

## April 2, 2024

The Farmland Town Council met on Tuesday, April 2, 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, Chris, Bunner, Ceann Bales, John Shellabarger, Don Crose, Maurice Foudray, Curt Flannery, John Halko, Andy Croyle, Melvin Nott, and Marcy Yuknavage.

**Steve called the meeting to order.**

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

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

Stephen motioned to accept the minutes for March 5, 2024, as written. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

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

Stephen motioned to approve and sign the Payroll Allowance Dockets for March 11, 2024, and March 25, 2024. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes. The board signed both payroll dockets.

**City Building** – 1. Marcy let the board know that the city building will be closed April 8, 2024, for the solar eclipse. She told them that her and Tracy will be at Monroe Central selling eclipse glasses.

2. Audio Live Stream Quote. Marcy told them that this was the quote they tabled at the last meeting. Marcy told them that she just gave them the cost sheet which is \$1,988.86 plus the cost of a computer. Stephen asked if the computer could be used for other things. Marcy said it could be, but it will be in the conference room. Marcy told them that when she talked to Angela, a desktop computer would be cheaper, but we could use a laptop. Steve confirmed with Marcy that it would be the cost quoted plus a computer. Marcy said yes. Stephen asked if we only have 1 quote and Marcy said yes. Stephen said he spoke to a gentleman who does this for other businesses, and he said that he would be interested in giving us a quote. Jim said that he feels we need more than 1 quote. Stephen said that his guy is out of the state right now but when he gets back, he will talk to him. Stephen said that he does some sound work for the church. Melvin asked if the original quote was from Angela and Marcy said yes. Melvin asked why the town would need another quote when this quote is from our IT person. He said that she does all of our IT stuff in town. Melvin said if we had the other guy install the live stream and it breaks or have problems, who would we call? Marcy told Melvin that Angela went out and got the quotes from a company who only does this sort of work. Melvin apologized and said he thought it was from Angela. Marcy told him that it was from Angela, but it wasn't her company. She will be here putting it all together with direction from the company. Stephen said that this gentleman would service it if needed. Marcy told him that Angela is our IT person who handles everything in town. Stephen said we should table it another month because we still have another year to get it. John Halco asked what the equipment was for. Marcy told him that a law was passed that we must live stream all meetings starting July 2025.

3. New Farmland Public Library sign has been hung on the library. All three board members said that it looks nice and then they all agreed that all our new signs look very nice.

4. We need to have an executive session. Marcy told them that she needs to advertise for it and needs 48-hour notice. Stephen asked if we could do it Friday afternoon. The paper is published on Tuesdays and Thursdays and published on Thursday would not give 48-hour notice for the meeting. Steve said Monday and Marcy told him Monday is the eclipse and we will not be here. Stephen said that we will do it on Tuesday. Marcy asked the other two if Tuesday would work and they said yes. Marcy asked what time and Stephen said 1:00. Steve asked Marcy what the date of the meeting was, and she replied, the 9<sup>th</sup>.

5. Spring and Fall property taxes will be paid in full, \$498.60. Marcy told Jason that the 103 S Main St property is still not correct after Danny Houston bought part of the police station. Jason asked what the GIS showed, and Marcy told him that it shows Mid America Shows LLC owning the whole building. Jason said there is an issue with the deed, and he will investigate it. Stephen made a motion to pay the taxes. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

6. FEMA paperwork complete and sent to FEMA. (Melvin & Joe – police; Fire Department and 2 trucks night of tornado, Andy & Benji on 17<sup>th</sup> with Town Dump Trucks; Fire Department on the 17<sup>th</sup> for 12 hours mutual aid with fire truck)

7. Indiana Department of Transportation – Regional Safety Summit. Marcy told the board that she received it in the mail and put a copy in each of their folders in case they were interested in going. Marcy told them that they need to RSVP if interested.

**HFUSA** – Chris said that she doesn't have anything except to thank the town for the kind and generous donation.

**Police** – 15 calls, 2 accidents and 3 assists. Melvin said that it doesn't add up to 15 because the rest are just one calls, 3 animal calls, request to speak. Steve asked Melvin what "request to speak" was and Melvin told him it was need advice, legal advice or whatever. Melvin told the board that he and Joe were in Winchester for about 10 hours for the tornado. He said that we were fortunate because we

were the only ones that didn't have flat tires. He said that Lynn had to replace all of theirs. Melvin said we got lucky because he drove over a lot of houses.

The town received a letter from the Winchester Police Chief to thank the guys for helping. Stephen made a motion to accept the letter. Melvin said at the bottom of the letter, the chief is requesting to send all tornado hours to him. Melvin said that he can get what Marcy submitted to FEMA instead of us sending it to him as well. Melvin said he went to the meeting because Marcy was gone. He said we must meet 12.4 million before FEMA will get involved. They don't think we will get to that point. Melvin said that he went to the meeting to get all the information because he remembered all the information that was needed when we had the ice storm. He said if you didn't pay it out or mark it down, you didn't get paid for it. Melvin said that he got all the information and passed it on to Marcy.

