

Forest Township

Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
6:00 PM
Monthly Township Meeting minutes

1. **Call the meeting to order**

Chairman Ron Gernandt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Ron Gernandt, Larry Conrad, Dan Deutsch, Ashley Anderson, Lisa Trnka

2. **County trail plans**

Dennis Luebbe, County Engineer, came to provide information about the development of a countywide trail plan. There is an effort to improve the Rice County Park system. Dennis presented a draft of the Rice County Rural Parks & Trails Plan. There is the potential for a county trail in Forest Township on the north side of Circle Lake. Dennis talked about funding sources for roads and trails; sources typically do not include property taxes for construction. The Township shared information about a previous grant they applied for to build a trail to connect Fox and Circle Lake.

3. **Forest Township 2025 Board of Audit**

The following 2025 (January 1 – December 31, 2025) reports were presented to the Town Board Supervisors:

- Disbursements Ledger
- Receipts Ledger
- Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances (Schedule 1)
- Cash Control Statement
- Receipts Register
- Disbursements Register

Lisa and Ashley presented the 2025 financial records for review. The Clerk and Treasurer confirmed that all funds and accounts have been balanced and reconciled, and that the Clerk and Treasurer records are in agreement.

Each receipt and disbursement has been recorded and accounted for in the township's financial records. The supervisors were provided with an overview of the financial reports and were informed how all monies received and disbursed by the township are documented and reported.

Each supervisor selected one receipt and one disbursement for verification. The Clerk and Treasurer provided supporting documentation for the selected transactions. Copies of all voided checks were also provided for review.

The Board verified the following:

- Bank statements have been reconciled monthly
- Clerk and Treasurer balances agree for each fund
- Clerk and Treasurer Schedule 1 reports match
- Year-end cash balance statements reconcile to the final bank statements

After examination of the records, the Board of Audit determined that the 2025 receipts, claims, disbursements, and financial statements are accurate and properly accounted for. No discrepancies were found.

Dan made a motion to approve the 2025 financial records as presented. Larry seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Budget

Lisa prepared a document to help the board set the levy with anticipated receipts and expenses. The board discussed levy recommendations for the annual meeting.

- **General:** *General fund recommendation is to remain at $65,000 for 2027.*
- **Road and Bridge**
    - Potential Equipment: Dan provided an overview a proposal from Truck Center Companies for a new truck. The bidding process was discussed. The Cabin Chassie is $166,333 and $189,854 for the remainder of the equipment for a total of $356,187. The estimate of what the Township would receive for our current truck is approximately $125,000. The new truck, if ordered, would be two years out. The board discussed different levy options. *The board is recommending a levy of $190,000, an increase of $10,000.*
- **Northfield Fire (Fire District 2)**
    - The Township is in the red for Northfield Fire and will need to raise the 2027 levy. *The Board is recommending a levy of $50,000, an increase of $10,000.*
    - Agreement – The board reviewed and executed the 2027 Northfield Fire Agreement.
- **Lonsdale Fire (Fire District 1)**
    - By the end of this year there will be about $200 in the Lonsdale Fire account, and the levy amount will need to be increased. *The board is recommending a level of $42,500, an increase of $2,500*.

Larry made a motion proposing the Forest Township levy for 2027 as follows: $42,500 for Londsale (Fire District 1), $50,000 for Northfield (Fire District 2), $65,000 for the General Fund, and $190,000 for the Road and Bridge Fund. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The board prepared the agenda for the annual meeting.

4. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Ashley read the minutes from the previous meeting.

Larry made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

5. **Treasurer's report**

The treasurer's report was presented with a township balance of $284,720.64. Lisa reviewed receipts and investment balances. The board will have to decide on the CDs coming due in March. The board will decide next month.

Larry made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

6. **Public comment period** – none.

7. **Fire districts**
    a. Lonsdale – no additional report beyond the levy discussion
    b. Northfield – no additional report beyond the levy discussion and 2026 agreement

8. **Roads**
    a. The Board will do an annual road tour in April.

9. **Subordinate Sewer District updates**
    a. Circle Lake sand filter project – no updates

10. **Siren project update** – no update. Ashley will reach out to the installation company and Dan will go out to the site.

11. **Rice County Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission items –** none

12. **US Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey**
    a. Ashley will complete and report that the boundaries of the Township have not changed.

13. **Other**
    a. Gravel Bid – Ashley will post the gravel bid in the newspapers

b. Board will add the Rice County Historical Society Donation to the annual meeting agenda with a recommended amount of $500
c. Charlie will install a mailbox on front of the building.
d. The 2025 annual meeting moderator did not receive payment. Lisa will cut a check for the moderator for 2025 at the March meeting. We will pay the 2026 moderator at the April meeting.

14. Adjourn

Dan made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm. Larry seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.