

Annual Meeting April 17, 2018

The 164th Annual meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at 7:30 pm on Tuesday , April 17, 2018.

The minutes from the April 2017 meeting were read. Motion made by Barry Schimke to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Sandy Asleson.

Sanitary District report

Monica Hauser from Hawkins, Ash CPAs presented the financial report of Sanitary District. The increase in sewer fees and adopting monthly billing has resulted in an increase in revenue for District and an increase in assets.

Other discussion points:

- The application for an increase in water fees is still with the PFC.
- Swiss Valley (Prairie Farms) helped to pay for the pumping of the holding pond and the enzymes came back on their own after the pumping.
- Lift station was discussed. Sanitary District cannot afford to replace and upgrade the current lift station. SD Board is in conversation with Prairie Farms regarding their possible contribution to the purchase but have received no definitive response.
- Consideration is being given to putting a generator at the current lift station. The cost estimate from Kish and Sons was \$31,000. Another source may be purchasing a used one, possible source would be the Government website items for sale.
- Replacing current Sanitary District staff as they choose to leave or retire is an ongoing concern. Sandy will be leaving soon, however a replacement has been secured for her. It will be difficult to when Wendell Pfaff retires for several reasons mainly the inability of the Sanitary District to pay the competitive salary needed to hire an individual who holds the necessary certificates to qualify for the job as well as offer health insurance and other benefits. The needs of the Sanitary District are such that it is necessary to have someone available fulltime and on call.
- Through an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement the township loaned the Sanitary District the money they needed to keep their loan with the Wisconsin Fund current. This loan from the township was subsequently repaid with interest. By keeping this loan current the Sanitary District will continue to qualify to get grants from the State when they are available.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Department report was presented by Fire Chief, Rick Paisley. The Department responded to 28 calls last year which consisted of structure fires, grass fires, assisting EMS, power lines down, mutual aid with adjacent departments and one missing person. They currently have 30 regular fire fighters and 3 in training. The new truck has been ordered with an expected delivery date of September 1st.

The FD helped with the purchase of the new generator for the township. They purchased 6 sets of turnout gear: four to replace old gear and two for new fire fighters. Turnout gear is designed for a 10 year lifetime.

Two fire fighters demonstrated the safety features of the new turnout gear.

They impressed that changes in home construction materials has made fire fighting much more dangerous than in the past. New home constructions contain many more glues and solvents that result in toxic gases and vapors. The roof of a newly constructed home will collapse in minutes compared to hours for homes constructed decades ago.

The department is due for an ISO rating audit this year as last time was 1998. This rating is used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates in the area. With the additional gallons of water that our new truck will hold our department should meet the requirements set by American Family insurance as well.

Next project will be to replace the chassis on the 1164. They will find a used one to purchase.

Did not get the grant for the fire truck, but applied for a grant to replace our Self Contained Breathing Appartus (SCBA). We currently have 7 functional units, but the bottles will need to be replaced this year. However, NFP standard is one set per seat we will need 14 with the new truck, at a cost of \$100,000. The grant would help to cover this cost.

1st Responder Report

First Responder report presented by Mike Hesse. In looking at the financials he explained that \$7000 of the budgeted \$15,000 for 2017 from the township was not received until January of 2018 due to a communication slipup.

They responded to 33 athletic events and 71 calls. They received \$2400 from Thiesen's Community grant that they will use toward the Black River STEMI project, which will allow the EMT's to transmit EKG data to the hospital via cell phone so the staff can be better prepared to treat the patient upon his/her arrival. The total cost for this machine is \$30,000. They have submitted a grant to the Black River Falls foundation for \$5000 to use toward the purchase.

They also reported that the Chili Dinner fundraiser was very successful this year.

He also informed that they have the ability to purchase AED's for people or organizations. They are able to get them at cost and pass on that savings to the purchaser.

Township Report

The Township Financial Report was presented by Chairman Hesse.

He further explained that a big challenge for the township again this year was another Federal Declared Disaster with the flooding that occurred due to heavy rains in July. The township did receive \$21,000 from the FEMA for the repairs to the roads from flooding in 2016.

We are now working on completing the FEMA grant application for the 2018 road damages. Wensel and Wanlass Roads were hard hit, repairs those roads and bridges on them will total over \$89,000. FEMA will pay approximately \$68,396, the state \$10,687 and the township will also pay \$10,687.

The Forest Cropland/Managed Forest law has been changed, we will continue to receive the current rate of payment for the next 3 years, the State has not committed to maintaining those payment to us after that.

Other business

Sandy Asleson spoke of the need for salary increases for town board members and asked when that decision to give raises could be made. Chairman Hesse informed that is could be done at this meeting. He further explained that any salary increases would not be effective for the current board but would go into effect for the 2019 board members.

Sandy Aselson proposed the following board salaries to be effective after the 2019 election:

Chairman	\$8,000
Supervisors	\$4,000 each
Treasurer	\$10,000
Clerk	\$10,000

Motion made by Dennis Konze to approve the salary increases as presented, seconded by Penny Lash.

Show of hands vote: Yes - 12

No - 0

Abstain - 7

Motion passed.

Reminder of Referendum that passed at the last election. Township will no longer use the Caucus process to select candidates to run for township offices. Individuals who meet the requirements to hold office in the township will need to take out papers and obtain the signatures of 20 township residents in order have their name on the ballot. If more than two people are running for the same office, the field will be narrowed to two at the primary election held in February and the election of the board will be completed at the Spring Election held in April. If anyone has any questions or is interested in running for an office they can contact the town clerk for more information or clarification of the process.

Motion to adjourn at 8:47pm made by Dennis Konze, seconded by Sandy Asleson.

The 2019 Annual meeting will be held again next year on the 3rd Tuesday of April.