

# TOWN OF FARMINGTON MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING  
December 5, 2023  
7:00pm  
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL  
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro WI, 54644

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

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve the minutes from November 7, 2023 Budget Hearing, Special Meeting of Electors and the Regular Town Board Meeting. **3/0/0 PASSED**

## **PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Several residents living near the Mike Hanson residence located at N9271 County Rd V were in attendance to voice concerns regarding agricultural structures being built on the Hanson property. The residents noted noise pollution and water pollution as their main concerns. Discussion regarding prior permits, variance approvals, permit processes and expiration dates took place. The residents requested that the town board contact LaCrosse County Zoning to ask for the permit process to be put on hold until further information could be gathered regarding the property and the building projects taking place. The board agreed to contact the county for further clarification into the matter, but noted that the issues likely must be worked out at the county level, as the majority of documentation regarding land use thus far is available in records held by the county and not by the town.

No other public input.

## **Mark Schlifer – Bernhardt Valley**

Mark was in attendance requesting approval to adjust survey lines for Lots 25 and 26 in the Bernhardt Valley Subdivision. Schlifer recently received an offer to purchase Lot 25 and ½ of lot 26. Due to the splitting of Lot 26 and the fact the changes involve two separate Bernhardt Valley plan documents, additional approval from the town and county is required. Schlifer's plans have already been approved at the county level pending the approval from the town. These adjustments do not change the number of allowable dwellings within the subdivision. The remaining portion of lot 26 will not be a buildable parcel and is merely being held by Schlifer as a passageway to the additional land that he owns behind the subdivision.

**Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve the request to adjust survey lines for lots 25 and 26 in Bernhardt Valley. **PASSED 3/0/0**

**Nathan Hayter – N9251 County Road C**

Mr. Hayter was in attendance to present his request for an after-the-fact variance to be granted for a deck structure constructed within waterway setback requirements.

The board's vote to approve the request was based on the same reasoning of the Plan Commission, in that the new deck does not obstruct the creek, improves the safety of the property and does not grossly extend over either the original or default landing measurements.

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to recommend approval that the after-the-fact variance request be granted and the deck structure be allowed to remain as is. **PASSED 3/0/0**

### **2024 Insurance Renewal**

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to renew the 2024 general property insurance and worker's comp insurance policy as proposed by Rural Mutual Insurance. **PASSED 3/0/0**

### **Resolution 4-2023**

The board shared and reviewed Resolution 4-2023, a resolution to adjust the 2023 budget, moving funds from the capital outlay line to a number of other lines that required more monies than originally planned.

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to adopt Resolution 4-2023 and approved budget adjustments. **PASSED BY ROLL CALL 3/0/0**

### **Ordinance 2-2023**

The board shared, reviewed and adopted Ordinance 2-2023, an ordinance establishing split shifts and the possibility of reducing the number of election officials at any election.

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to adopt Ordinance 2-2023.  
**PASSED BY ROLL CALL 3/0/0**

### **2024 – 2025 Poll Worker Appointment**

Clerk Sbraggia presented the board with a list nominating poll workers for the 2024 – 2025 election term.

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to appoint Kay Timm, Cindy Roberts, Cindy Tracey, Julie Kish, Rita Cox, Faith Storandt, Deb Salek, Josh Johnson, Carol Hanson, and Diane Zibrowski as poll workers for the 2024 – 2025 term. **PASSED 3/0/0**

## **MINDORO PARK**

The crew continues to boom mow along the fence line and complete other trail work as weather permits.

## **SANITARY DISTRICT**

Fenske was pleased to report that the plant has recently experienced the best numbers so far this year.

The sewer pipe lining project has begun and is approximately 75% complete. The area by the school is causing issues and needs to be dried out before moving forward. This should not cause any issues with the ARPA funds being used to cover the cost.

## **CEMETERY**

Hesse received a call from a resident who noticed indentations on her parent's gravesite in the Burr Oak Cemetery. The town plans to inspect the site and correct any depressions next spring.

## **ROADS**

Fenske requested that Hanson Road be made a priority for repairs. Ditching work has helped in the past, but it is time for additional repairs, including possible private culvert replacements.

The Town of Farmington has received notice of a pending lawsuit against the town originating from the insurance company that represents Allied Cooperative regarding the incident on M. Olson Road. Rural Mutual, the insurance company that represents the town, has been notified. The town is awaiting official paperwork before further details can be known.

Hesse has submitted an LRIP application to the DOT requesting funding to help pay for the aluminum solution option on M. Olson.

## **EQUIPMENT**

The new plow truck is in, but Universal Equipment is not ready to complete the installation of the box or other add-ons. The truck will likely not become part of the working fleet before spring.

Equipment that the town plans to sell will be listed on Wisconsin Surplus soon.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The FD has not received any decision regarding grant funding for replacement radios. Hesse noted that FEMA is awaiting next year's budget before expending any remaining funds from the current grant year.

## **RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE**

Konze would like to add and adjust lighting near the compactor and recycling building. Kastenschmidt volunteered to find someone to complete this project.

Mike continues to work with the county to enforce ordinances regarding waste receptacles for the property owner of apartments located along Fulton Street. It is proving difficult as it is not clear whether the Zoning Department or Health Department will act as the enforcement mechanism. The Health Department did condemn one of the apartments on Fulton Street. A volunteer was sent to clean out the apartment and county benevolent funds were used to provide a dumpster for this clean up. To avoid overuse by other residents, the dumpster has been secured at the recycling center. The board thanked the employees that helped haul the items to the dumpster. The county will be reimbursing the town for the disposal of other larger items. The landlord will be responsible for the disposal costs related to any demolition and construction waste.

## **TREASURER REPORT AND CHECKS**

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to approve the November Treasurer Report including receipts 633979 to 633986. **3/0/0 Passed**

Tax bills are complete and should be sent out within the next week.

**Mmsp: Hesse / Lash:** Motion to approve town checks 23478 to 23519 and previously approved EFT with correction made to Degenhardt Tire expense. **3/0/0 Passed**

**Mmsp: Hesse / Lash:** Motion to approve Fire Department checks 4731.  
**3/0/0 Passed**

**Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt:** Motion to approve SD November EFT transactions and checks numbered 5741-5749. **3/0/0 Passed**

**Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to adjourn at 8:16pm.