

TOWN OF FARMINGTON ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 19, 2020

Attendance: David Pfaff, Dennis Konze, Dan Heidel, Rick Paisley, Cody Morse, Wilfrid Berg, Gayle Monicken, Julie Meyer

Town Board: Mike Hesse, Greg Kastenschmidt, Paul Lash
Treasurer: Jodi Anderson Clerk: Crystal Sbraggia

The 166th Annual Meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at the Farmington Town Hall located at N8309 County Road C at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 after being placed in recess on April 21, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Clerk, Crystal Sbraggia read the April 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.

Mmsp: Greg Kastenschmidt / Rick Paisley: Motion to approved minutes as read.
Motion Passed

SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT

Julie Meyer was in attendance to give the report. The financial report was not complete, therefore, Meyer promised to share the information at a later time. Overall according to Julie, 2019 looked better than 2018. She noted that the district continues to chip away at the current debt. No new loans were recorded.

Other discussion points:

- Employee Roster:
Cody Morse – Full Time in training, Wendell Pfaff – Part time Worker/Trainer, Jodi Anderson – Part Time Treasurer, Julie Meyer – Part Time clerk, Barry Schimke – President, Bob Achterkirch – Vice President, Mitch Fenske – Part time as needed
- The SD's new accounting software program is working out well allowing for more precise billing and better reporting. SD is noting fewer delinquent accounts.
- The SD fixed a water main break near Lion's Club Road in August of 2019 and near the Fire Station in February 2019. These emergency situations brought to light just how badly a current map showing pipe placement is needed. They have begun the very tedious job of attempting to update the records and digitalize this type of information.
- The lift station generator is working fine. The pump for the lift station is still functional, despite being well past life expectancy. The next element needing replacement will be the encasement. According to Cody Morse, when replacing pieces the team is doing their best to build for the future.

- Meyer noted that the DNR offers different options to help ease the repercussions for having too high of phosphorus counts. The most sensible option according to Julie, is a trade back program in which the Sanitary District would help land owners make adjustments to their land in order to decrease erosion, such as placing rip rap near creek beds, as a way to lower the overall phosphorus metric. Meyer was not sure how land owners would be chosen and would be looking further into those details.

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, mutual aid and power lines.
- The department currently has 30 regular fire fighters, 1 currently going through training and couple of high school students that are showing interest in the department.
- Training: Pumper truck training was completed last summer. Officer training began earlier this year but was cut short due to the Covid-19 pandemic. No definite date to resume has been set. Following this training the department will be current with all state training requirements.
- The department has started purchasing turnout gear on a rotational basis so to avoid the large cost of a single purchase. The department plans to spend approximately \$12,000 to replace 5 sets of gear each year.
- The FD is still in need of updated SCBA units. They did not receive the 2019 grant, however are hopeful that the professional grant writer in which they hired will give them a better chance of being awarded these funds in 2020.
- Paisley requested that the board members consider increasing the 2021 budget for the fire department, noting that prices and requirements continue to grow. He explained that the majority of items used to equip the new truck #66 were purchased using donations and fundraising monies that normally are slated for volunteer compensation. He also noted that the department will need to buy a new chassis for their 1993 truck very soon. Kastenschmidt agreed that the department could use more money for both equipment and volunteer compensation (which equaled less than \$9 per incident in 2019). Beyond considering a budget increase, however, Kastenschmidt suggested that the FD consider the advantages of invoicing for services. It was mentioned that many insurance policies cover such charges so it likely would not be a huge impact to the resident. Paisley agreed that this could be a viable solution and noted that the department would consider forming a committee to look into that solution further. He also mentioned that he would also like to conduct a study to determine the impact of implementing a paid on-call program. Hesse mentioned

possibly considering the length of service award program that was discussed years ago but denied by the then board members.

- A new building fund was started with memorial monies this year and currently has a balance of \$2,221.92.
- The first gun raffle proved to be a success for the FD last year. The department has already begun selling tickets for this year's fundraiser.

FIRST RESPONDER REPORT

The First Responder report was presented by Mike Hesse.

- The department responded to 97 calls with illness and trauma related emergencies making up the majority of calls. EMT volunteers are currently given \$5 for each meeting and incident.
- Lucas Device: Hesse is hopeful that the department will receive funds from the Black River Falls Foundation to allow or the purchase of an automated CPR compressor machine called the Lucas Device.
- Trainings and an intended status upgrade from EMS to EMT are on hold due to the Covid-19.
- Hesse was thankful for the continued support of donations despite having to cancel the annual chili dinner.

TOWNSHIP REPORT

- Chairman Mike Hesse presented the Township Financial Report. It was noted that the report shows excess revenue, however, the figures are misleading due to the fact the truck funds located in the budget are actually allocated for future expense.
- A \$90,000 loan was borrowed in 2019 to purchase the new loader. A brand new 2015 Navistar Plow Truck with a 7 year warranty was also purchased.
- Hesse shared a progress update on FEMA funded Wanlass Road that was damaged in a storm a couple years ago. The cost to the town will only be \$182,000.
- 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, was in attendance requesting an update on M.Olson Road repairs that were discussed as a concern last year. Both

Hesse and Kastenschmidt assured Monicken that they have not forgotten the project. Their hands, however, are tied until the state rep informs them of their options related to the culvert. According to Hesse, many attempts to reach the rep have been made but claims of a 17 county workload seem to be stalling the state's ability to assess the situation. All agree that simple culvert could alleviate the issue but also realize the repercussions if they do not follow state guidance. Monicken was reminded that the second access road to the property may have to be used if the M. Olson becomes unusable. The only other option would be to do a special assessment which would be charged to the benefiting property.

- Hesse explained that the town applied for 2 separate grants hoping to receive funds to make improvements on Wild Road, M. Olson Road and Herman Coulee Road. All grant apps were denied

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Dennis Konze to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm
Motion Passed

The 2021 Annual meeting will be held again next year on the 3rd Tuesday of April.

** Chairman Hesse requested that social distance measures be recorded as part of the minutes. As to abide by Governor Evers' Safer At Home Order, attendees (under 10 persons present) were seated 6 feet apart.*