

Forest Township

Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday, March 4, 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. Approve meeting agenda

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

3. **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.

4. **Treasurer's report**

The treasurer's report was presented with a township balance of $313,456.17. Lisa provided an overview of the receipts received, as well as the investment balances.

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

5. **Public comment period**

Josh Malecha from the Rice County Sheriff's Office stopped by to see if anything was needed from the Sheriff's Office.

6. **Township CDs –** The township has 4 CDs coming due. State Bank has a 7-month CD for 3.25%. The Township currently has $216,000 in CDs.

Larry moved to roll over the 4 CDs and add (2) $25,000 CDs from Road and Bridge. The board allows one signature, Lisa Trnka, to renew and open certificate of deposits with the State Bank of Faribault. Dan seconded the motion. And the motion carried.

The Fox Lake CDs are also due. There was a large invoice for a new panel. The CDs will not be renewed when they are due mid-March. *The board allows one signature, Lisa Trnka, to withdraw certificate of deposits with the State Bank of Faribault.*

7. **Fire districts**
    a. **Lonsdale**
    b. **Northfield**

Larry noticed that the Northfield Fire 2026 fee was higher than what was quoted. After consultation with Glen, it was determined that the annual amount was miscalculated. The 2026 annual fee is $37,125, not $40,569 from the original agreement. Due to this update, the board reconsidered their levy recommendation.

Larry made a motion to update the Northfield Fire levy recommendation from $50,000 to $45,000. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The board is recommending a $17,500 increase, or a 5.4% increase across all funds. The increase is consistent across the last three years.

i. **Updated Fire Agreement**

The board executed the new Northfield Fire agreement, with the corrected amount.

8. **Annual Meeting**
    a. The board reviewed the annual meeting agenda, with the updated Northfield Fire fund recommendation.
9. **Roads**
    a. **Truck –** The board will go out for bid if they purchase a new truck. Lonsdale is interested in purchasing the current truck.
    b. **Mowing bid. –** The board received a bid to mow the township ditches.

Larry made a motion to accept the bid for mowing. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

    c. **13528 Baseline Road –** A resident is worried about the placement of a driveway and turning into oncoming traffic and requested a sign to slow down traffic. It is a county road so the township cannot place a sign. Dan will get a hold of the county to check on options and Ashley will call the resident back.

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

11. **Siren project update –** The siren is going in Thursday, March 12.

12. **Minnesota Benefit Association – Life Insurance**

Larry made a motion to renew the Township's life insurance policy for the board. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

13. **Rice County Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission items**
    a. **No items in Forest Township**
14. **Notice of Annual Township Officer's Association Meeting: March 26 at 7:00 PM – Public Safety Center**
15. **Notice of Board of Appeal and Equalization: April 7 at 9:00 AM – Town Hall**
16. **Adjourn**

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.