

2010 Annual Meeting

The 156th Annual Meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Attendees were asked to write their names and addresses on a sign-in sheet at the door. Number attending was 149.

The minutes from the April 2009 Annual Meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes as read by Wendell Pfaff, seconded by Sandy Asleson. Motion passed.

The 2009 Township Financial Report was presented by Chairman Hesse. The motion to approve the 2009 Financial Report was made by Dewey Wegener, seconded by Sandy Asleson. Motion passed.

The Sanitary District annual report was summarized by a representative from HABCo. Sanitary District President, Barry Schimke described the three step maintenance process they have identified needed to maintain our current system: replace piping in the well house, put on a rubber roof on the sistrn and refurbish the iron filters in the old well. It has been 22 years since the well was refurbished.

The Fire Department Annual Report was presented by Fire Chief, Rick Paisley. Currently there are 30 fulltime firefighters with 10 on the reserve list. During 2009, the fire department responded to a total 44 calls, consisting of: 20 EMS assists, 2 carbon monoxide, 2 false alarms, 7 fires, 11 grass/brush fires and 2 trees on power lines. Barry Schimke was recognized and thanked for his 12 years of service to the Department at Chief and noted that he is currently the Assistant Chief.

The First Responder Annual Report was presented by Mike Hesse. In 2009, they responded to a total of 109 calls: 36 trauma, 37 illness, 3 deceased, 4 declined treatment, 2 cancelled, 3 fire stand bys, 14 mutual aid, 6 lifeline and 2 other. They were also present at 64 sporting events. The next project planned is the replacement of their emergency vehicle. The last vehicle was purchased in 1988. The cost for a new vehicle is estimated to be between \$65,000 and \$80,000.

Mike Hesse presented the following update on the progress of locating a branch of the La Crosse County Library in the Town of Farmington.

- The Township has been a part of the County Library system since 1922 and township residents have been contributing to the cost the County system through property taxes paid to the County. This year Township residents paid a total of \$47,500 to help support the County Library System.
- If a branch were to be located in our Township the County Library would furnish the books, computers and any other materials as well as Librarians to operate the library. The Township would need to furnish a building, casework and utilities.
- A survey was sent out to all residents in 2008: 38% were returned with 64% responding that they wanted to work with the school district in bringing a County Library branch to our township.
- It was determined that the current school building was too small to house the library. Consideration was given to adding on to the building but this was soon found not feasible.
- The town board and library committee conducted public walkthroughs of the old Ag building and Cindy's Hall as potential locations. Both buildings had good qualities however age and need for extensive remodeling made both undesirable for reasons of cost and durability.
- A tentative offer of donated land on which to build the library was received in 2009, however due to boundary and access to the property issues, the offer fell through.
- The Mikkleson Property at N9296 Church St. was then purchased. Due to the age of the home and deterioration it was determined that it could not be used as a structure for the library. The home was demolished with plans to construct a building on the property.
- The next step in the process was to identify the footprint of the building. To do this, bids were requested. Nine firms applied, three were interviewed with Vantage Architects, Inc. of La Crosse chosen. Vantage supplied an initial floor plan which residents felt was larger and therefore more costly to build than needed or affordable. The building dimensions were reduced.

- The Library Committee investigated the various means available to cover the cost the Library which included a Rural Development Grant, Community Development Block Grant and an Energy Grant. All three have various criteria which must be met including population size, income levels of residents and a definitive location for the building which includes a mailing address.
- The Library Committee is ready to begin a fund raising campaign but feels they need to be able to show a drawing of the building and its location when asking for contributions.

Paul Hoff suggested that the issue be put to referendum to determine the maximum amount that the Township could borrow for the project and if the residents wanted a County Library Branch in the township. Hesse clarified that the referendum would only be advisory but would certainly be a good way to get the resident's opinion.

Paul Hoff then made a motion to rescind the 2008 Resolution made under State Statute 60.10(2)F to purchase, lease, construct buildings for the use of the Town, that the purchase can be in combination with funds from a society or corporation doing business or located in the township and to accept contributions of money, labor, or space for this purpose. The motion was seconded by Doug Wait. Mike Hesse explained that in order to rescind a Resolution passed at an Annual Town Meeting the margin must be greater than the original vote. In this case, the 2008 Resolution passed 26 to 0, therefore the margin must be equal or greater than 26 votes to rescind the Resolution.

Lyle Ostrander requested that the 2008 Resolution be read aloud. Mike Hesse did so. After much discussion and further questions from those in attendance. Ballots were passed out to all residents in attendance with instructions that a vote of "Yes" would rescind the 2008 Resolution and the Library would not be built at this time, a vote of "No" would allow the 2008 Resolution to stand and work on the completing the Library would continue. It was further explained that if the motion passes all activities up to this point were done legally, that the contract with the architect would be fulfilled and the township would still have ownership of the property but no Library building would be constructed. And, if the motion didn't pass the plans for the Library would continue.

Mona Brindley thanked the Library Committee for all the work they have done. Stating that a Library would be a wonderful opportunity for our community especially the children.

Jack Glennie stated that the Library committee should be allowed to try to get donors to help with the cost.

While the votes were being counted. A short discussion ensued regarding the repair of the Boardwalk as whose responsibility it is. Mike Hesse explained that again Rural Development could be looked to for a loan or grant but that they will not loan to businesses, it must go to a non-profit. The Town Board would need to apply for the grant for the businesses and oversee the monies.

Ballot count was completed. 93 votes - Yes

48 votes – No

The motion passed, the 2008 Resolution was rescinded.

A motion was made by Dewey Wegener to destroy the ballots, seconded by John Storandt. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Artis Aasen, seconded by Tom Brindley. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted

Betty Sacia, Clerk