**Fire –** 1. Melvin said it has been slow. He said that they had a few runs, and our guys were over in Winchester for a long time. Melvin said that they had a house fire up at the 4-way stop last Sunday. He said he received a call on the Saturday after the tornado wanting us to backfill in Winchester for 12 hours. Melvin said it was a little time consuming to figure that out. Melvin said that our guys ran calls after the tornado outside of the City of Winchester for gas leaks. They went to a call on the big 18,000 LB propane tank over by Union City at the hog farms. They were set up at the 4H grounds and when calls would come in, they would send different departments. Our guys weren't downtown much.

2. Melvin said the fish fry will be April 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00.  
3. Some of our guys started working on the building last Friday. He said that they got the front half all done with insulation and we just need to add the metal. They installed the new front door and it's a great start.

4. Melvin said last year we discussed replacing Engine 31, so he wanted permission to start the bid specs. He wants to get the process started because it will probably be 12 to 18 month build time once the specs are approved. He said it isn't going to happen overnight. Jim said he thinks we should give him permission to get the build specs started. Melvin said Engine 31 is 31 years old. Jim said the longer we wait the more it will cost.

**Street –** Melvin said not much to report except he was asked the night of the tornado about the town's single axel dump trucks. He said that they had skid steers loading triaxle and quad-axle dump trucks and they wouldn't reach far enough for those big trucks. Melvin said he sent a message out and Benji and Andy replied right away and said that would help. Melvin said Saturday night him and Benji came in and removed the salt stuff and plow off the big truck. Melvin told the board that Benji and Andy spent 9- or 10-hours hauling debris. Jim said that was nice that we could help them. Melvin agreed and said the tornado could have hit us just as easily.

**Water –** Andy said the 8" main was done. Steve asked if it was down in the gravel area only and Andy said yes. Andy said that there is a new hydrant, new valve but they ran into a sewer line they had to fix, 2 tile ditches and a gas main that was supposed to be there then wasn't supposed to be then we found it there. They had to bring the vac truck in and go around the 4" gas main. Andy said they did a good job. He said that the town hauled in the sand and stone and were supposed to back fill, but they said that since they were there they would be just as quick. Andy said the price was super compared to the other two. Steve asked where they were hooked on, did it look good and Andy said, it was bad from the building to where it turned. Andy said that they found 4 \$500 clamps. He said that one section has cost us over \$30,000. Andy said it usually happened in the middle of the night and during the winter.

**Sewage –** 1. Andy said that we talked last month about the pump and about holding off on buying a spare. Andy said as soon as that decision was made the other pump quit and we are down to one. Andy told the board that maybe we should go ahead and buy a spare pump. Andy said right now we are getting a lot of rain and it's one bump. Jim said that we have always had a spare in the past in case something comes up. Stephen said that he thinks we need a spare, so he made a motion to buy a spare pump. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes. Andy told them that Marcy said we could use out ARPA money. Marcy told the board that she needed to make an additional appropriation for the ARPA money we didn't spend last year. The ARPA money must be spent or allocated by the end of this year. Marcy told them that there wasn't much left. Steve asked how much was left and Marcy said roughly \$39,000.

2. Andy said that they have roughly 11 yards to fix. He asked permission to rent a tiller because the backhoe is too big for most yards. Stephen asked if Andy was referring to a 48" tiller and Andy said yes. Stephen asked Andy if he would need to rent a tractor too and Andy said yes. Andy said he let the yards settle through the winter so now they should be ready. Stephen made a motion to rent a tiller. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

3. John Shellbarger turned in an invoice for \$1000 to repair his own yard. Andy said that John is charging that much for fixing his yard just inside the fence. Andy said that he doesn't know what John charged in the past for fixing yards for them and Marcy said that John has always charged \$200 per yard. Andy said the invoice caught him off guard. Andy said that he called Cobalt, and they hauled the dirt down to him, gave him the straw and everything else. Stephen said that we just talked about renting a tiller to do 11 yards and his yard could have been added to the list. Stephen asked why we would pay someone to fix something that we usually do. John said the original way it went was that Andy told him that he could put it all back and John said yes, and it is 330 ft long. He said that he started shoveling all the dirt and ran his tiller down through there 3 times. John also said, not to mention all the other stuff he had to deal with the sewer line having to pay to have it cleared out when it would be in

