisa Jackson to purchase one Dumpster, second by Rolf Christiansen. Motion carried. • Motion by Lisa Jackson to apply 2 miles of calcium chloride in 2017 to East Bad Medicine Road beginning at the south most point of the road and then going 2 miles north, skip application in 2018 and reapply in 2019. Second by Ray Vlasak. Motion carried. • Barb will follow up with the county on logging contracts and road repair.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Commission • Weed Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust control and gravel Discussion about planned maintenance and amount of gravel purchased and applied. A curve on Sunset Road prior to High Pines needs extra gravel or have gravel pulled up and reapplied. • Verizon All permitting had been completed and Verizon has an option for one year (October 2016 –October 2017) to determine if it wants to lease the land long term and construct a cell tower. • Permitting Process Discussed permitting procedure and paper work can be obtained through Lynn Lindow or Carol Peterson • Mowing and spraying Spraying of weeds will be done this year and will attempt to mow twice. 											
Old Business												
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018 Budget and Levy proposal <table data-bbox="741 1036 1198 1214" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>General Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 25,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roads</td> <td style="text-align: right;">45,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gravel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fire</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>14,000.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$90,500.00</u></td> </tr> </table> Discussion on the amount set for road work and plowing and the weather variable. Reviewed and discussed the surplus dollars available for unknowns, amount on hand for good stewardship and decreasing 2018 levy. 	General Fund	\$ 25,000.00	Roads	45,000.00	Gravel	6,500.00	Fire	<u>14,000.00</u>	Total	<u>\$90,500.00</u>	
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- **Set Levy:**

Approved Budget and Levy for 2018	
General Fund	\$ 25,000.00
Roads	45,000.00
Gravel	6,500.00
Fire	<u>14,000.00</u>
Total	\$90,500.00

Levy 2018	
General Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Roads	30,000.00
Fire	<u>14,000.00</u>
Total	\$49,000.00

- **Set Amnesty Dates for 2017**
Two dumpster will be rented and a monitor hired.
- **Set Annual Meeting date for 2018 and alternate date**
Reminder that the regular Board Meeting in March 2018 will be Monday, March 12th.
- **Border to Border Touring Trail (B2B) John LaFond (report attached)**
State of MN is creating a link of forest roads across the northern 1/3 of MN and interconnecting spurs on township and minimum maintenance roads for Off Road Vehicles. These are motorized recreational vehicles weighing 2,000 lbs. Highway 113 seems to be the preferred route. MN has allocated 2 year funding and the DNR has hired the National Off Highway Conservation Council to manage. Maintenance for these roads is unclear. There is local concern about damage to roads and trails, habitat, safety for

- Motion by Carol Peterson to set the **budget** at \$ 90,500.00 and approve and set the **2018 Levy** at \$ 49,000.00, second by on Don Wattenhofer. Motion carried
- Motion by Lisa Jackson set **Amnesty Days** for **May 27th** and **August 26th**, Barb second. Motion carried.
- Motion by Lynn Lindow to set **2018 Annual Meeting** date for **March 13th** and alternate date **March 20th**, Don Wattenhofer second. Motion carried.
- Motion by Barb Christiansen for the Forest Township Board to pass a resolution to oppose the Border to Border Trail in Forest Township, second by Don Wattenhofer. Motion carried

	local residents' recreational use and addition traffic. Townships have been told that they can vote not to have the trail in their townships. Long Lost Township has passed an resolution opposing the trail in their township	
Any other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Appeal and Equalization April 25th; 11 am until adjourned Forest Township Hall Appointments can be made through the Becker County Auditor's office. Information posted at town hall and website • All Veterans Memorial Fund Reviewed letter with attendees, 	
Adjourn		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion by Barb Christiansen to adjourn, second by Jack Wattenhofer. Motion carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

Carol Peterson; Township Clerk Carol Peterson Date 3/17/17

John LaFond: Moderator John LaFond Date 3/17/17

2016 AIS Summary

Inspection hours – 720 hours

Total inspections - 1268 (entering -672 exiting -596)

Inspections/hour - 1.76

Violations- plugs in - 3%

Water, mud, plants - 6.25%

Zebra mussels – 0%

Boats entering from infested waters - 17%

Boats from out of state - 1.6%

Boats entering from lakes infested with:

Zebra Mussels- 89 (13.25%)

Eurasian water milfoil- 11 (1.6%)

Spiney Water Flea - 12 (1.8%)

Starrey Stonewort - 3 (.4 %)

Silver, Bighead carp 1 (.1%)

Clean Lakes (83%)

Decontaminations- 18

Funding:

County added more paid inspection hours so did not have to use the \$2500 donated by Forest Township and \$1500 donated by Bad Medicine Lake Area Association. County will add more hours next year but no additional funds, so will use the donations carried over from 2016 to cover the hours added in 2017.

