

TOWN OF FARMINGTON

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
August 2, 2022
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro WI, 54644

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 5, 2022.
3/0/0 PASSED

PUBLIC CONCERNS –

David Pfaff asked what could be done to deter extended stay parking alongside County Road D from the First National Bank to the creamery. He has noticed that several trucks and trailers have been parked along that route for a number of days. He has spoken to the county and they suggested that he obtain town approval / recommendation for signage. The board is open to signage and will explore options.

Another resident stated his concern regarding the rate of speed that people driving into town via County Road D. Mike said that both the town and county are aware of similar concerns and that county officers do their best to patrol that section when they are in the area.

Susan Kast was in attendance to explain concerns that she has with boardwalk apartment tenants parking in front of the boardwalk when designated tenant parking is available on the side of the building. One vehicle, that consistently hauls garbage, parks in front of both her business and the beauty shop. Also, she has found on numerous occasions that the tenants are throwing their garbage into her recycling dumpster. She would like for the owner of the apartments to supply a dumpster for his residents. Greg Kastenschmidt agreed to call the owner of the apartments to discuss the issues. The board also agreed that “Customer Only” parking signs could help deter others from parking in front of the building. Mike also suggested that Susan call the La Crosse County Health Department about the lack of dumpsters.

Discussion on the difference between village and township powers took place.

Mark Schlifer requested that the township post speed limit signs within the Bernhardt Valley subdivision, as residents in that area have concerns with the rate of speed that people are driving. Hesse explained that the rate of speed on all town roads is 55 mph and local authority does not have the power to decrease the limit by more than 10 mph unless the road meets

certain criteria. According to Hesse the road does not qualify for a 25mph speed limit, without a speed study, but that because a park is located adjacent to the road, the township could approve of a 15-mph speed limit onto Harvey Lane. The township agreed to make and post a sign.

Another resident had concerns about possible construction taking place near his property on County Road TA close to Walter Road. No board members were aware of any permitted building plans.

SANITARY DISTRICT

Per the request of Jordan Jones, Cindy Storandt shared a Profit and Loss report for January – July 2022. She warned that these figures have not been reconciled by Hawkins and Ash so they are not considered final figures.

Jordan asked to be placed onto the agenda in September as their community group would like to share suggestions on how the SD could better save funds. The group is still concerned with the levy limit and would like to suggest a full rate study be completed in the near future.

Mike has been working with the IRS to ensure that the BCPL loan interest pay back incentive that SD started with will continue with the TOF SD despite the recent transition. He recently received confirmation that the incentive will remain as is.

Mike has been working with the attorneys to revise the original resolution pertaining to the transition of the SD to the town. The original would not allow for a separate SD levy. Mike is currently working with the DNR to address some confusion in regarding the approval or confirmation of the district itself.

The lift station fund request was denied by the USDA but will be rerouted by Senator Baldwin to different agencies in hopes of building the repairs into next year's budget.

Mitch presented the Sanitary District update. He shared that the lagoons were running well and our levels are in compliance. In preparation of 2024 level reductions, he is going to demo a tertiary filter that he feels will help to keep the system in compliance in the future.

Mitch is concerned with the pipes under the trailer park. The board is brainstorming solutions that would proactively address the situation before the pipes need immediate repairs.

Mitch continues to work on organizing the facilities. He installed a new breaker on Well #1 and on that same day got the generator set up.

COUNTY PARK UPDATE

Mike reported that a small ceremony took place at the Mindoro County Park on July 1, 2022, to celebrate the transfer of ownership from La Crosse County to the Town of Farmington.

Greg asked about the need for a new shelter reservation process. The board agreed to stay with the current reservation process until a more permanent solution is developed or until additional issues arise with the current reservation method.

The plan commission will be working to develop an ordinance that will set forth guidelines pertaining to park usage.

Hesse noted that the gates will remain closed to the back of the park until signage asking people to refrain from driving on wet grass can be posted. At that time posts, cable and gates will be removed.

CEMETERY UPDATE

Paul Lash shared a bid from Traditional Masonry for tearing down and rebuilding the archway at the Farmington Cemetery. Kastenschmidt requested that they allow him time to gather another bid before moving forward.

ROADS

Mitch gave an updated on recent roadwork.

Herman Coulee is ditched and seeded. Michael Young's property has also been seeded and a second culvert will be installed soon.

Perkins Road and Davis Creek Road have been chip sealed. The area on Fulton Street that was dug up for pipe repair has been patched.

The Town of Burns approached Mike requesting that we share the cost that was incurred for resealing the portion of Wanless Road that was damaged while construction was taking place on behalf of Farmington 2-3 years ago. Since Farmington had already taken care of patching the area previously, the board decided that they would offer plow services for the winters of 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 rather than pay for the reseal.

EMERGENCY SERVICES – The FD pancake breakfast recorded record sales. Hesse shared their appreciation for community support.

The First Responders are working on an application to receive extra funding from the state.

The FD is working on two different applications for funding in regard to equipment and collaboration.

SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING –

Crystal confirmed that the DNR rep has moved to a different position. She suggested waiting for the new person to reach out to us for a new inspection time.

Dennis would like Mitch to help out with the plans for the Spanferkel parade float.

Dennis requested again that the town consider paving the recycling area. The board is concerned with high cost of the project. Discussions of decreasing the area to be paved took place.

TREASURER'S REPORT -

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Hesse - Motion to approve receipts 474377 to 474395. Passed 3/0/0

CHECKS

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash - Motion to approve checks – 22703-22756 including previously approved EFT transactions. Passed 3/0/0

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash- Motion to approve fire department checks 4651-4654. Passed 3/0/0

Other Business: A big thank you to Jean Van Riper for all the years that she has served the town by scheduling, opening and cleaning the town hall. Your good work is very much appreciated. She has resigned from this position.

Sbraggia will post notice of vacancy for these duties.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to adjourn at 9:05pm. **3/0/0 Passed**