the main before it opened. He said that he felt it was a reasonable amount he was charging. Andy said the invoice has nothing to do with the main, it should only be a charge to fix his yard. Andy said to come to find out, it's John's line that is still messing up. Andy said we had a camera run last time there was a blockage and the main was all good, but John was still having problems. They said, John is getting a big blockage and then it blows out into the main. Andy told John that he told him that his line right at the main is all funky and curved. Andy said that John's line is what keeps plugging up and it isn't our problem. Andy told the board that it is up to them to pay the \$1000 but he feels it is too steep because they gave him the dirt and straw. Stephen asked if they hauled it in for him and Andy said yes. John said the dirt was left over and that it is junk because it has clay tile in it. Andy said that left it, it was the dirt left over from digging. Jim asked if it was all on John's property and Andy said yes. Jason asked if there was any agreement to pay a certain amount and what was supposed to be done beforehand? Andy said no. Jason asked what was said. Andy said we had to hurry and pay to have his fence put back up because he has a dog. After the fence was put back up, they couldn't get the equipment in the fence and Andy didn't think it would be a big deal to have John fix his own yard because he had fixed other yards for the town in the past. Cobalt wanted to fix the yard because they said that it was their job and name to fix all jobs. Stephen asked how much was inside the fence. Andy said about 75 feet. Stephen said it couldn't be fixed because he had to have the fence put back up right away. John asked what he was supposed to do with his dog. Stephen said that John wanted his fence up which prevented Cobalt from finishing the job. John said he was originally given the job of fixing his yard and that he had tilled other yards for the town. He said 25 feet, for \$200, so going 300 and some odd feet what was that worth. Stephen said, you just told us that your yard was about 75 feet. John said his property inside his fence is 75 feet but going a whole city block long where they replaced the sewer main. He said that he shoved all the dirt in, so when Cobalt Civil came, they didn't have to do hardly anything and that it was already all flattened out. Stephen asked if he was asked to do that. John said the day they started the job, yes that he was told by Andy in his backyard that he would put it all back and John told him he could. Andy told John that they were only talking about inside the fence. Andy said that it was in the bid for Cobalt to fix everything. Andy said that he talked to Joe about it and Joe said that if his fence was on the easement then John should have taken it down and put it back up. His fence shouldn't be on the easement at all. Andy said that the town paid to have the fence put back up. Marcy told the board that we paid \$580 for the fence to be reinstated. Stephen asked if Cobalt charged us that much and Marcy said no, it was another company. Andy said that it was John's guy who did it. John said that he had the guy do it who installed it originally. Marcy told them that she didn't know anything about it until she was handed an invoice. John said that Andy told him to get the fence put back up. Andy said that is something else he did wrong because he didn't think it would be that much to put a fence back up. Andy said that he learned a good lesson through this whole thing. Jason told the board not to look at him because there was no deal over price or project, so he had nothing to go from. Jason told the board, because there was no agreement then it is what they decide to do. Jim asked the other members what they thought. Jim asked if the invoice was for \$1000, and Stephen said yes. Jim asked if the \$1000 would take care of everything and Melvin said they had to ask John and John said it was all done. John said he believes that it was more than fair. Jason asked how many hours he worked on it. John said he didn't know. Jason asked if he worked all day, 8 hours. John said probably. Jason asked how much he made an hour normally. John said if he is on a machine he makes good money. Jason said that \$50 per hour is \$400. John said he makes more than that. Stephen made a motion to pay half of the invoice of \$500 and that we proceed with caution moving forward. Jim asked if John agreed. John said they had to do whatever they decide. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don Crose asked if he could make a comment and Jim said yes. Don said he doesn't know anyone, so he doesn't have anything in the game. He said that he works for a utility company and when they tear up a yard it isn't the resident's responsibility to get their yard back in order. Don said if there isn't an agreement then he could have charged \$10,000. Jason told Don that he doesn't believe he is correct. Don said he knew he was, but they didn't have to agree and that he was only making a statement. Stephen said we had an agreement with the contractor but because of the circumstances, they couldn't finish their job. Stephen said that yes, he could charge \$10,000 but that doesn't mean we would pay it. Jason told Don that we would not argue with him and that he was not involved. Don said that he was involved because he was a resident, and it could happen in his yard next week. John Halco told Andy that he would recommend having an agreement next time. Jason said that this is the first time he has heard about this, if the landowner doesn't want you on his property and he wants things done on his own schedule then that could be seen as his volunteering to do the work as well. Jason said in that case it could be zero and he thinks it could be argued either way. Don said that there are all kinds of ways to look at it. Jason agreed and said that the board is trying to do what is fair. Jason said we don't want to spend an hour arguing over this. Stephen said that he made a motion, and it was seconded. Steve asked, all in favor. All Ayes. Marcy asked if she could have permission to pay tomorrow. The board said yes.

