



**Forest Township**  
Rice County  
3625 Millersburg Boulevard  
Faribault, Minnesota

**Wednesday, July 1, 2026  
6:00 PM  
Monthly Township Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call the meeting to order**

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

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

**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 \$200,028.80. 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 - none**

**6. Supervisor position**

Ron submitted a written resignation regarding his position on the Town Board.

*Larry moved to accept the resignation of Supervisor Ronald Gernandt, effective immediately, with sincere appreciation for his dedicated service to Forest Township and its residents. Dan seconded the motion and the motion carried.*

The Clerk declared a vacancy of a supervisor seat in Forest Township.

*Charlie Peters moved to appoint Al Malecha to fill the vacancy in the office of Township Supervisor created by the resignation of Ronald Gernandt. The appointment shall be effective immediately upon taking the Oath of Office and shall continue until a successor is elected in March 2027. Larry seconded the motion and the motion carried.*

*Larry moved to cease nominations. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

*Dan nominated Larry Conrad as the chairman of the board. Al seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

*Dan nominated Al Malecha as vice chairman of the board. Larry seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Al Malecha took the Oath of Office as Forest Township Supervisor.

Ashley summarized the current supervisor seats and upcoming elections:

#### **Ron Gernandt's (now Al Malecha's appointment) Seat**

- At the March 2027 election, voters will elect a supervisor to serve the remaining one year of Ron's term.
- The seat will then return to its regular election cycle in the March 2028 Township Election ballot for a three-year term.

#### **Dan Deutsch's Seat**

- Dan Deutsch was previously appointed to fill Bill's vacant supervisor seat.
- Dan ran for a 1-year seat until the March 2027 Township Election.
- At the March 2027 election, this seat will be on the ballot for a three-year term.

#### **March 2027 Township Election**

The ballot will include:

- One Supervisor: One-year term to complete the remainder of Ron Gernandt's term (currently filled by Al Malecha through appointment).
- One Supervisor: Three-year term (Dan Deutsch's current seat)

#### **March 2028 Township Election**

The ballot will include:

- One Supervisor: Three-year term for Ron Gernandt's seat, returning to its regular three-year election cycle.

*Larry made a motion to remove Ron Gernandt as a signer on the State Bank of Faribault accounts and to add Alexander Malecha as a signer on the State Bank of Faribault accounts.*

**7. Fire districts**

- a. **Lonsdale** – The Township did receive the invoice for fire dues.
- b. **Northfield** – No updates.

**8. Roads**

- a. **Cyrus Trail** –no updates.

**9. Equipment**

- a. Truck is ordered with an estimated receipt of January of 2027 with plow equipment scheduled to be installed in November 2027.

**10. Subordinate Sewer District updates**

- a. **Circle Lake sand filter project** – Ben finished the Circle Lake sand filter project. It was recommended to get a County assessment of the project. The board will pay it upon passage of inspection.
- b. **Circle Lake Estates SSD** – The Board met with Ben and Andrew of Advanced Septic Solutions to discuss the operation and maintenance of the Circle Lake Estates wastewater system. Board members expressed concerns that maintenance activities and overall system performance have not consistently met the Township's expectations. Larry and Charlie reported that they recently met onsite with Tom Wirtzfeld, previous owner of Advanced Septic. Coincidentally, an Advanced Septic worker was onsite that day working. Ben reported that the main control panel failed approximately one and a half weeks ago. The panel was approximately 25 years old, resulting in a loss of telemetry. The Board reviewed the current maintenance agreement with Advanced Septic Solutions. It was noted that individual flow reports are not included under the agreement and would require an additional fee. The vendor also explained that residents should contact Advanced Septic Solutions when alarms are activated, as many homeowners have discontinued landline telephone service and alarm notifications are no longer automatically received. The Board discussed ongoing resident concerns regarding maintenance, responsiveness, and the overall performance of the wastewater treatment pods. Homeowners need confidence that the work that is being paid for is being completed. The possibility of implementing a 60-day performance improvement plan for the vendor was discussed to establish clear expectations and improve accountability. Larry Conrad reported that he has contacted several alternative vendors regarding wastewater system maintenance. The Board acknowledged that, pursuant to the maintenance agreement, the Township would be required to provide 30-day notice should it choose to terminate the current contract. Representatives of the Homeowners Association reported they are working to implement practices that will better support the wastewater system. They also expressed concerns regarding maintenance at the main treatment site and requested continued Township oversight to ensure the maintenance agreement is being fulfilled. The Board discussed obtaining an independent evaluation of the wastewater system and vendor performance. Potential resources

discussed included locating an Advanced Inspector through the University of Minnesota program and contacting SepticCheck of Milaca, which regularly performs inspections in the area. Residents also recommended that the County be involved in the process of resolution of the issues with the current vendor. Larry will continue to pursue outreach to other potential vendors.

- c. Lisa presented the second-quarter invoices from Advanced Septic Solutions for all four wastewater system sites. The Circle Lake Estates invoice included charges for the routine service agreement and weed spraying. The Board discussed confirming with Advanced Septic Solutions that the invoiced work has been completed prior to approving payment. Advanced Septic needs Township approval for all projects above \$2,500 unless there is an imminent public health threat.

*Al made a motion to table the payment of invoices for next meeting, until after work can be confirmed. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

*Dan made a motion to seek an independent assessment for all four sites from Septic Check. Al seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

*Dan made a motion to implement a 60-day performance plan with Advanced Septic. If the plan is not followed the contract will be terminated. Al seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

## **11. Rice County Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission - no items**

## **12. Resolution 2026-01: Election Judges**

*Al made a motion to approve the resolution 2026-01 appointing election judges for the August Primary Election and the November General Election. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

## **13. Other**

- The Board discussed work needed on a culvert on County Road 9 and 130<sup>th</sup> St, brush cleaning, and weed spraying.

## **14. Adjourn**

*Al made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*