

TOWN OF FARMINGTON MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
August 6, 2024
7:00pm
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro WI, 54644

Attendees: Mike Hesse, Paul Lash, Jodi Anderson
Minutes Prepared By: Crystal Sbraggia

CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Hesse called the regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve the minutes from June 25, 2024, July 2, 2024, July 16, 2024. meetings. **2/0/0 PASSED**

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Dennis Jacobsen, County Supervisor District 25, was in attendance to share an update on county board activity. He expressed concerns regarding plans that the county has that will likely decrease road funding in 2025. He also noted disappointment over the discontinuation of the rural broadband committee. Realizing these two issues unequivocally impact the rural townships, he is suggesting that towns draft resolutions to request that the county prioritize funding for these two programs in the 2025 budget.

LP contract rates

LP contract rates for the 2024-2025 heating season were reviewed. Allied Provision Cooperative submitted a rate of \$1.649, while Consolidated Energy gave a rate of \$1.62.

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to remain with Consolidated Energy for the 2024-2025 heating season with a LP rate of \$1.62/gal. **Passed 2/0/0**

- **Operator Licenses:**

The board reviewed applications and background checks for Vicky Rainey, Karyssa Haldeman, Lexi Renk, Maryn Conley, Colleen Cudo, Grace King, Marty Olson and Dan Giertych.

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve operator license applications for Vicky Rainey, Karyssa Haldeman, Lexi Renk, Maryn Conley, Colleen Cudo, Grace King, Marty Olson, Dan Giertych. **Passed 2/0/0**

Temporary Alcohol License:

The board reviewed temporary license applications for the John Cain Foundation (5th Annual John Cain Memorial Benefit / August 24, 2024) and the Mindoro Lions Club (Spanferkel / September 6 – 8, 2024).

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve the issuance of a temporary alcohol license to the John Cain Foundation for their event on August 24, 2024 and to the Mindoro Lions Club for their event to be held on September 6, 7 & 8, 2024. **Passed 2/0/0**

MINDORO PARK

Mitch Fenske provided the board with an update on the Mindoro parks.

- The town crew repaired the park shelter roof the best they could, but upon closer inspection recommend that the roof be replaced.
- No additional contact with the Mel-Min CC staff has been made regarding the trails. Mike plans to follow up with them.
- The washout areas at the park remain on the to-do list and will be completed as soon as weather allows.
- Much mowing has taken place this summer. Fenske plans to once again mow the trails at the end of the month.

SANITARY DISTRICT

Mitch Fenske provided the board with an update on the Farmington Sanitary District.

- **Main Lift Station Project:** No new information or modifications to discuss.
- **The AMS product:** The lagoons were agitated to breakup sludge that settled on the bottom. A better update on the AMS effectiveness will be possible after the September sludge judge.
- **Trailer Park Sewer Line Project:** Davy is checking into options. No further updates.
- **Water Rates:** The SD is being required to increase water rates. Cindy is working on submitting the information to the Public Service Commission. Deadline to upload info is October for a 2025 rate increase. No estimated increase is available.
- **MDV permit:** Mitch continues to work with the DNR to provide necessary samples and information that they need before the MDV permit will be approved. He anticipates having all the necessary information collected and the application submitted by the end of August.

CEMETERY

The crews have been very busy mowing in the cemeteries.

- Hesse shared a resident concern regarding the south end fence at the Wet Coulee Cemetery. The same resident had concerns with the condition of Amundson Road. The crews will attend to the condition of the fence. The board is already aware of the condition of Amundson Road and will fit it into the chip seal / repair schedule as they can.

ROADS & EQUIPMENT

- **2024 Chip Seal and Resurfacing:**

Concerns have been received from residents regarding apparent imperfections on in-town road that were resurfaced by Struck & Irwin. Fenske will be in contact with the company.

Scott Construction to start August week of 26.

- **M. Olson Road:** According to Hesse, the next step is to collect official bids. Still the board will need to consider budgetary constraints before fully approving any option.

Obligation document was received July 2, 2024. We may begin when we are prepared to move forward. Project must be completed with info submitted by June 30, 2029.

Mike shared history on the Town Bridge Construction County Aid program. To his knowledge LaCrosse County opted out of this program back in 1930. According to the WI Towns Association the action to opt out may have been conducted improperly. Hesse plans to look further into the opt out process to determine if there could be an option to resurrect this program in LaCrosse County and if so what type of impact it could have for our community.

- **Baker Road ARIP Application**

The ARIP funding application submitted by Jewell for Baker Road repairs was denied in the first round of distributions. Jewell will resubmit application for round 2.

- **Herman Coulee Road Update:** Jewell is waiting on the DNR before being able to present their finished design plan. Following plan submittal, the town will process the proper paperwork for grant dollars to be dispersed and reimbursement from La Crosse County to take place. Must be billed to the county by November 30, 2024. Hesse is hopeful that further funding to actually repair the road can be secured through another county level stormwater grant.

- **Hanson Road Update:** Recent ditching efforts did help to dry Hanson Road, however, Fenske feels it is a temporary fix and recommends the road be prioritized for chip seal in 2025.

- **Wenzel Road:** No Update.

- **Cold Patch:** Mitch informed the board that the crew will likely need more cold mix than originally budgeted.

- **Western Star Plow Truck:** Lettering has been completed. The town is waiting on General Communication for radio installation. Brackets for bangboards were suggested. Mitch will collect pricing.

- **Diagnostic scan tool:** Mitch asked the board to approve the purchase of a diagnostic scan tool. The estimated cost is \$350. The board approved purchase.
- Fenske noted that the Ram is going to need in-house repairs and new tires.
- Hesse confirmed that tree trimming along the town hall must be approved by property owner, but that the town can rightfully remove overgrowth around LP tank.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The FD requested to hire a grant writer to submit an application for funding for the purchase of new radios.

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to hire a grant writer that will assist with the preparation and submission of application for grant funding to cover the cost of replacing hand held radios for FD personnel. **Passed 2/0/0**

The Farmington FD Pancake Breakfast proceeds were reportedly down a bit from last year, but still served over 500 people. The newsletter went out a bit later than planned, therefore, mail-in donations continue to trickle in.

The FD is seeking available training classes for the 5 newest department members.

The board congratulated Darrel Stoen on being selected as a recipient of the Silver Award for Excellence for efforts related to online training management.

RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE

Mitch is recommending to review the pricing for different items, such as ballasts and tires.

TREASURER REPORT AND CHECKS

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve the July Treasurer Report including receipts 632271-632284. Acknowledging the \$100 donation from Melrose-Mindoro Alumni Association to be used for upkeep of cemeteries. **2/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve town checks 23849 to 23896 and previously approved EFT. **2/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve Fire Department check 4772-4774. **2/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve SD July EFT transactions and checks numbered 5822-5828. **2/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to adjourn at 8:26pm.