

TOWN OF FARMINGTON MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro WI, 54644

Attendees: Paul Lash, Mike Hesse, Jodi Anderson, Greg Kastenschmidt Crystal Sbraggia

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hesse called to order a public hearing at 7:00pm for purpose of collecting public feedback in regard to the potential creation of a town utility district which could assume operations of the Mindoro Sanitary District.

Mike shared with those present the sequence of events that have led to the current situation, summarized the report that was published in preparation of the hearing and outlined the options that the town could consider moving forward. A handout was distributed that outlined possible levy scenarios and a simple formula residents could use to help estimate the tax increase they could expect to see with each levy option.

Questions, concerns and suggestions were discussed. A number of residents expressed their desire to keep the levy as low as possible so not to overwhelm residents with such large tax increases. One suggestion was to increase sewer charges to help raise income but minimize tax hikes. Another idea was to further explore how town or county American Rescue Plan funds could be used for future improvement projects pertaining to the sanitary district. Grants, although not available to cover operating shortfalls, could also be a viable option for future projects or repairs. Loan consolidation and refinancing may be option if and when the board assumes control of the district.

Resident, Mark Schlifer, suggested that the proposed levy increases were too much too soon. He requested that the board table the proposed levy increases for one year and allow him time to form a citizen committee that could explore other less drastic solutions.

It was clarified that if the town assumes control of the sanitary district, that sanitary district finances would be kept separate from the town. Expenses related to the sanitary district would remain the obligation of those owning property within the sanitary district and would not become an added expense for those living outside of the sanitary district.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion made to close the public hearing at 8:10pm. **3/0/0 Passed**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Hesse called the **regular monthly meeting** to order at 8:14pm.

MMSP Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion made to approve the minutes for August 3, 2021. **3/0/0 Motion Passed**

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jack Glennie expressed dismay over the muddy conditions that he experienced during a

recent visit to the recycling center. He asked that the board consider adding funds into next year's budget to install concrete within the recycling center.

SANITARY DISTRICT

The board further discussed their options pertaining to the future of the Mindoro Sanitary District. They agreed to table the higher levy amount until 2022, however, reiterated that the 2021 levy amount would need to increase to at least \$48,217.50 (from the 2020 amount of \$20,000) in order to become compliant with the terms of the Build America (BCOPL) loan. They also noted that this option would not allow for any savings for unexpected repairs and would also result in additional funds being owed back to the town. They encouraged Mr. Schlifer to further explore solutions but asked that he report back his findings by the April 2022 Annual Meeting.

Kastenschmidt, although in agreement of tabling the actual levy increase, expressed his desire to move forward with dissolving the Mindoro Sanitary District and creating a town utility district. He noted employee certification as being a major concern and stated that he prefers to take over the district now rather than waiting.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash Motion to adopt resolution 3-2021 to establish a water and sewer district. **2/1/0**

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash Motion to amend resolution 3-2021 to postpone the effective date to October 31, 2021. **3/0/0**

OPERATOR LICENSE

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash – Motion to approve an operator license for Karla Sime. **3/0/0**
Motion Passed

EMAIL EXTENSION TRANSITION: Tabled until Crystal could gather more information.

CEMETERY

Paul was able to make contact with a vendor that is willing and able to complete the necessary mason repairs on the damaged arch at the Farmington Cemetery. Work will not begin until next summer.

RECYCLING AGREEMENT

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to approve the 2022 cooperative recycling agreement. **3/0/0 PASSED.**

MINDORO COUNTY PARK

Kevin Hoyer was in attendance to share an update on the Mindoro County Park. He explained that the county has offered to transfer the deed for the park in its entirety to the Town of Farmington at zero cost. He also said that the county was willing to give an additional \$75,000 to the town to help with future maintenance or improvements. Hesse has requested further clarification from the DNR in regard to any Law Con obligations that are attached to the park. The board plans to wait for this information before moving forward with a final decision.

ROADS / EQUIPMENT

J. Bryhn Road – No update

Crack sealing – No update

Seal Coating – No update

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to purchase 7 plow blades from Brooks Tractor Supply. 3/0/0

Freightliner Tires: Kevin will send picture to Greg. Greg will price out replacements.

ROW Question: Kevin asked Mike to confirm the town's ROW along County Highway C across from the Mindoro Country Store near the telephone company building. He noted that the tree located in that area appears to be dead and in need of being cut down. He was not sure, however, if it belongs to the town or to the telephone company.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Fire Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$138,876 to cover the cost of purchasing SCVBA equipment.

RECYCLING

Plans to install concrete at the recycling center as suggested by Jack Glennie were further discussed. The board agreed to have Dennis measure the area and bid out the project.

Dennis Konze announced that a donation fund has been started to help cover the cost to finish spreading additional chips at the Mindoro Playground. He also noted that he and his son, Larry, plan to donate their time to spread the chips.

RECIEPTS AND CHECKS

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve receipts 474253-474263 3/0/0 Passed

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve EFTS and checks 22231-22266 3/0/0 Passed

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve FD checks: 4585-4590 3/0/0 Passed

Mmsp: Hesse / Kastenschmidt: Motion to adjourn at 9:45pm. **3/0/0 Passed**