

Town of Farmington 167th Annual Meeting

Approved at the 2022 Annual Meeting

Attendance: David Pfaff, Dennis Konze, Wilfred Berg, Rick Paisley, Kevin Krueger, Tom Brindley, Wendell Pfaff, Dr. Michael White, Dennis Osgood, Julie Meyer, Dan Heidel

Town Board: Mike Hesse, Greg Kastenschmidt, Paul Lash

Treasurer: Jodi Anderson; Clerk: Crystal Sbraggia

The 167th Annual Meeting of the Town of Farmington was called to order at the Farmington Town Hall located at N8309 County Road C at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Mmsp: Dennis Konze / Wilfred Berg: Motion to approve the minutes from May 19, 2020. Motion Passed

SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT:

Wendell Pfaff and Julie Meyer from Mindoro Sanitary District were in attendance to present a draft of the financial report and field questions pertaining to the current state of the sanitary district.

- It is probable, due to the financial state of the district, that the town will need to take control of the district in the near future. The town board is working with an attorney to ensure that the appropriate process is followed.
- Two main factors have contributed to the potential switch in management. The first has to do with the fact that Prairie Farms recently made necessary internal improvements that have resulted in a lesser amount of waste being disposed of through the MSD. Secondly, an oversight regarding loan payment terms prompted the current SD board to make note payments using operating funds rather than increasing the levy amount paid to the district through property taxes (SD residents only). Without these tax revenues, the SD eventually realized a depletion in necessary savings that caused the inability to make timely payments. In order to repay the town for loan payments already paid on their behalf, the SD will need to significantly increase the amount levied in upcoming years. That said, the board is determined to find a realistic payback plan, so not to overwhelm SD residents with too large of an increase. Further, an additional levy amount will need to be charged to SD residents to properly cover loan payments moving forward.
- In the event that the town board obtains control of the SD, direct expenses will remain the responsibility of those living within the district, not all Farmington Residents. Financial records will be kept separate from the town and shared expenses will be split respectively.
- Cody Morse, the one full time SD employee, continues to work towards certification. Wendell's certification is valid through 2023, however, he is hoping to fully retire from the

district by the end of the year. The town board has stressed the importance of Cody taking his certification tests soon and encourages him to travel outside of the La Crosse area, if necessary.

Kastenschmidt warned of waiting too long, as it could take a very long time to find an adequate replacement if certification is not obtained.

FARMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Rick Paisley presented the Farmington Fire Department annual report.
- The department currently runs on a 30-man roster with one person waiting on training.
- 37 calls were logged throughout 2020. These calls included grass fires, structure fires, vehicle fires, a water main repair call, carbon monoxide alarms, electrical related situations and local first responder assists.
- Officer training resumed and was completed in January 2021, after a lengthy hiatus due to Covid19. All required training according to state is complete.
- 1166 is experiencing electrical problems which will not be covered under warranty. Any future directly related repairs, however, should be covered.
- 1162 developed a water leak. Waiting on Welder bids for repair.
- The Holmen Fire Department has requested assistance in covering the areas of Hwy M and W during the construction project tentatively scheduled to take place between April and October.
- MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm Systems), a planning method adopted by the county that is used to streamline responses to large emergency incidents. The Farmington Fire Department is up-to-date with La Crosse County protocols and procedures are routinely exercised.
- The Farmington Fire Department's SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) equipment remains at its end-of-life. Tanks are expired but the department cannot afford to buy all new units. The current equipment is 4 cycles obsolete. To remain as up-to-date as possible, the department has resorted to purchasing used units with 1 or 2 years of life left. A grant application submitted by a professional grant writer in 2020 was denied. Another request has been submitted this year. Decisions should be published in May or June. The department is hoping to replace 8 units this year. Each department is required to have one unit for each seated position on the truck. If the grant is not awarded, the board will continue to research the possibility of using Covid-19 recovery funds to help cover the cost of the outdated equipment.

- The department has plans to increase cross-training efforts with the Melrose Fire Department.

FARMINGTON FIRST RESPONDERS

- The Farmington First Responder report was presented by Mike Hesse.
- The department responded to 102 calls in 2020.
- The team's service level was upgraded from EMS to EMT. This allows responders to offer expanded care including the ability to utilize CPAP to treat congestive heart failure and other lung related ailments.
- The First Responders received a generous \$12,000 grant to from individual members of the BRF Foundation. These funds were specifically donated to the department for the purchase of a Lucas Machine.
- Hesse noted that the department is extremely grateful for the community support received through this year's fundraiser, especially considering that their chili dinner could not take place. To date, over \$17,000 in donations have been collected. A special thanks to Prairie Farms for their large \$1,000 donation.
- Dr. Michael White added that the La Crosse County Health Department would like to thank the Farmington First Responders for their help with recent Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics. He noted that over 50% of the volunteers at these clinics come from the Town of Farmington.

TOWNSHIP REPORT

- Mike Hesse presented the Township Annual Report. No public input was received.
- The town secured a grant through WEDC (Wisconsin Economic Development Committee) in an effort to help Allied Cooperative make improvements that were necessary in order to remain in Mindoro. Allied invested over \$370,000 to make the improvements. A total of \$84,000 was received from grant.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Dan Heidel, Plan Commission Chair, reminded those in attendance that the commission is still collecting survey responses and will be using the data collected to help shape any updates that need to be made to the current comprehensive plan. He also invited everyone to the public hearing session scheduled for April 27 at 7:30pm at Melrose Mindoro High School.
- Mike Hesse shared that he has agreed to partake in a similar process at the county level and will serve as a member of the county plan revision board.

MMSP: Dr. White / Heidel: Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 8:36pm Motion Passed.

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held again next year on the third Tuesday in April 2022.