



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

Wednesday, May 6, 2026
6:00 PM
Monthly Township Meeting Minutes

1. Call the meeting to order

Vice Chairman Larry Conrad called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

2. Approve meeting agenda

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

3. Approve previous meeting minutes

Ashley read the minutes from the previous meeting.

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes. Larry 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 \$240,841.17. Lisa provided an overview of the receipts received, as well as the investment balances.

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

5. Public comment period

Dean Sunderland reported that the City of Northfield will host the Pheasant Opener on October 9, 2026. A dedication is being considered at the public access on Circle Lake for two wildlife management areas, in coordination with the Northfield Chamber of Commerce and state representatives. The group requested use of the Town Hall and Township Shop for the event.

It was noted that a bridge near the lake is in disrepair. The bridge was originally installed by the Sportsman's Club and is no longer needed following culvert improvements. Dan will clean up the bridge area in preparation for the event. Illegal dumping has also been reported in that area.

The Circle Lake Association requested to reserve the Town Hall for Race Day on September 13, 2026.

6. Fire districts

- a. **Lonsdale – no update**
- b. **Northfield – no update**

7. Roads

- a. **Truck bids** – The Township received one bid for the truck from Truck Center and Crysteel. The bid included \$189,854 for plow equipment and \$165,142 for the truck, for a total of \$358,100, with all options requested in the bid included.

Dan made a motion to accept the bid to accept the Truck Center and Crysteel bid for \$358,100. Larry seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

b. Gravel updates and contract

All gravel has been applied. Dan will complete additional spot applications as needed. Gravel was recently applied to 130th Street and will require time and rainfall to properly settle. Residents are planning to apply dust control and will mark the area with flags.

The Board fully executed the Kielmeyer 2026 gravel contract. A performance bond was not required due to the expedited completion of the gravel work. A total of \$134,071.60 in gravel was delivered.

8. Subordinate Sewer District updates

- a. **Circle Lake sand filter project** – Advanced Septic is working on the Circle Lake project but it is not yet complete.
- b. **Fox Lake** – Ben sent a bill for a new panel for Fox Lake.
- c. **Circle Lake Estates SSD** – Charlie reported ongoing communication with Circle Lake Estates regarding their septic system. The HOA has established a septic committee and has begun addressing some issues, though additional repairs are still needed. Concerns were noted regarding the absence of an operating permit, late reporting, system performance and management concerns, and billing questions. It was reported that the drainfield is surfacing, fecal coliform levels are elevated, and water softener discharge may be contributing to ongoing issues. UV treatment has been installed to address fecal levels; however, concerns remain unresolved. Charlie contacted the County to request annual reports and confirm the status of the operating permit. Reports should include sludge judge measurements and flow data. Residents would like to see a formal management plan for the septic vendor, along with oversight to ensure compliance. The County is responsible for annual reporting and permitting. The HOA is working to educate homeowners on proper septic system use. The Township will

schedule a meeting with Ben to discuss next steps and establish appropriate protocols.

- d. Maple Shores Main Site SSD taxes – The Township assumed ownership of the main and alternate sites for the SSD. Due to the timing of the purchase, property taxes are owed; however, no future taxes will be due after this payment.

Dan made a motion for the Maple Shores SSD pay the one-time taxes for the main and alternative sites. Larry second the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

9. Siren project update – The siren project is complete.

- a. **Invoice** – The final invoice is paid.

10. Rice County Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission items

- a. **PC item** – no concerns.

11. Town Hall Rental Request

A women’s conservation group requested to hold a public meeting at the Town Hall at no cost.

Dan made a motion to approve the fee waiver for the rental application. Larry seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

12. Website

The Township has launched a new website at <https://foresttownshipricecomn.gov/> to comply with recent statutory requirements that government entities use a .gov domain.

13. Township payroll frequency

To align with Minnesota wage payment requirements, the Township will transition to paying employees monthly rather than quarterly. Elected officials are exempt from this requirement.

14. Adjourn

Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02. Larry seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.