

## Annual Meeting April 16, 2019

The 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

Officially taking over as Town Clerk, Crystal Sbraggia read the April 2018 Annual Meeting minutes prepared by Betty Sacia.

Mmsp: Dennis Konze / Greg Kastenschmidt: Motion to approved minutes as read.  
*Motion Passed*

### **SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT**

Monica Hauser from Hawkins, Ash CPAs presented the financial report of Sanitary District. Overall 2018 looked better than 2017. No new long term debt or capital assets.

Other discussion points:

- Three employees are new to the Sanitary District (SD) this year. Jodi Anderson, Julie Meyer and Cody Morris. Cody is working to take over Wendell's position, while Jodi and Julie will be splitting Sandy Asleon's past duties.
- A refurbished generator was purchased for the lift station located at the end of North Street. This unit is scheduled to be installed within the next couple of weeks. It will still require manual ignition.
- The SD fixed a water main break in March 2018 near the school.
- The pond levels have been maintaining normal levels this year. Metrics are a bit elevated at this time, but Wendell and Barry reported them normal for this time of the year. It was noted that the creamery also helped to alleviate past issues by installing additional tanks and relying on a third party to dispose of the heavy waste.
- A May hearing is scheduled to obtain a DNR Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.
- Due to cash flow expense timing, the SD is requesting that the town assist them financially to cover current loan payments. An proposed intergovernmental agreement was created outlining payment terms that will require the SD to pay back the loan with interest by the end of September 2019. Decisions regarding this proposed agreement will be finalized at the regular town board meeting following the Annual Meeting portion of the evening. The SD is planning to request that the state help spread out these payments to avoid this shortage in future years.
- The SD is planning on purchasing an older Ferris zero turn lawn mower from the town. The payment terms for the lawn mower will be decided up on at a different meeting.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The Fire Department report was presented by Fire Chief, Rick Paisley.

- The Department responded to 41 calls in the last year which consisted of first responder assists, brush and grass fires, structural or chimney fires, carbon dioxide alarms, power lines, mutual aid and false alarms.
- The department currently has 30 regular fire fighters, 2 retired and 1 moved out of the township. Two probationary members in training.
- The new truck is in service. All issues have been resolved. The department will be looking into getting reimbursement from the company for the fuel used to drive the truck back to dealership for repairs shortly after receipt of the vehicle. The department is already impressed with truck following its first call, which was a mutual aid structure fire. The board still needs to decide what to do with the old pumper.
- Training: 20 firemen have already taken the state mandatory driving training needed to drive the new truck. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of this training will be held soon. Officer training will also be held in 2019.
- Audit: The most recent audit went well. The department appreciates how much more smoothly it went using the new reporting system. The new software offered through state is now free. The audit allowed for credit of the new truck, therefore, residents living outside of a 5 mile driving distance from the station should watch for discounts upon renewal of the fire protection portion of their insurance
- The FD purchased 5 new-to-us, used tanks. They now have a total of 10 tanks which should suffice for another 3 years. The department is waiting to hear the results of a grant application that was submitted for a complete SCBA unit that includes all the backpacks, tanks and compressors needed to outfit the new truck. They are expecting to hear whether they are an approved recipient yet this spring.
- Fundraisers: The FD once again held their annual pancake breakfast that helps to award volunteers with small payments for their services. They also were happy with their first "Fill the Boot" campaign that was held during the Spanferkel parade. They have applied for a raffle license and noted that the wives of the Firemen are working to help organize other fundraisers throughout the year as well.

## **FIRST RESPONDER REPORT**

The First Responder report was presented by Mike Hesse.

- The department responded to 98 calls with illness and trauma related emergencies making up the majority of calls.

