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**FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 19, 2025 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, and R. Valentine
Members absent: NONE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Gartland: has complaints on the condition of I Rd. 9 residents, 7 camps and State land that people use.

Kathy Gartland: Been fighting it for 45 years. Worried about roads and power lines

Jack Lehman: I Road. The road doesn't get plowed all the time. Pot holes are bad. Dust control is only one lane.

Bob Vazquez: F Lane. Road complaints. Would like it sealcoated or blacktop.

Denise Vazquez: F. Lane. Spoke with Jayne. The county is responsible for roads. Offered help in any way she could to get road improvements.

5. AGENDA

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by J. Church CARRIED to approve the agenda with changes in 15f.

15f.

Jody Norman was present and addressed roads and why they ask for a match of funds. He commented on the difficult plowing during the spring snowfall. Very bad spring.

Grading the roads was later than usual. There is confusion on the estimates we received. Talked about grinding the blacktop from stop sign (521) to sawmill, then seal all of it.

F. road was discussed. Ford River Township is on one side and Bark River is on the other side, which makes it hard to determine who should repair it. Ford River Township paid 100 % of the gravel two years ago.

Jody will send estimates for the sawmill to the end of the road to sealcoat. Also, F. Road gravel estimate.

Linda Laviolette I road, spoke of concerns to the Road Commission about the parking issue that has been created by the Church Brewery. Her yard as well as others has become the overflow for their patrons. She is looking for a permanent solution. (currently putting out cones)

Jody responded they can put up no parking signs along the road at no cost to the Township. The Sheriffs Department and State Police have been communicating with the Road Commission. After the signs get placed, there can be tickets issued for violations. More comments on gravel on I Road. Jody suggested we sit a year out and use a two year plan for budgeting. Discussion about double lane dust control instead of single lane.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church CARRIED to do both sides of the road for dust control.

6. GUEST SPEAKER

NONE

7. MINUTES

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by J. Church CARRIED to approve the Township Board meeting minutes for April 21, 2025

8. CONSENT TO AGENDA

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

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

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes April 2, 2025
- b. Delta County Clerks Association meeting May 2025
- c. Zoning Administrators report April 2025
- d. Fire Department minutes April 7, 2025
- e. UPPCO Notice of Hearing
- f. Delta County Townships Association meeting minutes April 24, 2025

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

- a. Fire updates. Fire Chief Nelson gave updates.
- b. Pancake breakfast. Treasurer Wagner went over financials with the Board. Total profit was \$5,215.00 plus \$100.00 that will show up in May.
- c. Inventory. It's ongoing.
- d. Minutes. All minutes were received from Chief Nelson that he has in his possession. Going forward, all minutes will be included in the monthly packets.
- e. Trustee Church requested a joint meeting with the Fire Department and the Township Board so everyone is on the same page. The Fire Chief doesn't see the need. Supervisor Nelson suggested a tour of the Fire hall with the board and public.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by R. Valentine CARRIED to purchase AA energizer industrial batteries for \$72.00.

11. WATER SYSTEM BUSINESS

- a. Water operator updates
The water operator was present and gave updates.
- b. Blue Water estimate. This is for new meters to have on hand.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by R. Valentine CARRIED to purchase meters from Blue Water in the amount of \$7,647.79

- c. Campground/Ogren. It appears the campground will be using their own water source. It was decided they will have to pay for the parts we ordered for them per the agreement dated May, 18, 2023. He will also be charged the monthly \$40.00 availability rate.

- d. CCR letters are ready to go out on June 1, 2025 with June billing. It has been put in the display case at the Township Hall and on the website.

12. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR BUSINESS

- a. Zoning update.
The Zoning Administrator was present and gave updates.

13. COUNTY COMMISSIONER BUSINESS

Christine Williams was present and gave County updates.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Policy update: TABLED
- b. Playground updates. Supervisor Nelson gave updates.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by D. Brown CARRIED to purchase the playground solar eye lights for up to \$1,100.00.

- c. Junk update. Supervisor Nelson gave an update for 305 M35. Supervisor will check to see if we can go before the judge without an attorney.
- d. 911 signs. More signs are missing.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by J. Church CARRIED to purchase additional signs at \$1,183.00 total.

- e. Burkart final bill update. Supervisor Nelson gave updates. Currently working with Mr. Burkhart.

15. CURRENT LITIGATION UPDATES.

- a. Bateni.
 - i. Accessory Building
 - ii. Recovering of fees.
Supervisor Nelson gave updates.
- b. Tryan.
Supervisor Nelson gave updates. Tryan has until June 30th to get the clean up completed. Then we will go after our Attorney fees as stated in the Ordinance.

16. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Endless Business Solutions/Josh Blumensaadt. Treasurer Wagner will bring more information to the June meeting. TABLED.
- b. Superior Trade Zone membership
- c. Michigan Association of Planning Membership renewal

Motion, R. Valentine, supported by A. Wagner CARRIED to renew the Michigan Association of Planning Membership in the amount of \$775.00

- d. Cemetery
 - i. Ordinance. After discussion, it was determined we must follow the Cemetery Ordinance

- as written until the time may come to update the Ordinance.
- ii. Resident/non-resident. Determination of residency will be up to the discretion of the Township Clerk.
 - e. Treasurer SET collection. The Treasurer will be paid for SET in the month it is collected.
 - f. Township Truck repairs. TABLED.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Linda Laviolette: Concerns on Church Brewery Special Use Permit and parking. The Brewery's hours of business were approved by the Planning commission on January 17, 2024. However, on February 5, 2024 the hours were changed. According to the bylaws, any amendment to a special use permit must have a public hearing.

In the January 17, 2024 planning commission meeting minutes R. Fettig stated he understands within our ordinance parking for the property is supposed to be on the same lot as the facility. She's wondering if his comments were taken into consideration because on May 7, 2025 Planning commission meeting a gentleman from CUPPAD or the Central UP Planning Commission also stated that the parking that is not adjacent to the property may not be able to be counted toward their parking allotment. She is requesting the parking for the Brewery be re-evaluated because parking and excessive traffic is a huge issue in their residential neighborhood.

The 604 general standards at the meeting on May 7th, 2024 she stated that items C, G and H specifically are not being followed. The board is accountable to follow up with their own standards.

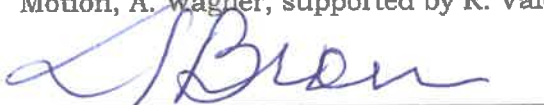
R. Fettig: Asked about the Planning Commissions member resignation.

18. BOARD COMMENT.

Supervisor Nelson. The resigning member will give the resignation to the Planning Commission.

19. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion, A. Wagner, supported by R. Valentine CARRIED to Adjourn at 9:47pm.



Debbi R. Brown, Township Clerk



Date