Summer 2017

Inspections start fishing opener and end Labor day weekend.

(Friday, Saturday, Sunday 5:30am to about 6 pm) Monday- Thursday 6am to 10pm)

Two inspectors during busy weekend time.

Decontamination unit Friday-Sunday

Need to hire inspectors \$14.00/ hour

Must be 18

1 day training by DNR (late April or early May)

Background check

Vehicle (no mileage)

2016 Road Maintenance Report

The Township planned to complete some road projects this past year but due to time restraints, these were not completed. Black Bear Beach Road was to be widened/brushed and calcium chloride was to be applied to one mile of East Bad Medicine Road by the town hall. Both of these projects will be completed in 2017 with the possibility of one additional mile of calcium chloride added.

A total of 720 yards of gravel was placed on the south end of East Bad Medicine Road to Sunset Drive and Sunset Drive to Wildwood Trail. This was done at a cost of \$9,360.

Road contract bid letting was done this fall for both summer and winter contracts. The snow contract states that snow removal will be done when we have 3 or more inches of snow. When there is a snow storm, the plowing will be done within 24 hours of the storm ending.

If you have any questions or concerns about the roads, please contact Barb Christiansen 573-3931 or rbchristiansen@arvig.net.

Actual Annual Road Maintenance/Repair/Plowing Costs

2009	\$28,575	2010	\$46,063
2011	\$22,827	2012	\$18,898
2013	\$24,070	2014	\$26,340
2015	\$27,747	2016	\$28,337

2017 Proposed Maintenance Costs

Gravel (1)	Where needed	\$18,000
All Roads (2)	Brushing	\$3,000
All Roads	Weed Cutting/Spraying	\$1,000
All Roads	Normal Maintenance/Repair/Plowing	\$23,000
	Total	\$45,000

- (1) The Township budgets graveling up to two miles of road per year. This allows the board to analyze and prioritize where gravel is needed on our roads. This decision is made with discussion between the road contractor and the board; with input from the residents. The term gravel includes Class 5 or just clay binder. Factors such as traffic load, the ability to reclaim gravel, and weather/erosion will be the main factors in the decision making process.
- (2) The Township plan is to budget for brushing annually. Just like graveling, the board will analyze and prioritize where brushing is needed on our roads.

Border to Border (B2B) Trail Information

- The B2B is slated to travel across the northern 1/3 of MN
- The B2B “will link existing state and national forest roads – as well as township roads, and minimum maintenance roads. The trail and its connecting spurs will be available for any highway licensed vehicle to use” (taken from a MN DNR 7/14/16 news release and the 11/26/16 Cook County News Herald).
- But it is primarily intended for Off Road Vehicles (ORV) licensed for highway use. ORV’s are defined as motorized recreational vehicles weighing over 2000 lbs. capable of cross country travel on natural terrain. Could be a jeep or light truck with wheels 65” from outer rim to outer rim. Does not include snowmobiles, ATV’s or off highway motorcycles.
- The state legislature allocated \$75,000 per year for 2 years in 2015 to the DNR to “work in conjunction with the MN Four Wheel Drive Assn. to address off road touring routes and other issues related to off road issues”. (2015 Minnesota Special Session Laws, Chapter 4--S.F.No.5, Article 3(Environmental and Natural Resource Appropriations), Section 3, Subd. 5 (Parks and Trails Management), paragraph 8.)
- The DNR hired the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) to manage the project.
- Somehow this has been construed to be a “mandate” for the B2B route.
- The DNR has also hired Mary Straka as a consultant and she has been holding meetings across the state to get input on where the trail should go.
- Karen and I and several other interested parties attended the meeting in Park Rapids conducted by Mary Straka and Christine ???. They insisted there is a mandate for this trail and would not listen to any objections or concerns, “saying that time was past”. All they wanted to hear was where and where not to put the trail. Objections were definitely not welcome.
- Ms. Straka said the ideal route would be rugged, unpaved, low-maintenance roads with obstacles like roots, trees, rocks, to encourage slower speeds.
- They touted the potential benefits of additional tourism for the surrounding communities
- Highway 113 seemed to be a preferred route with offshoots up and down various roads and trails including East Bad Medicine.
- Per Ms. Straka, townships can vote not to have the trail in their township. Long Lost has done so.

Concerns

- Damage to trails and township roads
- Additional traffic
- Disruption of current recreation and tourism
- Damage to wildlife habitat
- Pollution - Noise, Air, Water, Garbage
- Maintenance Cost – Somewhat hazy, but said to be part of the Grant In Aid program