

2016 Annual Meeting - April 19, 2016

The 162nd Annual Meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

The minutes from the April 2015 Annual meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes with one correction by Barry Schimke, seconded by Sandy Asleson. Motion passed.

Sanitary District Report

The Sanitary District report was presented by Monica Hauser of Hawkins, Ash and Baptie. Financially, the Sanitary District is comparable to 2014. Debt continues to be paid down. Barry Schimke reported that it will cost \$8 - \$10,000 for the improvements/repairs that will be completed in conjunction with the reconstruction of Cty Rd C (formerly STH 108) during the summer of 2016. He further reminded that the old lift station completed in 1970 which was predicted to have a 25 year life will need to be replaced in the future.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department annual report was presented by Rick Paisley. In 2015 they responded to 34 calls. The only large purchase was a new heavy duty trailer for the Kubota, the old trailer was sold. Money from the Pass Book savings account (Estate monies) was used for the purchase, account currently stands at \$21,288.00. At the Annual meeting held in January all FD officers were given the following pay increases:

- Chief from \$200 to \$500
- Assist. Chief from \$50 to \$100
- Maintenance from \$300 to \$500
- Safety officer from \$50 to \$100
- Secretary & Treasurer from \$375 to \$500

A committee has been formed to begin planning for replacement of our fire truck purchased in 1998. Standards, established by the Insurance Service Office, state that fire trucks need to be replaced every 20 years in order to guarantee they are completely reliable. Fire departments that follow these standards help to keep the rates for fire insurance coverage lower for the residents. The committee will prepare the specs, etc. which can then be used for getting bids. Our current truck will be sold and the 1961 pumper truck will be retired.

Rick also informed that a Mutual Aid Agreement has been signed by all the township, city and village fire departments in the area. He further informed that there is some consideration being given at the state government level to increase the number of hours necessary for firefighter training, if passed it will increase the difficulty in finding individuals willing to be volunteer firefighters.

First Responder Report

Chairman Hesse presented the First Responder Annual Report. In 2015, they responded to 77 calls. He reported that they had another successful year in fundraising through the Chili Dinner as well as a grant from the Lunda Foundation. Monies were also received from the Townships of Farmington and North Bend as well as other donations.

The largest expenses are for training and Epinephrine. They will be adding Narcan in the near future to treat heroin overdoses. Rescue 1 will be completely paid for in 2016.

Township Report

Chairman Hesse presented the Township Financials for 2015. He reported that the Debt Service loan was paid in full as of January of this year, so the township is currently debt free. The Reserved Fund balance

does not reflect the transfer of funds for replacement of the town truck and fire truck as the transfer was made after December 31, 2015. There were no further questions.

Davis Creek Road Project

The engineering plans and bids have been completed for the Davis Creek Road project. St. Joseph Construction was awarded the contract for the work. Chairman Hesse is delivering the Temporary Limited Easement paperwork to all affected landowners. Approximately 1/3 acre will need to be purchased from the Lash's, currently we are waiting for an appraisal of the property before meeting with them. The work is scheduled to start June 1st and be completed by mid August.

County Road C Project

The County reconstruction project through Mindoro will include some curbing and gutters and a 28 foot wide travel lane. The project will address the drainage issues and increase walker safety, especially children walking to and from school. The township portion includes paying for the repaving of parking areas and some sidewalks/gutters for a total of approximately \$200,000. This includes the costs mentioned in the Sanitary District report. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

The township will be borrowing \$300,000 to \$400,000 to help pay for the cost of both Davis Creek Road and the County Road C projects, final amount yet to be determined.

Xcel Energy is replacing the street lights with LEDs.

Chairman Hesse reported that Donahue Associates will hold an open house on April 20, 2016 here in the town hall to hear public comments regarding safety issues on La Crosse County roads north of I-90.

Other business:

Discussion regarding the replacement of the town pickup truck. Paul Hanson stated he feels it is unsafe to drive on the road. Supervisor Kirchner informed that the board is considering this replacement probably before the next snow season.

Question was raised about the status of the proposed walking trail in the Mindoro County Park, Chairman Hesse reported he had spoken with Brian Fukuda and learned that the 7 Rivers Region Outdoor Recreation Alliance is still planning to work on it, but trying to find funding. They estimate the cost to be \$50,000.

Paul Hoff asked about getting the minutes from meetings on the website. Chairman Hesse explained that the delay is a result of waiting for the County IT to complete the request. A solution would be for the Township to have a website independent of the County.

Paul Hoff asked about the status of the Mickelson property on Church Street. Chairman Hesse explained that the Board continues to feel that the best use for the land would be senior or assisted living housing. Such agencies have been contacted and will perhaps consider expansion into Mindoro in the future.

Discussion regarding the safety improvements to be completed on County Road T from County Road C to Hwy 53/35 which include upgrades to the guard rails, improved signage, moving of power poles, etc.

The 2017 Annual meeting will be held on the third Tuesday in April 2017.

Motion to adjourn by Paul Hanson at 9:00pm, seconded by Sandy Asleson. Meeting adjourned.