

PROCEEDS OF THE MEETING OF THE FERN TOWN BOARD  
September 9, 2024

Chairman Erwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also present were Supervisor Drewa, Treasurer Demko, Deputy Clark Batte and Clerk De Clark. Supervisor Saak was absent.

Constituents present were Rick Knepper, Joe Schumaker, Paul Batt, Christy Larson, Kelly Sleeter, Rich, and Janet Woloshyn.

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Chairman Erwin.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the town minutes from August 12, 2024.

Motion seconded by Chairman Erwin.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Monthly Report

Treasurer Demko presented the monthly Treasurer's Report which included account balances and interest rates.

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Chairman Erwin.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Monthly Bills

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Chairman Erwin.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Correspondence

There were no correspondence to review.

Kelly Sleeter

Mr. Sleeter stated that there is a new ordinance which changes the zoning. It is less strict on some businesses and stricter on others. The town of Fern has yet to adopt the ordinance which needs to be adopted within 5 years. Chairman Erwin stated that the zoning on Mulberry Lane is a mess.

Mr. Sleeter stated that there is a resolution on the back of the paperwork he handed out should the town decide to approve the resolution. Supervisor Drewa stated that the board would like to review the resolution before signing it.

Mr. Sleeter stated that lakes and sanitation are under zoning. Mulberry Lane is out of zoning. It needs to be zoned to control porta potty and shacks from being put on the properties.

Chairman Erwin stated that the board will discuss the matter further and it will be revisited for October's meeting.

Mr. Sleeter reminded the board that zoning will not have a say on what is put up on the properties until the town comes to zoning. He stated that zoning can take people to court who violate the zoning guidelines.

Chairman Erwin, Supervisor Drewa and Kelly Sleeter will get together to discuss this further.

#### Christy Larson

Miss Larson will be discussing the operation referendum for the school that will be on the November ballot. She passed out an informational flier with a QR code on the front and back. She stated that Florence County is a low aided school.

She stated that the mill rate is potentially .74. The tax rates should come out just before the vote so residents can see how the milage will affect their taxes.

Miss Larson stated that another flier would be coming out and asked if the board wanted to see anything particular in the next flier. There will also be a question-and-answer section on the school's website.

Chairman Drewa asked how much the funding had dropped and Miss Larson stated that it had dropped by 2.5 million. She said higher valuation of property means less funding for the school.

Mr. Knepper asked what happens if there is any money from the referendum if the costs are covered. Miss Larson stated that any surplus money would go into the general fund.

#### Madeliene Lane

Chairman Erwin stated that the town is in the process of taking over the road. He had spoken with the representative from Rhineland and the town must submit all their information to the DOT. The town needs to do a resolution to move forward for funding which Chairman Erwin will do. He already has the necessary signatures from the landowners on the lane. Any improvements to the road will be at the landowner's expense.

Mr. Schumaker asked if the incurred cost would be spread over a period of 1-3 years. Chairman Erwin stated, yes.

Chairman Erwin stated that the town is close to finalizing the take over of Madeliene Lane and that Pat has the road in very good shape.

Chairman Erwin will get the survey and resolution to the DOT.

Mr. Schumaker asked if there were any issues with the state. Chairman Erwin stated no, they have been very informative.

### Board Member Comments

Supervisor Drewa stated that residents have been looking for dump cards to be able to use the town dump. The town needs to find out the Florence residents who use the dump too. Chairman Erwin and Supervisor Drewa will work at the dump and hand out the cards.

Treasurer Demko stated she can get a list of property owners from Donna Leibergan.

### Constituent Concerns

Constituent Knepper stated that the Blue Ox Trail Riders have proposed an ordinance to unify throughout all the towns the same speed limits. He said the sheriff's department is in favor of the ordinance. Florence has already adopted the ordinance.

Chairman Erwin asked what was needed from the town. Mr. Knepper stated that he would get a copy of the ordinance to the town.

Chairman Erwin stated the town will put this on the next agenda for October.

Deputy Clerk Batte stated that R&R Assessing's monthly bill will be reduced from \$1,115 per month to \$760 effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The billing amount went down because the re-evaluation is over.

She asked if the town wanted to sign the proposal to continue R&R's services.

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Chairman Erwin.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

The contract was signed by Chairman Erwin and returned to Deputy Clerk Batte to get to R&R.

### Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Chairman Erwin.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patti De Clark  
Town Clerk