

## June 4, 2023

The Farmland Town Council met on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 6:00pm, in the council room at 104 E Henry Street for a Regular Town Council Meeting. Those present were Steve Hernly, Jim Main, Stephen Conner, Jason Welch, Andy Croyle, Melvin Nott, Chelsey Sullivan, Curtis Cunningham, Zachary Lee, Dan Redmond, and Marcy Yuknavage.

**Steve called the meeting to order.**

**Steve asked everyone to stand for the Pledge.**

**Steve opened the regular town board meeting.**

Jim motioned to accept the minutes for May 1, 2024, as written. Stephen 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

Stephen motioned to record the April 2024 Bank Reconciliation as Reconciled. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

Stephen motioned to approve and sign the Payroll Allowance Docket for May 6, 2024, and May 20, 2024. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes. The board signed the payroll docket.

Stephen motioned to approve the overtime spreadsheet for the month of May. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

**City Building** – 1. Office Closed June 19<sup>th</sup> for Juneteenth National Independence.

2. Budget Meeting June 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Marcy told them to write it down, so they didn't forget.

3. Marcy has conference from June 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup> in South Bend

4. Hometown Heroes Banner Program. Marcy told the Board that she put information in their folders and wanted to see if they would be interested in offering the program to Farmland residents. Marcy told them that the banners could be for Armed Forces and First Responders and how the program usually works is that the people wanting their hero displayed would pay for the banner and mounting hardware. Marcy told them that there were various sizes to choose from and the prices range from \$84.95 - \$124.95 per banner and \$69.50 for the mounting hardware. Jim asked where the banners would be mounted. Marcy told him that we would mount them on our light poles. Jim asked if they would look like the picture, and she said yes, and the banners are 2-sided. Melvin asked Marcy if she had called Lynn because they were the first ones in our county to do it. Marcy told him she hadn't because she didn't know they had them. Stephen asked Melvin if he had heard of any feedback and Melvin said no. Melvin said that Lynn's banners were hung the Thursday before Memorial Day. Melvin said the company where the banners were made hung the banners and Brad had to supply the truck. Melvin said that Lynn decided to do 30 banners the first year and Marcy said that the minimum order is 10. Melvin said they did only Military people who lived or were from Lynn. Melvin said there were people who came and put their name on the list for the 2025 order. Jim asked if he gave money to put someone's picture on a banner it would cost \$84.00? Marcy told him that it depends on the size the town selects. Marcy told them that she would talk to Melvin to determine the size we will offer. Marcy told them the price starts at \$84 and goes to \$124 plus mounting hardware. Jim said he will pay for one himself for Larry Marlin. Larry was a classmate who served 2 hitches in Vietnam and was a company commander. He was getting out to get married and died from cancer. Jim said he would pay for one for him if we decide to do this. Dan Redmond said, if he may speak, there are a lot of towns in Ohio that have the banners and they are beautiful. He said that they are amazing. He said it exemplifies small town America as well as the Patriots we should be in this country. Dan told the board that his dad was awarded the Bronze Star. He said he also had 2 brothers that served in the military. He said they are both deceased now but all three lived in Farmland. He said that his family would pay for 3 if the board approved the program. He said his dad and brother Don both served in Vietnam at the same time. He said that he would like to see the board take into consideration to not only honor the military but also the first responders. Dan also said that he would be happy to volunteer to help if Melvin and the town needed help either putting them up or taking them down if the project was to move forward. Stephen said a lot of towns in Jay County have done this, like Portland. Jim said that he doesn't remember if anyone else from Farmland went to West Point. Jim said he was second in the class. Chelsey asked if they needed to be deceased. Dan said his brother Mark graduated from Citadel. Marcy told Chelsey that the decision is up to the board but typically it's for anyone you want to honor with a banner. Stephen said, basically there is no expense to the town and Marcy said just our time. Stephen said that we would need to set time frames as to when we would put them up and take them down and make it aware to everyone who wants to purchase one. Curtis asked if they come down or do they stay up. Melvin said if we leave them up, they will get torn up. Melvin said that everything that goes up on Henry Street gets torn up because of the wind. Stephen said he thinks other towns take them down in the winter and we wouldn't want to interfere with the Christmas Decorations. Dan Redmond suggested a couple weeks before and after Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Dan said if you leave them up too long then people will take them for granted. He said they would pop more if they were not there all the time. Marcy told them that there are beautiful designs with vibrant colors. Stephen said that people could pick their own design and size and Marcy corrected him and told him that we would choose one design and one size. Steve held up a picture and asked if it was counted as one banner and Marcy told him no it is just one side of the pole and the banner itself is 2 sided. Stephen said that it would be nice if we were doing it to have them done

