



2026 FOREST TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

Date and Time of Meeting: March 10, 2026, 6:30 p.m.		
Present: Tim Holzkamm, Barb Christiansen, Lynn Lindow, Donna Waliczek, Karen Hefner Absent: Visitors: John LaFond, Karen LaFond, Rolf Christiansen, Chuck Church, Don Wattenhofer, Ruth Wattenhofer, Steve Sondrol, Betty Sondrol, Monette Lundquist, Carol Peterson, Dave Peterson, Jesse Krasean, Katie Blohm, Al Hefner, Rick Veronen, Mark Veronen		
Agenda Item	Discussion Points/Notes	Actions/Follow-up Needed
Pledge of Allegiance Visitor Sign in		
AGENDA: Nomination of Moderator MEETING AGENDA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review March 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes 	<p>Clerk called for nominations for Moderator, Tim nominated John LaFond, no other nominations were heard. John LaFond was elected unanimously, Motion to approve by Carol Peterson second by Dave Peterson, John advised that any resolution to the board would be addressed.</p> <p>Call to review 2025 annual meetings minutes. No corrections noted, Carol Peterson motioned that we accept and Rolf Christiansen seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously.</p>	<p>John discussed the 2026 levy reported at the 2025 Annual Meeting, advised that minutes are posted on the website for review. John thanked Barb & Rolf Christiansen for the improvements to the Town Hall meeting room. Noted that chairs and tables can be borrowed by township members from the storage shed.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Report Treasurer's Report 	<p>Forest Township board supervisors conducted an audit of the treasurer and clerks' books for 2025 at the February meeting. The board confirmed that the financial data submitted was accurate and signed and approved. The 2025 Financial Report was submitted to the MN State Auditor's office and was also accepted.</p> <p>Donna gave the Treasurer's report as of March 2026. Provided copies with a breakdown of the revenue and expenses. Opened for questions and explanations of the components of the categories for expenses.</p>	<p>Motion to accept Audit Report by Chuck Church and seconded by Al Hefner.</p> <p>Motion to accept treasurer's report by Chuck Church and seconded by Dave Peterson.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Comment 	<p>Katie Blohm brought up the AIS proposal for the Lake Association.</p>	<p>Advised that this would be addressed with New Business</p>
<p>BOARD MEMBER REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Hall Trash/Recycle Roads Planning Commission Weed Report Website 	<p>Put in filtration system for the water line, Plumbing and lights were repaired.</p> <p>Some dumpsters need replacement – wood needs repair.</p> <p>Calcium Chloride has been provided for 2 years now. Road Tour will be scheduled for May. We rely on Thelen for additional gravel needed. Barb & Rolf follow up to clear fallen trees.</p> <p>No changes. Check to see if both township and county permits are required.</p> <p>Lynn does weed spray to deal with invasive weeds and ditches are mowed in July.</p> <p>Meeting dates, meeting minutes, agendas and treasurer's reports are posted to the website</p>	

Old Business	Tim shared the Memo of Understanding between the DNR and with White Earth Tribe agreed to communicate on trees, land and fishing. The issue has nothing to do with transfer of property.	
New Business	<p>2027 Budget and Levy Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget proposal • General - \$30,000 • Garbage - \$14,000 • Solid waste - \$4,000 • AIS \$3,500 • Road - \$40,000 • Fire - \$20,000 <p>2027 Total proposed budget - \$113,500</p> <p>Levy Proposal for 2027 - \$85,000 Budget – Summary of the 2025 revenue, expenses and balance. The objective is to maintain a balance of 150% of the budget. Projected balances given for 2026 and 2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Blohm and Jesse Krasean discussed an increase in our AIS inspection funding. Someone requested that the Lake Association provide reports of hours and findings. Motion by Katie Blohm to amend our contribution to cover 50% percent of the cost not to exceed \$4,000 Second by Steve Sondrol. Motion carried unanimously. • Motion by Carol Peterson to increase the levy to include the additional AIS contribution of \$500. Motion for budget increase to \$114,000 and set the levy at \$85,500 – second by Chuck Church, Motion carried unanimously • Set Amnesty Dates for 2026 – Proposed dates: May 23, 2026, and August 29, 2026. Motion by Barb Christiansen and second by Al Hefner. Motion carried unanimously • Set Annual Meeting Dates for 2027 – Proposed dates: March 9, 2027, Alternative in case of weather March 16, 2027, Motion by Steve Sandrol and second by Chuck Church. Motion carried unanimously. <p>Topics Discussed</p> <p>Wake Boat Regulations Steve Lindow talked about the University of Minnesota study to establish regulations for wake boats. Some felt that education is needed to approach the issues related to property damage of boats and docks. Some expressed that they thought it was better this year and that the boats were staying in the middle of the lake. Steve shared a map of the lake with areas that would fulfill the requested 500 feet from shoreline and 20 ft deep water. Carol Peterson also stressed that the boats coming into the lake from other locations need to be inspected to confirm that ballast tanks are empty of water. Recommended to regulate the wake boats and not ban them. Steve Lindow made a motion that the township establish regulations for wake boats on the lake. Steve Sandrol seconded. Some opposed stating that this is not a township issue. John Lafond motioned that this be changed to establish a committee to work on regulations for wake boats on the lake. Carol Peterson seconded. The</p>	

	<p>motion carried with four residents opposed. Planning commission to assemble the Wake Boat Committee.</p> <p>Rental Properties Short term rentals require county permits. Discussed if the township should investigate the lake rentals and no concerns were expressed at this time. The county zoning ordinance has not been updated which makes it difficult to review. The issue was tabled.</p> <p>Shoreline use regulations Lynn shared that there are no ordinances for sand blankets and retaining walls. Should the township start enforcing or do our own ordinances for this? Discussed the need to set up ordinances related to sand blankets and retaining walls. New retaining walls require an engineer plan. Chuck Church motioned that the township explores the viability of regulating shoreline. Steve Lindow seconded. The vote was not unanimous.</p> <p>Cannabis regulations for growing and retail sales Forest township allows no new commercial enterprises which would make it difficult to establish a business. Opinion from an attorney may need to be done to clarify this.</p>	
Adjourn		Motion by Barb Christiansen to adjourn the meeting. Second by Carol Peterson.,. Motion passed unanimously Meeting end time 8:36

Tim Holzkamm Date

Barb Christiansen Date

Lynn Lindow

Date

Karen Hefner/Clerk

Date