

# TOWN OF FARMINGTON

## MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
September 6, 2022  
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL  
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro WI, 54644

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

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to approve the minutes from August 2, 2022 with the exception of one correction under ROADS. The motion pertaining to the hours proposed for the trade agreement with Burns should be 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. **3/0/0 PASSED**

### MEETING PROTOCOL

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to limit residents to three minutes while voicing public concerns. The board reserves the right to move forward if speakers begin repeating concerns. **3/0/0 PASSED**

### PUBLIC CONCERNS –

Susan Kast thanked the board for following through with “Customer Parking Only” signs and asked that they now help to enforce them. Currently, the La Crosse County Sheriff Department does not enforce this type of local level restriction. It was suggested that the town develop an ordinance that makes it mandatory that residents abide by the signs. With that comes the obligation to create a process for enforcement.

Discussion took place on best practices and timelines for adopting such ordinances and establishing an enforcement mechanism. The board will discuss ordinance options with the attorney and explore enforcement options such as a peace officer, court system choices, law enforcement partnership opportunities and / or county approved enforcement.

It was also suggested that the town conduct a review of all ordinances for necessary updates and work to publish all onto the website.

Kast also asked for assistance with tenant garbage disposal. There are no designated dumpsters for the tenants so they are disposing of their garbage in and around her recycling dumpster. Attempts have been made by the board to contact the owner of the apartments. Mike agreed to contact the La Crosse County Health Department regarding the situation. A letter will also be sent to the owner of the apartments.

Larry Craig asked whether or not any SD equipment has been sold. The board informed him that only the backhoe and pickup truck were purchased by the town. No further equipment has been sold.

Larry Craig asked for clarification on who was currently being paid mileage. Mitch noted that Barry Schmike is paid for dropping off samples 4 days per week, while he handles the drop off on one day.

Larry Craig has noted that he sees a lot of people going to and from the pump house and requested to know their business. Larry was unable to recall any specific dates or times. Mitch noted a couple of minor mechanical issues in the recent past that required a vendor visit but nothing of large scale. Without more details, Mitch was not able to determine the visitors in question.

### **SANITARY DISTRICT**

No updates from the community group will be presented until they receive more accurate information. An open records request was submitted last week. They will have suggestions at the October board meeting.

A hearing to rectify the resolution adopted in error last year is scheduled for 7:00pm October 4, 2022 with the regular board meeting to follow. The hearing will be noticed appropriately.

Mitch requested the board consider partaking in a new regime that could help to decrease operating expenses associate with sludge removal. Fenske explained that the plan essentially introduces good bacteria that will help lengthen the amount of time between having to pump sludge. The new plan will be somewhat expensive (\$1,300 per month in Summer and \$500 in the Winter), however, is considerably less costly than pumping sludge, which cost upward of \$80,000. Mitch suggested that we agree to a one year commitment in order to minimize any risk. He mentioned that discounts may apply if we decide to take part by the end of this month.

**Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve a one-year trial of this sludge decreasing regime. **3/0/0**

**Rate Study Update** – The PSC said they would look at conducting a full rate study one year following the transition. That time frame is approaching. Jordan Jones suggested waiting until the resolution correction is finalized before moving forward with the study.

Mike is meeting with Davey Engineering tomorrow to work on a submission to Baldwin with the intent of securing funds that will help to replace the lift station on North Street.

Mike is planning to apply for funding through the La Crosse County's ARPA funded Storm Water Grant. These funds could help to correct piping issues along Hwy C by the school and Hwy D between the bank and the creamery.

### **OPERATOR LICENSE**

**Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to approve an operator license for Kayla James and Josie Rommel. **3/0/0**

## **MINDORO PARK UPDATE**

The majority of cables have been removed and trees have been trimmed.

The gate is open; but will be left in place so that it can be closed during winter months. This will help to limit the area that needs plowing.

The PC is working on the initial ordinance for town park usage.

## **CEMETERY UPDATE**

**Hesse / Lash:** Motion to accept the bid submitted by Traditional Masonry in the amount of \$5,750.00, plus \$1.00 per brick for repairs on the arch at the Farmington Cemetery. **3/0/0**

## **ROADS**

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to hire an engineer to assist in completing an application for funds to be used for repairs on Herman Coulee Road. The funds will be requested through the La Crosse County Storm Water ARPA Grant. **3/0/0 PASSED**

**J Bryhn Road:** Kevin noted needing ½ day to complete the culvert work on J. Bryhn Road. Hesse asked that Kevin give residents a one-week notice.

**Nelson Road:** Kevin noted that he is coordinating time for culvert work on Nelson Road.

Quotes for tires were reviewed.

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to accept a bid from Arneson Automotive in the amount of \$2,189.63 that includes six tires for the 2017 Dodge Ram pick-up. **3/0/0 PASSED**

**Mmsp: Hesse / Lash –** Motion to retire the blue truck to the Farmington Fire Department for extrication training. **3/0/0 PASSED**

Dennis Konze informed the board that the front right tire of the loader keeps going flat. Kevin will discuss with Degenhardt.

Mark Schlifer confirmed that the speed limits signs were installed appropriately in Bernhardt Valley.

Mike notified La Crosse County about the lack of striping on Hwy C between the school and Bernhardt Valley. They have placed the project on their schedule.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Hesse shared obstacles for emergency service organizations in the region.

Hesse noted that the Holmen Fire Department will no longer be in existence starting January 1, 2023. The Farmington FD is working on a plan to ensure residents on Holley Road are properly covered by our emergency response teams.

## **SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING –**

Dennis is still receiving requests for concrete to be installed at recycling center. He shared a quote that he received to pour 6" thick concrete from the north side of the compactor to the fence. The plan is to have the slab slope a bit and be flush with the compactor. This will allow his crew to position the compactor in a way that it is more accessible.

**Mmsp: Hesse / Kastenschmidt** – Motion to grant Dennis Konze the authority to solicit quotes and select the company of best price for the project. Approval to complete the work in-house is also allowed if feasible. **3/0/0 PASSED**

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT -**

**Mmsp: Lash / Hesse** - Motion to approve receipts 474396-474400 and 633801-633809.  
**Passed 3/0/0**

#### **CHECKS**

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash** - Motion to approve checks –22757-22801 including previously approved EFT /transactions. **Passed 3/0/0**

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash-** Motion to approve fire department checks 4655-4660.  
**Passed 3/0/0**

Other Business:

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to set the wage for Town Hall Custodian at \$14.00 per hour. The Town Hall Coordinator shall be paid \$5.00 per opening.  
**3/0/0 PASSED**

Four residents applied for the position. Preference was given to the two that reside in-town. Of the two town applicants, the most accessible will be offered the position.

**Mmsp: Hesse / Lash:** Motion to offer Ronda Bond the dual position of Town Hall Custodian / Coordinator. **3/0/0 PASSED**

Allied Cooperative will be handling the issuance of Fire Permits.

The board reviewed receipts submitted by Crystal Sbraggia for stamps, background checks, office supplies, workshop registrations and website hosting fees.

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash** – Motion to approve clerk expenses in the amount of \$1,035.96. **3/0/0 PASSED**

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to adjourn at 9:00pm. **3/0/0 Passed**