**Claims Docket for April 2, 2024 - \$161,351.87** – 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.

**Internal Controls** – Marcy explained that she was in class last month and she put together a lean internal control for the office. She would like to have it approved and signed. Stephen said that he read over it and would make a motion to approve and sign. Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Ayes.

**Citizens Comments** – Steve asked if anyone had any comments.

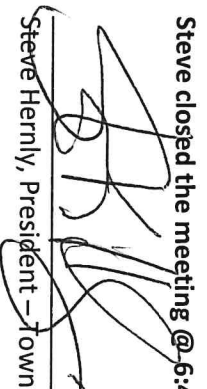
Don Crose asked if the town had a tornado siren. Jim told him that we do and that it is the fire siren. He said, "then it's no different than the fire department siren. Jim said yes, it's a solid siren instead of going on and off. Melvin told him it is 1 minute on and 1 minute off. Don wondered if the rest of the community knew that. Melvin told him he was the first to ask since they sounded it. Don said he is also one of the few people in this town that is sitting in a meeting. He said maybe he cares a little more. Melvin said he pushed the button that night. Don asked if there was a standard for tornado alarms like a certain decibel. Melvin said not that he was aware of. He said every town and every city is different. Melvin said our county has nothing. Don wondered how much we thought about our community. He said shouldn't our community have a loud signal telling people to take cover. Melvin told him we do, it's the fire siren. Stephen said you can hear it a couple miles out of town. Melvin said he hears it at his house and sometimes you can hear it far away and sometimes you can't. He said it depends on which way the wind is blowing. Don said where he lives with the noise of the storm, there wasn't a siren. Melvin told him that he knew where he lived, and he would debate that. Stephen said in the middle of the night at 408 South Mulberry, it will wake him up. Melvin explained to Don that a fire siren would go up and down. He said it goes up, it shuts off and then goes back up. A tornado will be a constant siren the whole time.

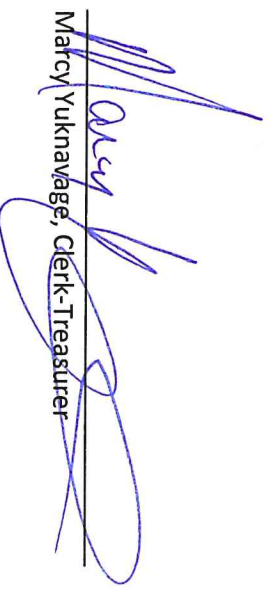
Ceann Bales introduced herself and said she was running for County Commissioner, and she came to invite everyone to a meet and greet she will be having on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the HFUSA Community Center. She passed out flyers. She was the CEO of Randolph County United tourism chambers and economics office of Randolph County. She would like to chat about her ideas and why she is running. She also wanted to share that she is on the long-term recovery committee for the tornado. She is chairing the fund-raising portion of it. She will be around to keep people updated and they are concerned if we don't get FEMA what it will look like. They have their first steering committee meeting on Friday and several sub committees will be meeting.

Stephen Conner received an email yesterday from Tonya Williams that our application for the grant was approved and we will receive \$2,105.20. This grant is for 2 park benches made of recycled material. Marcy said she also talked to Vern about getting her a quote for the walking path to be paved. Stephen said Tonya will bring the check sometime on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Stephen said he had the quote for the benches. Marcy asked where the company was and Stephen said Manchester, Connecticut. Marcy asked for the information so she could have everything in order. Stephen said once we get the check then the order can be placed. Stephen said the order has not been placed that he only has the quote. He said he looked at several companies to meet the specifications of the grant. Chris said the veterans park also were purchased through the recycled grant. Stephen said that we will need the guys to pour a concrete pad to put the benches on. Andy said that they can do that when they do the next well house. Steve asked when they would be starting that, and Andy said as soon as they got caught up.

**Steve asked if there were any more comments. No Comments.**

**Steve closed the meeting @ 6:44 pm.**

  
Steve Hernly, President – Town Board

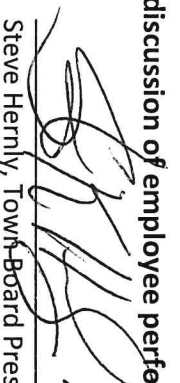
  
Marcy Yuknavage, Clerk-Treasurer

**April 9, 2024**

**Executive Meeting**

The Farmland Town Council met on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the council room at 104 E Henry Street for an Executive Session to discuss employee performance. Those present were Steve Hernly, Jim Main, Stephen Conner, Melvin Nott, and Marcy Yuknavage.

**The Farmland Town Council certifies that discussion of employee performance was the only topic discussed.**

  
Steve Hernly, Town-Board President

  
Jim Main, Town Board Member

  
Stephen Conner, Town Board Member

  
Marcy Yuknavage, Clerk-Treasurer