

Town of Farmington 170th Annual Meeting
Pending Approval at 2025 Annual Meeting

Attendance: Dennis Konze, Wilfred Berg, Larry Craig, Paul Hoff, Rick Paisley, Taylor Brehmer, Mitch Fenske, Cindy Storandt, Gayle Moniken, Brandon Mancilla, Dan Heidel, Dennis Konze, Mollie Hutson, Gail Grimsled

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

The 170th 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 16, 2024

Mmsp: Dan Heidel / Rick Paisley: Motion to approve the minutes from April 18, 2023.
Passed: Yes-13, No-0

SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT:

The 2023 Farmington Sanitary District Annual Report was compiled by Hawkins Ash CPA and presented by Mitch Fenske and Cindy Storandt.

The SD has been making consistent monthly payments back to the town. The remaining balance due to the town as of 03/31/2024 was \$85,000. The Prairie Farm loan was paid in full in 2023. Two other loans will be paid in full by May 2025.

Mitch Fenske presented the operations report for the Town of Farmington Sanitary District. The sewer re-lining project commenced in November 2023 and completed in January 2024. This project was paid for using ARPA funds.

With the help of Senator Baldwin, the SD has secured \$350,000 worth of funding to help cover a large portion of the cost of a much-needed replacement of the main lift station on North Street. The town board recently accepted a bid of \$457,077 and will be working with Davey Engineering and Winona Mechanicals to see the project through. Hesse noted that the bid did include a significant contingency of approximately \$40,000, while Fenske noted that an additional \$34,000 discount could be realized by not having to reline the pipes on North Street. The board is hopeful that these discounts will come to fruition and that the burden on the SD households will be minimal. No cost to the overall town will be incurred.

Fenske continues to work with Prairie Farms to lessen the BOD count. The creamery plans to install a bigger aerator to help correct those high metrics, plus the town will install an aerator on the lift station to help as well.

According to Fenske, in 2024, efforts will also be made to decrease sludge at the lagoon and to make upgrades to aging infrastructure overall as budgets and cashflow will allow.

FARMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Rick Paisley presented the Farmington Fire Department annual report.
- The department currently runs on a fully trained 30-man roster. 2 on reserve, 1 retired person.
- 56 calls were logged throughout 2023 consisting of 17 (15 in one night) downed power lines, 6 brush fires, 5 structure fires, 8 accidents, 6 EMS Assists, 4 Landing Zone, 4 Mutual Aid tender requests, 6 CO2 Alarms,
- One set of turn out gear was purchased in 2023. Two or three more sets will be ordered in 2024. This aligns with the town board's request to replace the gear on a more gradual basis.
- Dodge truck 1165 in service. Receiving a radio from the Melrose FD to be installed soon.
- New tires were installed on 1161 pumper truck.
- 1163 ('69 chevy pick up) will be receiving updates, including the installation of a flat bed.
- The FD has and will continue to work with the Gunderson Gilbertson Legion to hold two annual fundraisers in which profits will be shared.
- Profits raised by the FD fundraisers were used to purchase \$25,000 of extrication equipment.
- Volunteer availability continues to be low during the daytime hours. Fortunately, the FD has not had to rely on neighboring departments to assist.
- A 2% Fire Dues state program audit will take place on April 17, 2024 at 9:30am.

FARMINGTON FIRST RESPONDERS

- The Farmington First Responder report was presented by Mike Hesse.
- The department responded to 110 Rescue calls in 2022, with the majority of calls falling into the medical (65 calls) and trauma (35 calls) categories.
- The Farmington First Responders were direct recipients of ARPA funds. These funds were used to purchase 6 hand held radios, 7 sets of turnout gear, additional training aids and volunteer coursework.
- \$18,800 was raised by the volunteer organization.
- A \$2,000 grant to buy 2 four gas meters.
- The EMT group continues to work together with the FD to share / cut costs.
- The financial report shows a loss of \$7,000, however, that consisted of ARPA funds that were received in 2022 but not paid until 2023.

TOWNSHIP REPORT

- Mike Hesse presented the 2023 Financial Report, noting the following:
 - The town board experienced difficulty trying to purchase a plow truck. Despite lack of availability, a Western Star was purchased and is currently waiting in Centerville to be finished. July completion is expected. This vehicle will replace the Freightliner.

- Three road bid projects were submitted last year for funding opportunities in 2023. 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.
- \$68k of LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program) funding was promised to the town and earmarked for the repair of the M. Olson Road bridge, following its collapse in 2023. The town is waiting on the DOT for the obligation letter to determine the date when those funds are to become available.

Jewell Engineering was hired to determine the type of structure that could be used. They provided three options with three different price points. The lowest estimate totaled approximately \$150,000. The board is working to determine the best course of action and identify additional sources of funding to cover the remaining costs of which ever option is chosen.

- Prairie farms has recently requested the town's siren be removed from the plant. The board will decide on the best relocation option at a future meeting and will consider updating the siren to a weather alert mechanism after pricing has been collected.
- Fire Number sign conditions are becoming a priority. Discussion took place regarding the most efficient way to replace the signs and distribute the cost. No decisions were made.

OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Hoff inquired about any new plans for the vacant lot that is owned by the town on Fulton Street. Hesse noted that he has met with a potential buyer, however, active plans were paused due to increased interest rates. The town is holding out for just the right buyer that will bring fair market multi-family housing to the area.

Mmsp: Dan Heidel / Mitch Fenske – A motion was made to increase the clerk salary to \$18,000, noting the increased election, payroll and reporting responsibilities that have been placed onto the position in recent years. **Passed: Yes-13, No-0**

Dan Heidel asked the board to consider withdrawing the township from county zoning authority, sharing several examples that he feels may have been handled more sensibly by people that are familiar with the township's land and neighborhoods. No decision.

MMSP: Hoff / Heidel: Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 8:30pm **PASSED**

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held again next year on the third Tuesday in April