by Veterans Day. Melvin said he thinks we need to set a limit because if we don't then we may have more banners than we have poles. People will need to supply pictures and medals if different than the Purple Heart, Silver Star and Bronze Star. Stephen said that he thinks we would need to designate streets. Melvin told him that we can only put them on the poles the town owns. Melvin said we have somewhere around 80 poles. Melvin said once the brackets are up, it will be nothing to put the banners up. He said it will be best to leave the brackets on the poles all year. Melvin said we should put them down Main Street before Henry Street. Melvin said he feels we should limit it to a certain number at first and he thinks the town should supply the brackets so we can leave the brackets up. Steve asked if the brackets are the same as we use for the Christmas decorations and Melvin said no. Stephen said in the discussion it was mentioned about first responders. He asked if we want to limit it to the military or open it up to first responders. Stephen said most of the towns he has seen in Jay County are military only. Melvin said his opinion is to only be military and the board agreed with him. Steve asked if we should start at 60 and Melvin said he feels that is a good number and then have a list for the next round. Melvin said that we will need to set a hard deadline to get the banners done and ready to hang in plenty of time for Veterans Day. Marcy said she can figure out the dates if they approve moving forward. Stephen asked if we have the money to pay for the brackets. Marcy told them we can take the money out of several different funds. Stephen said we will have to store them, and Melvin told him that he has places to store them. Stephen made a motion to go with the Hometown Hero Banner Program and the town will supply the brackets. Marcy clarified that the board wanted military only and they said yes. She asked if they are allowing past or present and they said yes. Stephen said he made a motion. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

5. Contract with county concerning ambulance. Stephen said the Commissioner and Brad couldn't be here tonight. He said that next month they will bring the plans of the building for the town to look at. Melvin asked if they received the quotes back. Stephen said they were supposed to open them yesterday.

6. Marcy asked if she could advertise in the News Gazette for a new mowing person. Marcy asked Andy if he still wants that done and Andy said to hold off right now and wait a little longer.

7. Boyce annual Keystone Invoice is \$140 less than last year because we deleted the Asset Program.

8. Public Hearing concerning the property for the ambulance. The hearing is the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Stephen asked Steve if he would be there, and Steve said yes. Melvin said surely no one would have a problem with the ambulance service.

9. BIS will be here on June 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am to install the audio equipment for live streaming.

#### **HFUSA - Nothing**

**Police –** 1. Police report presented to the board. Melvin said the incident on N Main St was an isolated incident of domestic that turned bad. Stephen made a motion to accept the police report. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

**Street –** 1. Report from Melvin – Melvin said, other than the street fair, he hasn't done anything with the streets. Melvin said he received an email from Luke about CCMG so he talked to Marcy, and she said that Luke still hadn't closed out our last project so he will call Luke tomorrow. Stephen asked if that would jeopardize us in the future and Melvin told him that we can't apply for one if one is open. Melvin said he needs to figure it out because we need to fix New York Street and Pursley Street.

2. Stephen asked if there was a minimum age to operate a golf cart. Melvin told him absolutely; he said you must be 16 and licensed. Stephen said there were a couple of boys that stopped in front of the car and threw trash out. Melvin said he had that happen and he turned his lights on, and they kept driving. Melvin said it proves that they don't know what they are doing when they are underage. Melvin said they were pretty mad when he made grandma come and get the golf cart. Stephen said he seen them last week. Melvin said he would let Joe know and they will keep their eyes open.

**Fire –** 1. Report for the month of May. Melvin said they are about average for the number of runs but the thing that bothers him is that they had 5 fire calls and 4 of them were mutual aid.

**Water –** 1. Report for the month of May.

2. Andy told the board that the water loss audit report is something they have to do all the time. He told them that Curry has all the towns' information and asked if it is alright to stay with them. The board approved Curry to do the water loss audit. Marcy gave them the contract to sign.

3. Received letter from IDEM as a reminder to submit Wellhead Protection Phase II five-year update by November 18, 2024. Andy said Ortman has done this in the past and they have always been the cheapest. He would like to continue using them. The board approved Andy to continue using Ortman.

4. 2 dead hydrants over the winter that need to be replaced. Andy said he called about getting them replaced and they are too old to rebuild. Jim asked where the hydrants were located. Andy said one is on East Jackson in front of Chad Kings house and the other is out in Wolf's addition. Melvin said we now have little signs that we can put them on and say they are out of service. Melvin said we would take a tanker out there for a fire but there is one other hydrant that is in service. Andy said he will get them on order if they approve. Stephen made a motion for Andy to get them fixed. Marcy asked

Andy what he thought the cost would be for each hydrant. Andy said he thinks the higher end would be \$3,500. Andy said that they are going to try and change them. Andy said if we can't, then he will get quotes. Andy said that the cheapest to fix the other one was \$28,000. Stephen said that we don't have a choice, we need to get them fixed. Andy said if he has their approval to purchase the hydrants then he can work on it.

