

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Tracy Salin, Clerk/Treasurer

Supervisors: Lee Branville, Heidi Coldagelli, Dave Ochis, Richard Sather
Anthony Tammaro, Chairman
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD

July 7, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Fayal Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Tammaro. Present were: Chairman Tammaro, Supervisor Branville, Supervisor Ochis, Supervisor Sather, and Clerk Salin. Supervisor Coldagelli was absent.

Audience members in attendance were Denny and Becky Bone, Jerry Ulman, Scott Smith, and Emily Major. Steve Shykes arrived at 7:30.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2015, made by Supervisor Ochis, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

Denny and Becky Bone reported they came to listen in on the sewer suspension update based on a note they received in their utility bill.

Ed Vest asked when the shredding will come again as he has a lot of paper to shred. Clerk Salin advised him to talk with Diane Dickson.

REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer's Report--

The month of June 2015, bank statements have not been received yet so this report is tentative. Revenues for the month totaled \$63,888.06 and expenditures were \$76,827.06. Tentative balances are:

Miners Bank - \$615,954.98
Assessment Savings - \$451,639.23
Mountain Iron Checking - \$159,015.65

The Tax Apportionment payment came today also.

Motion made to approve the clerk treasurer's report made by Supervisor Branville with support from supervisor Sather. Motion Carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the June, 2015 Road and Bridge report made by Supervisor Ochis with support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Branville brought up the June police report from Eveleth Police. Chairman Tammaro stated the report is really well done and there was a lot of police work done in the township in the month of June. Chairman Tammaro reported the Eveleth Police do use the Fayal police car, but also use their own. Clerk Salin stated Chief Lindy made a remark that the Eveleth police do enjoy patrolling the fayal township area.

Motion to accept the June, 2015 Police Report made by Supervisor Sather with support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mn DNR - The DNR sent notice the aquaduct between St. Marys and Ely Lake was opened on June 25, 2015 and closed again on June 29, 2015.

The St Louis County Volunteer Sheriff's Rescue - The Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad is looking for donations.

St Louis County Planning and Community Development - St Louis County has amended the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan at their regular meeting on June 24, 2015. It will be in effect until August 26, 2020. The Plan can be found on the St Louis County website.

Representative Nolan - Rep. Nolan sent a letter stating he spoke with Eveleth City Councilor Brad Hadrava regarding a potential consolidated fire department between Eveleth, Fayal, and Gilbert. Rep. Nolan has instructed the Field & Constituent Services Representative Enid Swaggert to help Eveleth, Fayal and Gilbert explore options to possibly use federal dollars towards creating a mutual fire department.

Minerals Tax Office - The Taconite municipal Aid distribution of 2014 for Fayal will be received on September 15, 2015 in the amount of \$37,648.00.

MIN board of Peace Officer Standards & Training- The Board sent notice that Harvey Thompson no longer holds a valid peace officer license. They are aware he has retired. Should Fayal decide to discontinue the police department, the Post Board will be available to help with the process.

Eveleth Area Community Foundation - The deadline to apply for grants is Aug 1st. The deadline for inquiries is two weeks prior to August 1st. Supervisor Branville stated he will look into applying for funds to create a pickle ball court. Denny Bone asked if the board would look into improving the St. Mary's lake access across the from Ely Lake Short Stop. He asked if the board would speak to the DNR regarding improving the access as it is very difficult to get in and out of, but is used frequently.

OLD BUSINESS

Gas line- Project is ongoing at this time per Supervisor Sather. Chairman Tammaro stated the gas line looks like it is moving close to Woodlawn Drive East. Chairman Tammaro asked Supervisor Ochis to talk to the gas company about the ongoing work and how it will affect the Woodlawn Drive East road project.

Woodlawn Drive East- Emily Major reported the Woodlawn Drive East project is also moving along well. Milling machines and crew will be in working on July 8th. As long as weather is good the project should be done. Chairman Tammaro added there were a few complications due to residents not being notified of the road work and moving of mailboxes but that has been dealt with and corrected. Ms. Major stated the inconvenience of road access should be minimal due to the project moving along fairly quickly.

SCADA- Emily Major from SEH reported she did not have an update on the SCADA due to changes which were made. Chairman Tammaro stated there is a change order coming because the 20 foot masts were not originally ordered to be placed in concrete and they will need to be. Chairman Tammaro stated the SCADA project is going well and should be done by October.

Deputy Clerk - Supervisor Branville requested Clerk Salin appoint a Deputy Clerk by the end of July. Clerk Salin stated she would like to wait until the Office Manager position is filled. Chairman Tammaro stated the Office Manager position should be filled by the end of the month. Clerk Salin stated she will take suggestions for a Deputy Clerk and look into appointing someone.

NEW BUSINESS

Office Manager Hiring- Supervisor Branville stated there were 12 applications received. They used a scoring system to review the applications and only four met the score of 60. Those four applicants will be interviewed on Thursday July 9, 2015. The hiring committee will make a recommendation to the board on a hire. Supervisor Branville pointed out Clerk Salin is one of the applicants as well as Supervisor Coldagelli.

Road Improvement Assessment - Supervisor Ochis reported he met with Chairman Tammaro, Al Jurenic and Joe Zavodnik regarding the creation of a road assessment for future road improvements as funds are no longer available for road projects. Supervisor Ochis added the Woodlawn Drive East project will likely be the last road project done without road improvement assessments.

Township Lawn Mower - Supervisor Branville reported Al Jurenic received quotes for a new lawn mower for the township as the current lawn mower is breaking down and costing quit a bit of money. One quote is from Grandes Hardware for a Toro zero turn lawn mower for \$9,618.12. The Second quote is from Five Season's Sports for a John Deere zero turn lawn mower for \$9037.00. Supervisor Branville recommended someone make a motion to purchase one. Supervisor Branville stated the John Deer can be available in two to three weeks from purchase.

Motion to purchase a John Deer Zero Turn lawn mower from Five Season Sports for \$9,037.00 using capital equipment funds made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Ochis. Supervisor Branville abstained. Motion carried.

Supervisor Sather reported the sewer late fee percentage will likely be increased, however the amount of increase has not been determined yet. Supervisor Sather stated the PUC has looked at the possibility of shutting off sewer access also. Chairman Tammaro stated the board has found they cannot do this as there are too many environmental risks which could arise. Chairman Tammaro reported the late fee interest rate can be increased to 10% or even up to 24% however this will not affect customers who pay their bill regularly. He added the possibility of claiming assets of those will have a significantly large balance due is also being explored. There will be more information at a later date.

Fire Department Co-op - Chairman Tammaro reported the co-op idea is moving along. He stated Eveleth and Gilbert have passed or are in the process of passing a motion to participate in a cooperative venture. Eveleth will be working on a grant for this project per Chairman Tammaro. Chairman Tammaro commented this will be a long process and will not happen for a few years.

Corrective Tax Statement Clark Salin reported there was a report on an overpayment on parcel 340-0010-01182 due to the removal of a special assessment on June 19th, 2015. This will be refunded. Chairman Tammaro stated this will be something to keep track of to ensure the overpayment is refunded.

Billing Clerk Step Pay - Chairman Tammaro reported the Billing Clerk has asked for step pay due to extra responsibilities she has taken on during the time the Office Manager position is vacant. Chairman Tammaro stated he is aware she is answering extra phone calls and opening the mail. Clerk Salin reported the Billing Clerk has been very helpful to her with fielding phone calls, sorting mail and bills for her, helping with assessments, and various other tasks. Clerk Salin added the Billing Clerk is not performing payment of bills, payroll, or other accounting duties. Supervisor Branville stated he feels that while the town office is in transition without an Office Manager, he would like to see teamwork. Chairman Tammaro stated the Office Manager position has been vacant for three to four weeks and will be filled within the month hopefully. Supervisor Ochis felt the type of extra tasks should not take the 3 to 4 hours the Billing Clerk had mentioned it takes. Supervisor Sather confirmed this was her complaint. Chairman Tammaro stated the mail can sit until Clerk Salin comes in to sort it out. Chairman Tammaro stated the Billing Clerk can also file a grievance with the union if she wishes. Supervisor Branville recommended the Billing Clerk answer phones and leave the mail.

Motion to deny step pay for the Billing Clerk made by Supervisor Branville with support from Supervisor Ochis. Motion carried unanimously.

Master Subscriber Agreement for MN Court Data Services - Clerk Salin reported there is an agreement from Kearney Law office to sign so that they can use the Court Data Services to access information on fines given in Fayal Township. Chairman Tammaro stated he will sign it and that should fall under the motion to approve Kearney Law which was already approved.

St Louis County Rescue Sheriff Donation - The board discussed the importance of the Rescue Sheriff and a donation amount.

Motion to donate \$100.00 to the St. Louis County Rescue Sheriff made by Supervisor Branville, with support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro asked the board if they would like to hire an office assistant to work in the office. Supervisor Branville commented they should wait until a Deputy Clerk is appointed. Clerk Salin reported there is a lot of filing that needs to be done and no time to do it. Denny Bone asked if the board should wait to see if the Billing Clerk will file a grievance. Chairman Tammaro stated the board will not wait due to the length of the process of filing a grievance if the Billing Clerk decides to do so. Supervisor Branville advised Clerk Salin to contact a temp agency or look for a casual worker to come and work in the office. Clerk Salin reported she was told Sharon Stimac had asked the Billing Clerk if help would be needed in the office. Supervisor Ochis stated he thinks Mrs. Stimac would be a great option as she has worked in government before and she lives within the township.

Chairman Tammaro reported he received an e-mail on Lee Altman who was given a year pardon of not having to pay his sewer bill due to a fire which destroyed his property a year and a half ago. He is asking for an extension to this pardon. Chairman Tammaro referred this to the PUC to discuss.

Chairman Tammaro pointed out there was an error in the payroll due to the system crashing so a notation was made so the board can approve payroll.

Steve Shykes reported the fire department is requesting the Fayal town board to approve the purchase of a 2,000 gallon water tender. Mr Shykes stated this is important to help ensure an adequate water supply will be available to fight fires and help the township maintain it's current ISO rating.


Mr. Shykes added a purchase of a new truck will ensure the service provided by the Fayal fire department will not be compromised. Chairman Tammaro stated he cannot support the purchase of a fire truck at this time. Supervisor Branville added he would like to point out it is not an option at this time but he would like to continue researching options to purchase fire trucks in the future, including purchasing used trucks. Mr Shykes stated there are no used fire trucks to be found. Mr Shykes added a new tender would cost about \$250,000 to \$275,000. Supervisor Branville stated he thinks there should be a fire truck to purchase somewhere and he would like that to continue to be researched. Mr Shykes pointed out the ISO rating will be affected due to not having the water capacity the fire department has maintained in the past. Mr Denny asked if there will be funds to purchase trucks with the co-op. Chairman Tammaro stated the fire department co-op will take a few years to put in place so it will not help the fire department's issue at the current time.

***Motion to pay the bills made by Supervisor Branville with support from Supervisor Ochis.
Motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 08:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Tracy M. Salin
Clerk of Fayal


Chair

Approved:

Date: 7-21-15

Attest:


Clerk