

## 2017 Annual Meeting - April 18, 2017

*Approved at Annual Meeting 4/17/18*

The 163<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

The minutes from the April 2016 Annual meeting were read.

The following questions were asked:

- What is the Fire Department doing to keep turnout gear current? They are replacing 3 to 4 outfits annually to stay compliant with NFPA guidelines.
- What was the actual cost to the Township for the County Road C work? The County billed the township \$217,000 of which \$7,000 was Sanitary District costs. The original cost was \$210,000, the \$3000 over the original estimate was for additional blacktop, cement and gutters that were requested by the Township to be completed.
- What was the cost of Davis Creek Road? The cost was \$809,000, however St Joseph Construction has not completed the project as yet because their subcontractor did not paint the fog line so the contract cannot be closed. Once St. Joseph has signed off on the project being completed, we will get \$288,000 from the State.
- What was the decision about the town pickup truck? The Board decided to keep the truck for winter. Funds have been saved to be used for truck replacement.

Motion to approve the minutes with one correction by Paul Hoff, seconded by Sandy Asleson.

### Sanitary District Report

The Sanitary District Financial report was provided by Joe Fee of Hawkins, Ash, CPAs. Mr. Fee noted there has been very little change from last year, only that expenses were up some.

Barry Schimke reported that the Sanitary Board has decided they need to raise the water and sewer rates to help with expenses. The amounts have as yet to be determined. The water rate change will need to be approved by the Public Service Commission. Additionally, the bacteria have died which is causing the odor here in town, they will replace them but it takes time for them to grow again. The lift station which had a 25 year life span is now on year 47 so it needs to be replaced, but the Sanitary District will need to apply for grant monies or other funding to help pay for it. Other issue also discussed was that a hole was made in the sewer lines when the County put in the settling pond near the grade school so run-off is going into sewer system, which needs to be repaired. Additionally, Sanitary District Board members are beginning to think about retiring from the Board.

### Fire Department Report

The Fire Department report was presented by Rick Paisley. They have 30 fire fighters with 3 on the waiting list and currently going for training. They answered 24 calls in 2016.

The fire truck committee met with the town board last week and presented the 3 bids they had received for a new fire truck, Town Board decided to accept the Pierce bid for \$360,000, as it complied with all the specifications laid out by the fire department. Late last year we applied for a Federal Fire Grant for a new fire truck in the amount of \$350,000. We must wait to see if we get the grant before ordering the truck, as the grant monies cannot be used to purchase a truck that is ordered prior to its being awarded. Currently the township has saved \$259,000 for fire equipment. The truck needs to be in place by July 2018 in order to be in compliance with ISO rating for fire insurance rates. The 1961 pumper will be disposed of and the 1998 pumper will become the second truck out. Between the new truck and the 1998 truck, the Fire Department will be able to arrive at the fire with over 5000 gallons of water; all residents will benefit from this improvement, including those who carry American Family Insurance.

The fire department used monies received last year from the 2% rebate on fire insurance fees to purchase three “smoky the bear” signs which inform of fire conditions. The signs are located at Burr Oak Court, on the south side of the bank in Mindoro and on the corner of Cty Rds DD and T in Stevenstown.

#### First Responder Report

The First Responder report was presented by Mike Hesse, they answered 75 calls and attended 70 athletic events. He further reported that after July 1, 2017 they will no longer be providing standby for athletic events due to the difficulty in finding volunteers. The school district will need to budget for athletic trainers to be available instead.

Rescue 1 was paid off in 2016. First Responders currently get a stipend of \$5.00 per call and continue to expand their skills in the areas of administering Narcan, doing blood sugars and treating heart attack victims with aspirin.

#### Township Report

Chairman Hesse presented the Township Financial Report for 2016.

He also reported on the damages to township roadways, bridges and culverts after the heavy rains in September of 2016. We applied to FEMA for funding to help pay for the damages. FEMA has denied our claim for the bridge damages, which we will appeal. They are asking for before and after pictures to support our claim that the damages occurred from the flooding. Chairman Hesse is attempting to located photos from recent bridge inspections, Google earth, etc. Both the Township and Sanitary District plan to keep better photo records to document conditions before and after severe weather events.

He also reported that we applied for hazard mitigation funds to raise Herman Coulee Rd but were turned down because the budget monies to raise infrastructures as been transferred to the DOT who is now looking at our application. He further reported that there may be monies available from the Ho Chunk Nation to help with the costs as the Bells Coulee Rock Shelter is located nearby. The Site is owned by the Archeological Conservancy of Albuquerque a non-profit Foundation. It is on the National Registry of Historic Sites. This revenue source will need to be further researched.

Paul Hoff asked what the Cemetery Outlay budget dollars were for- Hesse explained they are set aside in the event that the township needs to purchase a new lawn mower, for instance, he also pointed out that the brick archway at the Farmington Cemetery is seeing some deterioration, monies from this account would be used to repair it.

#### Old Business

Paul Hoff voiced the following inquires:

- what are the plans for replacing the pickup truck as discussed at last year’s annual meeting. Hesse informed that it would be on the agenda for the new Board now in 2017.
- last year the cemeteries were not mowed as often or as thoroughly as necessary will it be better this year? Hesse informed that he spoke with our employees last year about this situation.
- we have two fulltime employees, is one the Forman or Supervisor or are they equal? Hesse informed they are equal with neither being the Foreman. He further clarified that all board members can give guidance when necessary, especially if they receive a complaint from the public.
- some of the brush along town roads is getting pretty heavy, do we have the equipment to take care of it? Hesse informed we do have the proper equipment. Further discussion revealed that there is a problem with the air ride seat on the New Holland tractor so it is not being used which was new information for our Chairman and board members as employees had not informed them of the problem.

### New Business

Paul Hoff spoke of the rumor that the Township may obtain the grade school building after the new school is completed. He had done some research in other communities who have taken on vacant school buildings and made them available for various other public uses and the costs involved. Since the taxes in the township have already been increased due to the school construction he feels the residents cannot take on another tax increase. After much discussion, Paul Hoff made the following motion:

Town Board is not to pursue purchase of the old grade school including the gymnasium or the shop across the street nor accept above named properties if offered as a gift from the Melrose-Mindoro School District. Town Board can consider purchasing the blacktop parking lot with playground equipment located behind the school.

Seconded by Larry McKnight

Chairman Hesse explained that the board needs permission to construct a new building or for land purchase, but electors may not be able to ban the Board from accepting a gift. He will have the motion reviewed by our Attorney and get a written opinion in the matter.

The motion was voted on by show of hands:

Yes: 11

No: 2

Abstain: 10

Greg Kastenschmidt requested permission for the Mindoro Little League to put up a shed which would house the batting/pitching machine and other equipment. It would be located next to the batting cage. The shed would be 10' by 12'. It will provide a more secure storage area. Hesse informed that there would be no problem with them doing this, however they will need to do the research with County Zoning to determine if any permits are needed to complete the construction.

The 2017 Annual meeting will be held on the third Tuesday in April 2018.

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