

# TOWN OF FARMINGTON MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
December 3, 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 Jacobsen, Matt Rhodes, Dennis Konze, Danny Gilbert, Tom Johnson

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2024, budget hearing, electors meeting and regular meeting along with the November 25, 2024 special meeting. **3/0/0 PASSED**

## **PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Tom Johnson, owner of the property adjacent to Rev'd Up Black Oak Inn to the south, shared multiple matters of concern regarding the neighboring commercial property. He noted long standing issues with a non-compliant drain field, citing past discussions that he shared with La Crosse County Health Department Representative, Dave Sawvell. Mr. Johnson also stated that he has noticed junk cars, furniture and construction material being improperly stored on neighboring property. He complained of people trespassing onto his property, as well. The board informed Mr. Johnson that the township is not in position to solve such issues. Dennis Jacobsen, LaCrosse County District 25 Supervisor, however, was in attendance and agreed to reach out to his county level contacts regarding the situation.

## **2025 General Insurance**

Matt Rhodes was in attendance to field any questions from the board regarding the 2025 renewal policy. Increases to building valuation were discussed and approved by the board for the January renewal. Mitch Fenske will send an updated list of equipment to Rural to ensure the coverage is up-to-date for all vehicles.

## **MINDORO PARK**

Dennis Jacobsen, District 25 County Supervisor, shared an application that he presented to the county board earlier this year in hopes of receiving funding for new ball field lights at the Mindoro Lions Park. The funding was denied by one vote, but Jacobsen has plans to submit the project request again for reconsideration. Jacobsen asked the board if the town would be willing to contribute to the project, noting that a more detailed cost split breakdown could be helpful gaining county support. Kastenschmidt suggested setting aside the revenue gained from selling the Freightliner for this cause. The board anticipates the town having the ability to budget \$20,000 for this project in 2026.

No other updates

## **SANITARY DISTRICT**

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

- **Lead & Copper Testing Violations:** The FSD received 2 violations from the DNR. According to Fenske, the lead and copper reports that he submitted were rejected for not being in an appropriate format. This new reporting requirement caused other municipalities to become non-compliant as well. He assured the board that corrections were promptly taken care of that same week. No actual issues with lead or copper levels were ever detected.
- **Main Lift Station Project:** No update
- **AMS product:** The final sludge judge report is not available yet.
- **Trailer Park Sewer Line Project:** Fenske shared quoted cost of approximately \$16,000 (does not include moving the trailers) and would be handled separately from Main Lift Station.
- **Water Rates:** No further update.

## **CEMETERY**

- No update

## **ROADS & EQUIPMENT**

- **Chip Seal 2025** – Fenske asked the board to estimate the amount of funding that will be available for chip sealing in 2025. The board estimated between \$60-\$70,000, however, emphasized that the final amount is very dependent on actual costs accumulated throughout the winter.
- **Holmen Pumping** – Mitch asked the board to consider purchasing salt from Holmen Pumping. The board agreed pending final cost on delivery.
- **Herman Coulee Road:** No update on future discretionary grant funding opportunities. No updates from La Crosse County Snowmobile Alliance regarding the lifting of the snowmobile bridge.
- **M. Olson Road:** Dennis Jacobsen shared a handout regarding 2025 Bridge Aid. He explained that bridge funding is available through the county, but that townships should apply early. The final deadline is June 1, 2024. Jacobsen suggested speaking to Brad Pfaff and Steve Doyle for assistance when applying.
- **Baker Road ARIP Application** – No updates on round two application submission.
- **Hanson Road Update:** No updates.

Dennis Jacobsen also shared an updated list of roads to be reconditioned in 2025, noting that federal and state funding for roads increased, but La Crosse County funding dropped from \$9,000,000 to \$7,000,000. Discussion regarding other 2025 LaCrosse County budget items such as Hillview Healthcare facility improvements and Pathways Home (Homelessness Action Plan) took place.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- Freightliner – Before being listed on Wisconsin Surplus, Greg will purchase battery.
- Kuhn Mower – The board denied Fenske’s request to sell this unit and buy a new one.
- Orange International #4 – New batteries are needed.
- Loader – The battery is failing. The board suggested a battery maintainer to extend its life.
- Mitch will be submitting a listing to Wisconsin Surplus for all items approved to sell.
- Mitch has requested to purchase a 3-point, hydraulic back blade for shouldering. The board will table this decision until later in the year after more actual costs are available.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Hesse shared that LaCrosse County has decided to shut down the Mass Casualty Team, signing over the title of the mass casualty trailer to the town. The county suggested that if the rural partners wished to continue the program that they would be responsible for maintaining the equipment.

Hesse noted that the fire grant will be submitted soon.

## **RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE**

No updates.

## **TREASURER REPORT AND CHECKS**

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve the November Treasurer Report including receipts 632318-632325. **3/0/0 Passed**

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve town checks 24009 to 24016 and 24020 – 24059 and previously approved EFT. **3/0/0 Passed**

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve Fire Department check 4787-4791. **3/0/0 Passed**

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve SD November EFT transactions and checks numbered 5872-5881. **3/0/0 Passed**

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to adjourn at 8:40pm.