

## **Town of Farmington 169<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Attendance:** Dennis Konze, Wilfred Berg, Tom Reuter, Tom Brindley, Gayle Monicken, Bryen Bowman, Howard Young, Dawn Young, Dan Heidel, Larry Craig, Jerome Zibrowski, Bob Sbraggia, Dr. Michael White

Town Board: Mike Hesse, Greg Kastenschmidt, Paul Lash  
Treasurer: Jodi Anderson; Clerk: Crystal Sbraggia

The 169th 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 18, 2023.

**Mmsp:** Dan Heidel / Tom Reuter: Motion to approve the minutes from April 19, 2022 with one correction. Passed 16 Yes 0 No

### **SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT:**

Cindy Storandt, SD Clerk, reported that the sanitary district accountant has not completed the 2022 financial report. She will share that report at the regular May meeting.

Mitch Fenske presented the operations report for the Town of Farmington Sanitary District. He stated that the plant is running smoothly and that he and his team continue to look for further efficiencies. Between November 2022 and March 2023, Fenske shared that the town was able to take in 100% of the creamery output. The levels must continue to be monitored closely and the intake may need to be adjusted seasonally to avoid non-compliance.

Mitch has obtained all licenses and is now the operator on record for the sanitary district. Wendell Pfaff has cut back on hours that he works for the Sanitary District, but remains on the part-time payroll as great resource with much historical knowledge.

In 2023, the district is hoping to purchase a generator to ensure pump usage during outages. The district is also hopeful for federal funding to help with the replacement of the lift station on North Street. Despite being denied funds for 2022, Hesse optimistically continues to work with Senator Baldwin's office to secure funding for 80% of the lift station project.

### **FARMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- Tom Reuter presented the Farmington Fire Department annual report.
- The department currently runs on a fully trained 30-man roster.
- 52 calls were logged throughout 2022, consisting of 8 fires, 16 accident / EMS Assists, 1 Landing Zone, 20 Mutual Aid requests, 5 CO2 Alarms, 1 Welfare Check, and 1 False Alarm. All mutual aid calls were for fires and tender support.
- The department managed to respond to 14 calls in a single evening, without mutual aid, during the recent snow storm.

- Three sets of turn out gear will be purchased for deliver in 2024. This aligns with the town board's request to replace the gear on a more gradual basis.
- The new truck purchased in 2022 will be in service by the end of May 2023.
- The Red Ford will be transferred to the town and the Black Truck will be sold in Wisconsin Surplus.
- 1162 is need of minor repair.
- 1163 1969 Chevy is also in need of upgrades.
- The fire station will once again have enough room for all equipment to be stored on-site.

## **FARMINGTON FIRST RESPONDERS**

- The Farmington First Responder report was presented by Mike Hesse.
- The department responded to 114 calls in 2022, with the majority of calls falling into the medical (60 calls) and trauma (33 calls) categories.
- The First Responders coordinated with the Fire Department for the purchase of the new fire pick-up truck.
- Governor Evers directed some of the ARPA funds to local EMT units, therefore, the Farmington First Responders should receive approximately \$34,000. These funds will be used to purchase new handheld radios, cover EMT training expenses and replace 20-year-old turnout gear.
- Volunteers are reimbursed approximately \$5 - \$6 per call and \$10 per training event.

## **TOWNSHIP REPORT**

- Mike Hesse presented the 2022 Financial Report, noting the following:
  - Approximately \$20,000 was received from Friends of Library, after the group dissolved and is no longer active.
  - The \$75,000 Park Fund consists of the money transferred to the town from the County Budget when Mindoro Park was deeded to the town.
  - The SD still owes approximately \$135,000 to the town for payments made on their behalf before the town took them over. A plan to begin repayment is being discussed.
  - The excess funds appearing in the checking account includes ARPA funds. \$70,000 of those funds are earmarked for the relining of sewer pipes along Highway D, Highway C and North Street. The other remaining ARPA funds will be used towards town road repairs.
- Hesse shared that discussions taking place at the State level suggest that due to a \$7 Billion surplus of funds that legislature is working to create a second shared revenue system. The state government realizes the shortfalls of the current system and admits that inflation rates are much higher than the growth of shared revenue figures. Local governments are hopeful that the final draft of this new bill will hold funding for local fire departments, first responders and local roads. Town lobbyists are pushing for an increase in highway aids without having to compete for monies through grants, since such processes leave small communities at a disadvantage.
- Three road bid projects were submitted last year. Jewell Engineers was hired to complete these requests, unfortunately, all were denied, due to the fact that final

decisions are based economic impacts and traffic counts.

- The recent culvert collapse on M. Olson Road was discussed. Mike noted that roads and bridges are not insured. No final direction has been confirmed, but Hesse has been in communication with the town attorney, Wisconsin Towns Association and the DNR to gather information regarding available options. Residents in attendance expressed concerns about lack of weight limit signage, especially on structures that are not in solid working order. Hesse explained the process in which a town must follow in order to properly post a sign, noting the best option would have been to close the road altogether. Additional information will be shared in upcoming meetings as options become available.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Jerome Zibrowski, resident and member of the Farmington Fire Department, was in attendance to propose an idea to incentivize and maintain a depleting roster of young members. Current members are aging and not as many young adults are staying in the area following high school. In order to incentivize the younger generation to volunteer for the department, Zibrowski is requesting the board consider implementing a program offered by the state that essentially offers qualifying members a retirement fund. The program works much like a 401k savings plan, where the town would contribute a set amount of money per year per eligible member. The State then would match those funds. After a certain number of years, a member would become vested and at age 60 would be eligible to retire with access to those savings. Jerome noted that the board would have authority to implement stipulations and requirements for the program. At least one other resident spoke in favor of the proposal. The board expressed interest in learning more about the program and requested more information be provided.

**MMSP: Kastenschmidt / Fenske:** Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 8:30pm **PASSED**

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held again next year on the third Tuesday in April 2024.