

TOWN OF FARMINGTON MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
7:00 pm
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro, WI 54644

Attendees: Mike Hesse, Paul Lash, Jodi Anderson, Greg Kastenschmidt
Public Works and SD: Cindy Storandt, Wendell Pfaff and Taylor Brehmer
Minutes Prepared By: Crystal Sbraggia
Absent:

Other Attendees: Taylor Brehmer, Betty Kirchner, Kathy Jostad, Tom Brindley, Larry and Cindy Craig, Dan Heidel, Dennis Jacobsen, Gayle Monicken, Eric Aasen, Travis and Holly Powers, Brian Lash, Jenny Banse, Kyle Kunsman, Deb Salek, Mike Raabe, Wilfred Berg, Kay Timm, Becky Whalen, Wendell Pfaff, Deb Peterson

School Representatives: Kim Sacia, Deanna Wiatt, Jamie Waughtal, Amy Thesing, Casey Pfaff, Rick Dobbs, Jenny Banse, Becky Whalen, Sharon Pfaff, Luke Kjelland

CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- **Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash:** Motion to approve minutes from February 3, 2026 Regular Meeting, and the February 23, 2026 Special Meeting. **3/0/0 PASSED**

MELROSE MINDORO SD REFERENDUM PRESENTATION

Deanna Wiatt introduced herself and the school representatives before leading the referendum presentation. Questions were fielded from those in attendance. A 2026 Referendum handout was distributed. The conversations touched on the school's current financial struggles, mainly caused by a deficit of state funding and rising costs. Cost saving and dollar extending strategies were also shared. Residents were encouraged to attend any of the remaining information meetings and to reach out to the school with any specific questions or concerns.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Dennis Jacobsen, County Board Supervisor, was in attendance to share county level updates pertaining to Farmington including road and bridge funding. In particular, he noted that he is pushing for the County Road A bridge to be replaced as soon as possible. He warned that if approved for federal funding the project could take up to 3 years to be completed. Jacobsen also noted that a portion of Hwy T and Q are slated to be repaired in 2027.

Jacobsen also commended the Melrose-Mindoro School District for its high level of student engagement in extracurricular activities, noting that such participation is desirable amongst employers.

PARK: No updates

SANITARY DISTRICT

Wendell Pfaff and Taylor Brehmer were in attendance to give the monthly Sanitary District update report. Wendell Pfaff will be acting as interim water / waste water plant operator until Taylor Brehmer is fully certified. Larry Konze has volunteered to handle the readings on Saturdays, while Taylor and Kevin will continue to rotate that duty on Sundays. The pair indicated that they are in the process of bringing both their own knowledge and the SD records up to date following the departure of Mitch Fenske.

A backflow inspection was completed by Buchner. Cross connection surveys will be tackled soon.

Hesse distributed information pertaining to a sludge judge product that he expressed interest in to more accurately measure the sludge in the SD ponds. The company, TeamLab, uses a sonar drone boat to capture data and generate maps that display the depth and density of the sludge. The company also sells products similar to Aquafix, but the town is not obligated to purchase the product; the company will hire out for judging regardless. The board was interested in doing this; therefore, Mike will collect additional quotes to compare for this project.

No updates regarding the sewer rate study were given.

Discussion was held concerning the need for a smaller pump, as well as needed repairs or potential replacement of the refrigerator at the lagoon building.

CEMETERY

No updates.

Wendell shared that two stones for the Farmington Cemetery Veteran Memorial are complete. The next step is the completion of concrete steps and stone foundation.

ROADS & EQUIPMENT

The state opened the grant portal for the 6-20' structures. 90% funding is expected for approved projects. We now have a structure number that will allow us apply for M.Olson. Jewel is updating the info for M.Olson and Schultz Road as well. Application for this funding is due the first week in April.

Schultz Road Structure - No Updates

M.Olson Structure - No updates.

LRIP Project Amundson Coulee Road – Funding results should be released at the end of March.

ARIP Funding: Hesse, a member of the ARIP selection committee, shared that Baker Road will not receive funding from the first round of the ARIP grant. Mike is hopeful that a larger second round will be forthcoming and that Baker Road could receive a share of that money. He will work with Jewel to revise our narrative to improve our chances for that funding.

Brehmer noted that both pick-ups have been serviced, but that the new Ford truck is still displaying multiple errors. The board requested that the new Ford be taken to Sleepy Hollow so that any repairs covered under warranty may be addressed.

The board decided to hold off on selling the Ferris mower that was once approved to go up on auction. The new Ferris mower has been ordered. The board will address this plan again at a later time. Kastenschmidt requested that an itemized list of auction items be shared with the board for review before placing anything on the Wi Surplus website.

Brehmer asked the board to consider selling the older Ford and replacing it with a smaller version. No decision was made.

Taylor noted that the shaft needs to be swapped out on the Dodge, but that his time is limited, therefore, vehicle repairs may be delayed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mike Hesse shared emergency service updates.

- The EMS Annual Chili Dinner is scheduled for March 15, 2026.
- The Roy Fonstad Estate continues to process, nearing final stages.
- A new battery switch was installed on the new pumper tender.
- 7 sets of wildland fire turn out gear has been ordered using grant funds.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Hesse shared that Pierce Pepin Coop, along with Jackson Election, are actively working to extend broadband to the Jackson Electric Service area. Lax County has not provided a map, however, Hesse noted that money has been awarded to Bug Tussel and Spectrum for use in adding fiber internet to the township, as well.

RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE

No updates.

TREASURER REPORT AND CHECKS

Mmsp Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve the February Treasurer Report, including receipts 673300 TO 673306. **PASSED 3/0/0**

Mmsp Kastenschmidt / Hesse: Motion to approve February town checks 24718 – 24766 and previously approved EFT transactions with the correction of Check 24765. The corrected amount should be \$2,148.39. A new corrected check will be issued and shall appear on the March report. **PASSED 3/0/0**

Fire Department Checks - No February report was available. Report responsibilities are transitioning to the newly appointed FD treasurer, Michell Neader. She will provide the February and March reports at the April meeting.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve SD February 2026 EFT transactions and checks numbered 6056-6063. **PASSED 3/0/0**

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash Motion to enter closed session under WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) to discuss compensation of public employees. Roll call vote, Hesse aye, Lash aye, Kastenschmidt aye. The board convened in closed session at 8:47PM.

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to return to open session. Roll call vote, Hesse aye, Lash aye, Kastenschmidt aye. The board returned to open session at 09:25pm.

No further decisions made.

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to adjourn at 0925pm. **PASSED 3/0/0**