

TOWN BOARD MEETING
APRIL 28, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Board of Supervisors, Town of Florence met on the 28th day of April, 2025 with Chairman Jim Gehlhoff and Supervisors Tom Tuchalski and Shane McLain present.

After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, a motion made by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski the agenda was approved as posted. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on April 14, 2025, were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski. All in favor, motion carried.

A resident East Shore Rd asked the board to find out what it would cost to repair/fix the Dry Hydrant at the Lake Ellwood Boat Landing. He also asked the board to do something about the garbage container at 4194 Lake Ellwood Rd because it never gets brought in from the road. It has been an issue with the snow plow, a driving hazard when it blows into the road, and creates a mess when it tips over and animals get into it. The Town Office will follow-up with both of these concerns on behalf of the board.

There were no operator license applications submitted for approval.

Several residents were in attendance for the discussion regarding the proposed Spread Eagle Fire Hall Committee. Questions came up regarding the need for the additional fire hall, if there were enough volunteers and equipment to staff the hall, what the ISO requirements would be, how the project would be funded, would it change response times and help increase safety, what (if any) are the environmental concerns and impacts, are there potential road blocks, will residents within 5 miles of the location see a noticeable change in their fire insurance, what kind (if any) well is needed, and will this go to a referendum vote.

SECOLA president, Deb Cini, stated historically for the record SECOLA was approached by the Township twice regarding this project. Once in 2022 before the annual meeting where the original motion was made to spend up to \$750,000 to construct a Spread Eagle Fire Hall, and again in March this year to write a letter of support to potentially gain funding for the project. Supervisor McLain asked Cini who approached SECOLA from the Township stating it didn't come from himself or Supervisor Holbrook. Cini then stated that it was the chair who approached SECOLA.

Supervisor Tuchalski mentioned that he spoke with the Utility and got a contact for a company called ISG. He stated that they would be willing to come to a Town Board meeting to give a briefing on this proposed project covering the logistics, the need, estimated costs, environmental aspects, etc. Tuchalski was asked to reach out to ISG and setup a meeting date on a motion by Gehlhoff and seconded by McLain. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski it was decided to close Cyclops Street from Central Ave to Florence Ave on Saturday, June 28, 2025 for the Tavern on Central Street Dance. All in favor, motion carried.

Several residents were in attendance to discuss the possible removal of trees along Olvie Ave/Montgomery Lake Rd down to the cemetery. The board also received an e-mail regarding the removal of the trees. The trees create a shaded road which keep the road from getting sunshine in the winter to melt the snow and ice on it. They also block the view for a busy intersection with the industrial park, and they are at the end of life where they may start falling down on their own. If the Town is proactive in taking them down there could be value in selling the trees. Concerns brought up regarding the removal of the trees included the buffer they create for the noise level with the industrial park. It was stated that the red pine trees that would be removed are already trimmed so high due to the utility lines and road clearance that they do not currently serve as a buffer. There are white pine trees out of the right of way that serve that purpose. Other concerns were brought up regarding the aesthetics of the tree lined street and what it would look like when it was completed – especially around the cemetery. Highway Foreman Steber stated that if the Town took the trees down then they would remove the stumps as well. It was asked if some of the trees could be left, but it was stated that if the Town did work

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in the right of way, but left trees in some places and not others that they could be held liable if something were to happen. Gehlhoff stated that he was told that the trees were planted along the way to the cemetery to honor those veterans that had passed away and would like to see the money from the logs go to help the veterans with upcoming projects. On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski it was moved to split the money from the removal of the trees between the Florence VFW and American Legion. All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Klumpp shared information with the board regarding getting setup to accept online payments with a credit/debit card in the Town of Florence Office. Klumpp noted this is the company that Great North Bank and Florence Utility works with. On a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski it was moved to initiate an agreement with GovCard powered by evolv to be able to accept online payments for the Town of Florence. All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly bills totaling \$32,055.57 and automatic withdrawals in the amount of \$16,030.16 were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Tuchalski. All in favor, motion carried.

Klumpp also informed the board that she needed contact information from them to share with on the Town and County websites, in the County directory and on the Town Business Cards. The board members will be letting her know what information they want shared. Gehlhoff asked McLain if he had an e-mail address he could use for Town business. McLain stated that he would work with Klumpp to get one setup.

Under Board Concerns, Supervisor McLain told the board he would like to see us Open US 2/Central Ave to ATV and UTV use. Supervisor Tuchalski would like the board to look into that as well. It will be on a future agenda.

McLain also brought up trying to understand the EMS funding and status. Chairman Gehlhoff mentioned that in the email Amanda Mulvey sent for the Town Annual Meetings that she could attend a future Town Board meeting. The Town Office reached out to Amanda after the annual meeting, but a date has not yet been set.

Finally under board concerns McLain brought up the assessment levels in the Town of Florence. A reval happened in the Town of Florence in 2024. At the February 10, 2025 Town Board Meeting Clerk/Treasurer VanPembroke reported that Ryan Raatz of R&R Assessing Services informed her that the Towns level of assessment will be out of compliance in 2025 with Raatz stating that sales around the Chain of Lakes are still ridiculous. There was discussion regarding how to contest an assessment. Clerk/Treasurer Klumpp stated that the first step was to reach out to R&R Assessing and speak with them directly and that it could be done at any time. The next step would be to file paperwork to appear before the Board of Review. The date for the Board of Review is not set for 2025, but will most likely be in September or October.

There being no further business it was moved by Tuchalski and seconded by McLain to adjourn until May 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jessica Klumpp
Clerk Treasurer