5. Flow test for wells. Andy said that Ortman is the one who services the wells. Andy said that we need to keep them up and running by keeping them clean and pressure tested. He said that they are all lined and new right now. Steve asked if they had started on the other well house yet and Andy said no not yet. Andy said that the test will cost about \$600 a piece.

6. Wellhead Protection Implementation Plan Andy told Marcy to trash the bid from Curry because Ortman will be doing this.

**Sewage –** 1. Report from the month of May.

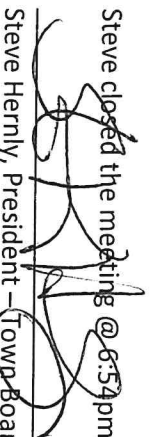
2. Andy wants approval for Alex to take the certification test. Andy said that Alex will have his 2 years here this month. Stephen made the motion for Alex to take the test. Andy said that he can start off with the Lagoon one. He said he believes it costs \$50 to take the test at Ivy Tech. Andy asked if we could send him over to take the test so he would know what the test is like and what to study for. Andy said that is the easiest test. Stephen said, let's start there.


**Claims Docket for June 4, 2024 - \$177,733.64 –** Stephen made a motion to sign the APV Register. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes. The Board will sign the docket after the meeting.

**Citizens Comments –** Steve asked if anyone had any comments. Chelsey Sullivan asked about water on their new property at 303 E Jackson. She has concerns about the water and sewage. She said there are flags, and she wants to know where we stand on getting our water main located and make sure it's there. She said her dad had been involved and now she is doing it because it is her home. She said that there seem to be hiccups where the water and sewer are involved. She said that she feels like it is dragging. She said that they thought they found it then maybe not and they marked it where it might be or maybe where they were going to dig. She said that she was seeing where we were on that and when we might propose to have it done. Andy said they rechecked the video and it's 78 feet and Alex marked where the sewer line should be. Andy said it should come out there and it shouldn't be very deep because the mains are not good. Andy told her she would not have to pay a tapping fee as long as that line was still there, and they didn't do away with it. Chelsey asked Andy if that is the town's responsibility and Andy said no that the towns' part is the main only. Andy said everything off the main is the homeowners. Chelsey asked Andy if they needed to dig in their yard and find the sewer off the main. Chelsey said that they will have Vern Thornburg do it for them. Andy told her that Vern came in here and asked about it. Andy told Chelsey that she will need to pay the tapping fee for the water. Chelsey asked if everything had been done to see if there was a water main on her property. Andy told her that we do not have any record of water on that property. She asked if something could be done because she has talked to people who have had prior experience with this sort of thing, and they feel the Town of Farmland hasn't been very helpful. She said that they will be lifelong customers in Farmland paying a water bill and she feels she has been getting the run around. She wants to know if there could be more done to find it. Andy said that the town can't go dig around on your property. Chelsey said that she feels like they were told to dig along the road and see what you find. She asked if that is really how it happens or pay \$1000 and that's it. Melvin asked if Vern called Kenny. Chelsey said she knew they talked but had not touched base with Vern yet. Vern said something about witching wires. She asked if we could camera the water lines and Andy said no. Andy said that the town doesn't have any record of water lines being on the property. He said that if there were then the line would have been hit when the foundation was put in. Andy said the blue flags show where the water main is and the white flags are if a new main needs to be put in. Chelsey asked if the tapping fees are to get her line off the main and Andy said yes. Chelsey said her dad paid the tapping fees last fall and she said that they would have paid the water tapping fee before the town raised their prices. She said that they were told that the town found the water and sewer so they wouldn't need to pay the tapping fees. She said so now the lines aren't there and they have to pay a higher fee. Andy told her that the town found the sewer but never found anything to do with water. She said they started this whole process last June trying to locate the water and sewer. She said that they want to stay in Farmland because they love this town, and she is a teacher here and feels like the town is not always the easiest to work with. Andy told her that we have done everything we can do. He said that he had cameras ran and found the sewer. Chelsey said she appreciates that, but she is more frustrated with herself because she feels some things were lost in translation. She said she is frustrated because she has to pay double what it was before. She said I guess this is how the cookie crumbles.

No more Comments

Steve closed the meeting @6:54pm.

  
Steve Hernly, President –Town Board

  
Marcy Yuknavage, Clerk-Treasurer