

Town of Farmington 168th Annual Meeting
Approved 04/18/2023

Attendance: David Pfaff, Wilfred Berg, Rick Paisley, Glen Cain, Tom Brindley, Larry Craig, Dan Heidel, Gayle Monicken, Cindy Storandt, Mitch Fenske, Bruce Pronschinske, General Manager of Prairie Farms Mindoro Cheese Plant

Town Board: Mike Hesse, Greg Kastenschmidt, Paul Lash

Treasurer: Jodi Anderson (arrived later in meeting); Clerk: Crystal Sbraggia

The 168th Annual Meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at the Farmington Town Hall located at N8309 County Road C at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Mmsp: Rick Paisley / Greg Kastenschmidt: Motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2021. Motion Passed

TOWN OF FARMINGTON SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT

On October 31, 2021, the Mindoro Sanitary District officially dissolved to become The Town of Farmington Sanitary District, which is now governed by the Town Board. Mike Hesse shared the timeline of events leading up to the transition and further explained that sanitary district (SD) finances will be kept separate from the town. All Sanitary District related expenses including payroll will remain the responsibility of residents living within the SD. Hesse introduced Mitch Fenske as the new full time Water / Wastewater Operator and Cindy Storandt as the part-time Utility Clerk.

Cindy Storandt, Utility Clerk, is doing a great job collecting the necessary information to complete all of the necessary annual reports for the SD. Due to the transition, this year's annual financial report is not available to review, but will be shared upon completion at a regular, future board meeting. Hesse did wish to share that the SD was able to pay both large loan payments this year.

FARMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Rick Paisley, Fire Chief, presented the Farmington Fire Department annual report.
- The department currently runs on a 30-man roster with one person that should complete training soon.
- 55 calls were logged throughout 2021. These calls included 6 large fires, 6 small fires, 8 power lines, 31 EMS assists (8 landing zones) and 6 mutual aid calls.

- Per the board's request, the Fire Department has been purchasing turnout gear in smaller amounts each year rather than a large, one-time order. Due to shipping delays the team just received the three suits ordered in 2021. The 2022 order is still being processed.
- Paisley shared that a \$138,000 grant was awarded for the purchase of SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) equipment. Those funds covered 95% of the cost and the department covered the remaining \$9,000.
- The department used funds earned through fundraising to purchase automated extrication tools.
- The department has increased their cooperative training events with the Melrose Fire Department and have worked together with the Melrose-Mindoro School District to offer a single Fire Prevention Week program. Further efforts to expand such cooperative training will take place with the Bangor Fire Department.
- The department is proud of efforts to share resources when neighboring departments request mutual aid. Residents may notice that our department, as well, will need to rely on mutual aid more, as the department continues to lack members that are able to respond to calls during the daytime hours.
- A new truck has been ordered to replace 1165 and 1164.
- Paisley expressed appreciation to the members of the Farmington Fire Department. He noted that spreading responsibilities between four captains and four assistant chiefs has helped him tremendously.

FARMINGTON EMS

- Mike Hesse presented the Farmington EMS annual financial report.
- The department, comprised of 15 members, responded to 155 calls in 2021, a 51% increase over the 102 calls in 2020.
- Mike thanked the community for their continued support in donating over \$18,000 in 2021. He added that people may register through Amazon Smile to have a portion of their Amazon orders be donated back to the Town of Farmington EMS. This year that program earned the department \$224.
- Capital expenses for the year included a deer guard for Rescue 1 and a replacement for the existing suctioning unit that is over 14 years old.
- The state has announced that there may be funds available for local EMS departments. The Farmington EMS department plans to take action on this opportunity if possible.

- Training is now conducted online. This change allows flexibility in scheduling, however, does limit the networking that takes place amongst neighboring departments.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON BOARD REPORT

- Mike Hesse presented the township financial report. No input received.
- Hesse noted that he is working with Senator Baldwin's office on possibly grant funds to repair the lift station at the end of North Street. The Sanitary District has realized a more affordable way to repair the lift station, decreasing the estimated cost to \$363,000.

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC INPUT

- Plan Commission Chair and resident, Dan Heidel, spoke of the duties expected of the Plan Commission Clerk. He suggested that the town consider increasing the current compensation for that position.

Mmsp: Heidel / Brindley – Motion to increase the Plan Commission Clerk compensation from \$50 to \$100 per meeting. **Passed 13 / 0 / 0**

Mmsp: Heidel / Brindley – Motion to approve Clerk Sbraggia be paid above and beyond the normal Township Clerk position to compensate for Plan Commission Clerk duties. **Passed 13 / 0 / 0**

- Tom Brindley asked that the board begin exploring options to improve the internet access for our residents. Hesse noted that the board had recently submitted letters of support for a project headed by Charter Communications that suggested connecting fiber to some homes along M and V. Hesse also noted that many of grant opportunities for internet projects are geared more towards providers. As in this case, the area of focus was determined by Charter Communication through use of the Public Service Commission map that highlights underserved communities. It was recognized that this map was not true to actual service. It was suggested that that may be a place to start in drawing attention to the lack of services available within the Town of Farmington.
- Resident, Wilfred Berg, spoke of the excellent job that Mike Hesse does. He noted that he believes he goes above and beyond what should be expected of him and suggested that the residents increase his compensation. Others spoke on behalf of the other board positions.

Mmsp: Berg / Brindley: Motion to increase the annual compensation for the Town Chair from \$8,000 to \$12,000. Passed 13 / 1 / 0

Mmsp: Heidel / Wilfred: Motion to increase the annual compensation for the Town Supervisors from \$4,000 to \$6,000. Passed 14 / 0 / 0

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Heidel: Motion to increase the annual compensation for the Town Clerk from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Passed 14 / 0 / 0

Mmsp: Cain / Lash: Motion to increase the annual compensation for the Town Treasurer from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Passed 14 / 0 / 0

Hesse noted that these increases do not take effect for this current board, but rather for those elected to fill the positions after the next Spring Election in April 2023.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Heidel: Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Passed 14 / 0 / 0

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held again next year on the third Tuesday in April 2023.