

TOWN OF FARMINGTON

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 6, 2025
7:00 pm
FARMINGTON TOWN HALL
N8309 County Road C, Mindoro, WI 54644

Attendees: Mike Hesse, Paul Lash, Greg Kastenschmidt, Jodi Anderson
SD: Mitch Fenske
Minutes Prepared By: Crystal Sbraggia
Absent: Cindy Storandt

Other Attendees: Larry Craig, Cindy Craig, Wilfred Berg, Gayle Monicken, Jerome Zibrowski

CALL TO ORDER:

- Chairman, Mike Hesse, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mmsp: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve the minutes from July 1, 2025, Regular Meeting and June 24, 2025 special meeting with correction to date of minute review section
3/0/0 PASSED

PUBLIC CONCERNS: Larry Craig raised concerns with the recent tree removal work that took place in the town ROW near his property at the intersection of County Road VV and Perkins Road. He suggested that the equipment used during the project had left the land vulnerable to future erosion and washout, which could eventually impact his private property. He wishes for the board to address these concerns.

Jerome Zibrowski informed the board that, as part of the Main Lift Station project, a 20-foot Fraser fir tree was removed from his property. He is certain that the tree falls outside of the town's right-of-way and has requested reimbursement for this loss. The board agreed to replace the tree upon completion of the project.

Gayle Monicken requested an update on M. Olson Road repairs. The board reiterated to Mr. Monicken that no funds are available at this time. They are hopeful that the

2025 – 26 Propane Rates:

The board reviewed LP rates received from Consolidated Energy (\$1.49) and Allied Cooperative (\$1.449)

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion to accept Allied Cooperative's 2025 – 26 propane rate of \$1.449. **3/0/0 PASSED**

PARK:

- Shelter Roof – No updates.
- Trails – Dennis and Larry continue to plan for trail work. They are donating time and equipment. The town will pay for diesel fuel.
- Eagle Scout project/pavilion construction – No updates.

SANITARY DISTRICT

- **Main Lift Station Project:** The new lift station went online yesterday. Mitch will monitor closely the first few weeks.

The board approved Fenske's request to collect bids for cleaning of the sewer line on North Street and County Road D that leads to the new lift station. A bid will also be collected for an aerator unit to be installed at the main lift station. This equipment addition will help to alleviate grease buildup.

Discussion took place regarding the overall main lift station project, including concerns regarding the quality of work, change orders, and the payment process. Mitch noted that additional areas of the sewer line near the trailer park may need to be addressed. Options regarding future repairs were discussed.

Winona Mechanical has submitted the fifth invoice for the project.

MMSP: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve payment Application #5 of \$58,470.90. **3/0/0 PASSED**

Winona Mechanical has submitted CO#4 totaling \$14,933.

Sewer Point repair #2, adjacent to the main lift station, was determined to have an additional length of sewer that was backflowing away from the lift station due to further deterioration of the sewer pipe and the sag identified from sewer televising. Additional excavation was conducted, which aided in determining that 33 feet of additional sewer pipe is needed to correct the issue. This will add \$14,933 to the contract amount and will add 15 days to the completion date.

MMSP: Kastenschmidt / Lash: Motion to approve Change Order # 4 for \$14,933. **3/0/0 PASSED**

Sludge Removal:

Fenske reported being satisfied with the results of the Metafloc algae reducer chemical that has recently been added to the lagoon ponds. He reported better water clarity and a decrease in phosphorus numbers. He noted having one additional barrel left to use this season.

No further sludge removal projects will take place this year. Additional information to

better compare mechanical vs chemical processes will be sought before any decisions are made.

- **CEMETERY**

Veteran's Memorial Update: Quotes will be collected from contractors to extend the sidewalk. Work will not be completed this year. Hesse will be reaching out to LaCrosse County Highway Department regarding right-of-way and the proposed retaining wall.

ROADS & EQUIPMENT

- **Amundson Coulee Road** – working with the Town of Holland on an LRIP project. Our cost is half of approximately \$16,000.

Mmsp: Lash / Kastenschmidt: Motion made to partner with the Town of Holland on an LRIP repair project for Amundson Coulee Road and pay up to \$8,000 (50% of costs not covered by LRIP funds). **PASSED 3/0/0**

EQUIPMENT

- Taylor is still working on repairs to the Ford truck.
- Grader tire repairs are complete.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Service Award Program – Jerome Zibrowski appeared on behalf of the Farmington FD to provide more details regarding the Service Award Program that could be used as an incentive tool to help recruit and retain volunteer fire department personnel.

He reported a \$500 initial setup fee and an annual fee of \$800, plus \$20.00 for every active fire member that signs up for the program.

Contribution rate is up to the discretion of the board each year and will be matched by the state up to a certain amount. Currently, the state matches up to approximately \$450.

Zibrowski has been using the Town of Shelby as a base for setting fair and equitable contribution eligibility standards.

The first start-up step is to adopt a resolution to create the program. A resolution will be drafted for consideration at the September meeting.

Hesse noted that the pancake breakfast went well. The Gun Raffle made nearly \$7,500, and the gross profit from the pancake breakfast was nearly \$11,000.

>> Kastenschmidt left the meeting at this time <<

- **RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE**

Dennis Konze reported that the town is eligible to participate in e-cycle events put on by Dynamic Recycling. He plans to dispose of the televisions on hand at the next nearby event.

- The board permitted Dennis to buy candy for the Spanferkel parade.
- The board permitted Dennis to collect donations to refresh the wood chips in the Lions Club Park Playground area.
- Discussion took place regarding the condition of the jungle gym at the Lions Club.
- Dennis mentioned that raccoons are becoming a nuisance at the recycling center. They are working to deter them from entering the area.

TREASURER REPORT AND CHECKS

Mmsp: Lash / Lash: Motion to approve the July Treasurer Report, including receipts 673205 TO 673226. **2/0/0 Passed**

Jodi Anderson presented the options for CD renewal. Rates were only collected from Black River Country Bank, as the CD is a stipulation of the current Davis Creek Loan.

- 1 year at 3.7%
- 5 years at 3.7%

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to renew the CD at BRCB for 1 year at 3.7%. **PASSED 2/0/0**

Mmsp Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve July town checks 24390 – 24443 and previously approved EFT transactions. **2/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve July Fire Department checks 4838-4840. **2/0/0 Passed**

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to approve SD July EFT transactions and checks numbered 5967-5978. **2/0/0 Passed**

Other Business: Hesse will be attending the state council meeting this weekend.

Mmsp: Lash / Hesse: Motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. **2/0/0 PASSED**