- It was noted that because of an error in 2017, the department received \$22,000 in 2018. 2019 figures will show the normal \$16,000 fund amount.
- X-Series: Mike Hesse introduced the new X Series Equipment, a state of the art machine that has many functions available to better help during emergency medical situations. One of the most important functions is its ability to transmit EKG data to the hospital via cell phone so that the hospital staff can prepare for the patient prior to arrival. All First Responder members are currently finishing up with online training and looking forward to additional hands-on-training soon. The machine also acts as a defibrillator and will be fully functional by fall 2019. The Bev Mikkelson Memorial Fund as well as a Theisen's Community Grant helped to pay for this unit.
- The proposed installation of 5 local cellular towers slated for the summer of 2019 will offer 1<sup>st</sup> Net Service which has the ability to allow dedicated signal to medical personnel during emergency situations. This service will help to further the success of the new X Series equipment. Many in the rural part of the township will be happy to know that these towers will double as AT&T cell phone towers and Bug Tussel internet service towers. The towers are currently making their way through the county approval systems and are expected to gain full acceptance soon.
- It was reported that the donations collected through the Chili Fundraiser were a bit smaller than last year, however, donations continue to trickle in. Hesse noted appreciation for the generous offerings received from the North Bend area.

## **TOWNSHIP REPORT**

- Chairman Mike Hesse presented the Township Financial Report.  
It was noted that the report shows excess revenue, but that the figures are misleading due to the fact the truck funds located in the budget are actually allocated for future expense.
- Hesse reported that planning continues to take place regarding FEMA grant funded projects on Wanless Road and the Wenzel Road Bridge, two areas hit by storms in 2017-18. Jewell Engineering has been hired to help with the design for Wanless Road. The board will be collecting bids this summer for 2020 construction / repairs.
- New rules have opened the opportunity to allow for township wide clean-up reports. This change helped the town recoup approximately \$26,000 in aid last year.
- 2019 road repair plans include new culverts on A. Craig Road. This was originally planned for 2018; however, a delay in approval from the Corp of Engineering forced the town to stall the project until this year. Culverts on Lockington Road will also be replaced in 2019.
- Community member, Gayle Monicken, questioned why the flags positioned on J. Bryhn Road were left for so long. It was explained that the project was dependent on the use of a borrowed backhoe and due to a scheduling conflict diggers hotline needed to come out more than once.
- Mr. Monicken also questioned why M. Olson Road was not on this year's repair agenda stating that the road was nearing end of life and could become dangerous soon. Hesse explained that

funding dictates how many repairs can be completed and that in order to cover the cost for those particular repairs, the town would need to find a grant to help cover the expenses. Hesse reminded everyone that FEMA had already surveyed the damage but determined that they could not aid the project. They stated that the damage shown to the bridge/road was due to pre-event wear. A second access road to the property was discussed as a current and viable option for the property owner. Plus Hesse informed those in attendance that the La Crosse County PRAT tax proposal could yield a projected payment of \$87,000 per year to Farmington if approved. This could be a possible future solution for Monicken's concerns as well.

- Community member, Betty Brockman, expressed her concerns regarding water damage to her basement. She questioned whether or not a culvert near her property could be the cause behind this flooding. Hesse agreed that the culvert was found to be blocked upon inspection earlier this year, however, is not confident that this could have caused the flooding as the culvert is located downhill from her house. He agreed to send the town maintenance crew to look more closely into the culvert, however, suggested that she continue to seek assistance, guidance and solutions elsewhere as the town likely will not be able to help alleviate the issue.
- Community member, Betty Brockman, asked if it were possible for a volunteer group to clean off gravesites of veterans at the cemeteries within the township. Although the township cannot commit to taking on this task, Hesse encouraged anyone that wished, to move forward with this plan. He advised that families of the veteran's be contacted for approval first. At the same time, the town mentioned the need to relay the bricks for the arch leading into the Farmington Cemetery. This project will need to be looked into sooner than later, as well.

Mmsp: Barry Schimke / Dan Heidel to adjourn the meeting at 9pm  
*Motion Passed*

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