

**FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 8, 2024 FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP HALL (AMENDED)**

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, J. Church and A. Wagner
Members absent: NONE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

5. AGENDA

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

6. MINUTES

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to approve the June 10, 2024 Township Board meeting minutes.

Motion, J. Church, supported by A. Wagner, CARRIED to approve the July 3, 2024 Township Board Special meeting minutes.

7. ATTORNEY BURKHART

Motion, D. Brown, supported by J. Church CARRIED to enter into closed session to discuss specific pending litigation, Ford River Township vs Bateni.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: J. Church, A. Wagner, R. Valentine, D. Brown, **S. Nelson** NAYS: none ABSENT: none

A separate Motion was made:

Motion, D. Brown, supported by J. Church, CARRIED to go into closed session to discuss written opinion of counsel.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: J. Church, A. Wagner, R. Valentine, D. Brown **S. Nelson** NAYS: none ABSENT: none

Motion, D. Brown, supported by A. Wagner CARRIED to go back into open session with no decisions made on either subject during the closed session.

Discussion was held to determine how we would like to proceed with the litigation going forward.

Motion, R. Valentine, Support, J. Church, CARRIED to include attorney fees and applicable sanctions in our request for recovery.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: J. Church, S. Nelson, R. Valentine NAYS: D. Brown, A. Wagner, ABSENT: none

8. CONSENT TO AGENDA

- a. Financial Report

- b. Assessor Report
- c. Fire Report
- d. Water Systems report
- e. Water billing register
- f. Payment of bills

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

8A. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Planning Commission meeting minutes June 5, 2024
- b. Zoning Administrators report June 2024
- c. Amended agreement for Election services
- d. Delta County Clerks Association Meeting

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

- a. Fire updates The Fire Chief gave updates.
- b. Grant reconciliation. Treasurer and Clerk have reconciled past grant income with expenses 6/2019-7/2024. They ask Chief Nelson to compare with his figures and report back.
- c. Long discussion took place concerning the allegations against the Fire Department secretary. This is an ongoing investigation being handled by Michigan State Police. The Fire Chief will update the Board regularly.

Motion, J. Church, supported by A. Wagner, CARRIED to cover the NSF check in the amount of \$36,154.00 with \$20,000.00 out of the general fund, with \$10,000.00 of that coming from the Fire Department and \$16,154.00 from the fire department capital outlay.

10. WATER SYSTEM BUSINESS

- a. Water operator updates. Water operator Troy Rodman was absent.
- b. Water forgiveness tabled from June 2024

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by J. Church to forgive the water bill in the amount of \$1096.30.

- c. Water line invoice for 3637 K road. .

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church, CARRIED to pay Brunette and Son in the amount of \$2500.00 for water line replacement at 3637 K Road because lead was found in the line.

- d. Relief water operator

Motion, D. Brown, supported by A. Wagner CARRIED to pay our relief water operator 500.00 per year plus call out time and mileage.

11. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR BUSINESS

- a. Master plan update: Zoning Administrator presented the Master plan Final draft which will be available to the public until September 16, 2024

Motion, J. Church, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to open the public comment period of 62 days for the Master plan.

12. COUNTY COMMISSIONER BUSINESS

- a. District #3 Myra gave updates.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 911 signs: Supervisor Nelson gave updates.
- b. Policy update: TABLED
- c. Litigation updates:
 - i. Ford River Township vs Batini: Court date in July
 - ii. Accusation of violating open meetings act. No update.
 - iii. Bateni vs Ford River Township discrimination complaint
- d. Playground updates. Supervisor Nelson gave updates.
- e. Website update. almost done

14. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Michigan Association of Planning

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to renew membership to the Michigan Association of Planning in the amount of \$725.00

Roll call vote was taken:

AYES: A. Wagner, D. Brown, S. Nelson, R. Valentine NAYS: None ABSTAIN: J. Church

15. PUBLIC COMMENT.

- S. Godfrey expressed concerns on 911 signs.
- J. Deloria would like to know about board of review training
- M. Harrington shows support for Fire Department
- C. Williams question on master plan, 62 calendar days or business days?
(Zoning administrator answered: 62 calendar days)
- J. Kaplan gave the board advice on fire department issue.

16. BOARD COMMENT.

- S. Nelson answered J. Deloria's question on training, he is trying to find out.
- D. Brown informs Board and employees that we have a retirement program if anyone is interested in joining, see Clerk Brown
- J. Church thanks all the firemen, and offers her help

17. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by R. Valentine, CARRIED to adjourn at 9:22 pm

Minutes approved by:

Debbi R. Brown, Township Clerk

Date