

TOWN OF FARMINGTON MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2024
7:00pm
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro WI, 54644

Attendees: Mike Hesse, Paul Lash, Jodi Anderson, Greg Kastenschmidt
SD: Mitch Fenske, Cindy Storandt
Minutes Prepared By: Crystal Sbraggia
Absent:

Other Attendees: Larry Craig, Wilfred Berg, Gayle Monicken, Dennis Konze, Jerry Den Boer

CALL TO ORDER: PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the Public Budget Hearing to order at 7:00pm.

Mike presented the proposed 2025 budget and answered questions related to the budget.
No objections were heard. Mike Hesse closed the hearing at 7:06pm.

SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the Special Meeting of Electors to order at 7:07pm.

The Town Board asked for the electors to approve the 2024 Levy payable in 2025 at the allowable amount of \$535,725.

Mmsp: Greg Kastenschmidt / Dennis Konze: Motion to approve the 2024 Levy at \$535,725.
No further discussion. 10 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstain.

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to adjourn 7:11pm. **3/0/0 Passed**

REGULAR MEETING: CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the Special Meeting of Electors to order at 7:13pm.

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to approve the minutes from October 1, 2024 regular meeting and October 15, 2024 special meetings. **3/0/0 PASSED**

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Larry Craig asked for it to be placed into the minutes that he believes that there are too many employees working for the town and sanitary district. He also believes the wages are too high.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve the 2025 budget as presented. **Passed 3/0/0**

Employee Health Insurance

Jerry Den Boer was in attendance to explain the 2025 renewal options. A variety of options were discussed, as the current policy is no longer available and the rates increased significantly.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to renew coverage under the Quartz Platinum P502 HMO for the month of December, then effective January, consider re-renewing with a more cost effective preference network option. **3/0/0 Passed**

MINDORO PARK

Mitch Fenske confirmed the length of the existing trail is 2.1 miles and that Cross Country Coach Yanske verbally agreed that this would be a suitable length for the CC Trail.

Fenske will work to lessen the steepness of the hill; however, solid sandstone could make that difficult. Konze reiterated his willingness to donate his hours to do this for the town.

The washouts have been filled in and seem to be holding for now. The bathrooms have been pumped and are ready for winter.

SANITARY DISTRICT

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

- **Main Lift Station Project:** A firm date of July 31, 2025 has been set by Winona Mechanical for the completion of the lift station project. Carson from Davey Engineering is working to draft an addendum that will limit the town's accountability for repairs on the lift station should issues arise over the winter.
- **AMS product:** The final Sludge judge report is not available yet, however, Fenske confirmed that a 3-foot reduction in sludge was achieved.
- **Trailer Park Sewer Line Project:** Fenske will be requesting a quote from Winona Mechanical for spot repair on that line.
- **Water Rates:** No update.
- **Water Main Break** - A water main under County Road C near the old elementary building was repaired following a break in the line mid-October.
- **SD budget meeting** is scheduled for November 20 at 6:00pm.
- **Well #2:** Work has been completed. Final invoices are yet to be received.

CEMETERY

- Mowing has ended.
- The legion has requested to install a war memorial at the Farmington Cemetery. The monument will consist of several decorative stones being built into the bank on the westside of the stairway. This will be a 2025 project and the town agreed to help with the project by building the necessary retaining wall around the monument.

ROADS & EQUIPMENT

- **Herman Coulee Road:** The beavers that were causing a backup in the waterway near Herman Coulee Road have been eliminated. Stormwater Grant reimbursement paperwork has been submitted to LaCrosse County.
- **M. Olson Road:** Van Orden could potentially help with federal dollars for this project. Hesse continues to seek out new funding.
- **Baker Road ARIP Application** – No updates on round two application submission.
- **Hanson Road Update:** No updates.
- **Wenzel Road:** Culverts are complete.
- **Cox Hill Road** – Plugging issue was resolved.

EQUIPMENT

- Western Star Plow Truck – Repairs are needed already but will be covered by warranty.
- Freightliner – Will be sold as is.
- Kuhn Mower – The board denied Fenske's request to sell this unit and buy a new one.
- Orange International #4 – New batteries are needed.
- The board denied Fenske's request to sell a zero-turn mower and buy a new one.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Hesse shared again his donation of a 50-year lease on a portion of his land to allow for the installation of the weather siren on top of County Road Vv. He also confirmed the approval of all neighboring property owners. He estimates it to take a couple of months for the installation to take place.

The 2025 fire grant application window is now open. Hesse is working with the grant writer on the submission for this year's application before the December deadline. The application will request monies to cover the cost of replacing radios for the department.

First Responders submitted an application for state funding that will potentially cover the cost of training new recruits.

The Chicken Q had a good turnout.

RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE

Dennis Konze reminded the board of the need for lights to be installed at the recycling center.

TREASURER REPORT AND CHECKS

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve the October Treasurer Report including receipts 632310-632317. **3/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to approve town checks 23973 to 24008 and 24017 – 24019 and previously approved EFT. **3/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve Fire Department check 4783-4786. **3/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to approve SD October EFT transactions and checks numbered 5862-5871. **3/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm.