

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Judy M. Sersha, Clerk/Treasurer

Anthony Tamaro, Chairman

Supervisors: James Pernu, Lee Branville, Mike Erjavec, Heidi Coldagelli

PHONE (218)744-2878

FAX (218) 744-5986

INFORMATIONAL MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD

FEBRUARY 19, 2013

PURPOSE: Take public comment regarding the proposed changes in the Animal Ordinance.

The Informal Meeting of the Fayal Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Tamaro. Present were: Chairman Tamaro, Supervisor Erjavec, Supervisor Branville, Supervisor Pernu, Supervisor Coldagelli and Billing Clerk Dickson. Absent- Clerk Sersha.

Audience members in attendance were: Therese Elverum, Dewey Rudolph, Scott Smith, Sandy Bruce, Danielle Larson, Chad Larson, Kelly Sather, Patrick Ziegler, Paul Prout, Scott Wudinich, Linda Dawson, Ejay Dawson, Sara Drobnick, Butch Bateson, Sharon Holbeck, Steve Salzer, Lois Robillard, Larry Rude.

Supervisor Branville stated there has been action to change the dog ordinance. It currently states if you are off your property, your animal must be under your control, with voice command, not tethered to a leash. The ordinance is on the web page. Animals cannot be running at large. Citizens do report nuisance dogs and our officer will pick them up. The proposed ordinance states if you are off your property the voice command will be removed and the animal has to be on a leash. We are in a rural area, it will be a problem for some who have not been using a leash. The other change will be, changing from a misdemeanor which requires you to court, to a petty misdemeanor, you can just pay the ticket.

Supervisor Coldagelli read, "Definitions #9, Leash- is a handheld device, 20' or less in length, which can be used to restrain an animal or if the owner or responsible party is ordered by a law enforcement officer to leash the animal and at all times when this ordinance requires animals to be leashed." Must have the leash with you.

Chairman Tamaro states if your dog is running all over your going to get a ticket, if your walking by and a dog comes at you off of his property, then it is at large. Branville asks if he is walking from his house to Ely Lake Dr and his dog is close to him but not on a leash, but have a leash in my pocket and the dog is under control doesn't go after cars, in peoples yards, it is not a nuisance. Tamaro says he talked to Chief Thompson and said he would not ticket as long as it is under control and not nuisance and have a leash in your pocket.

Supervisor Branville has another issue with the ordinance, only the township officer is able to issue tickets, St. Louis County will not enforce Township ordinances.

Comments were heard both in favor of the changes and against the proposed changes to the dog ordinance. Several citizens feel there is no need to have a leash law, there is already a dog ordinance on the books. Several citizens feel it would be safer for the Township to have a leash law.

Scott Wudinich- Who is in charge of Cedar Island Dr.?

Ejay Dawson- Lived in Fayal my whole life, why do we have to have a leash law. We have an ordinance already.

Sandy Bruce- Has never had a problem.

Sara Drobnick- What do you do if Harvey is not on call? Who's interpretation do you use?

Lois Robillard- She owned a dog for 12 years and always puts her dog on a leash, she is a runner, she has been bitten 3 times. She has talked to the owners of the dogs, everyone thinks their dog won't bite anyone. And she is over reacting. She will report all incidents from now on. She believes a leash law is good thing.

Larry Rude- 4 years ago his neighbors dogs killed a 12 year old poodle next door. A week later his wife was walking his small dog and a German Shepard came after them, she picked up her dog and was knocked to the ground. She is terrified, she carries mace going to the mailbox. They built a 6' fence around their 3 acre yard for \$12,000 to keep his dogs safe. Dogs are running in the neighborhood all the time. People need consequences for enforcement to work.

Supervisor Coldagelli stated we are not changing the dog at large other than must use a leash. She personally keeps her dog on a leash when she walks, but has encountered problems with dogs not on a leash coming at her dog, who doesn't like other dogs.

Kelly Sather- My dog hates other dogs she keeps him on a leash. She has not had any trouble with unleashed dogs.

Paul Prout- Is there an at large dog ordinance, why add a law that you are having trouble enforcing.

Chad Larson- #6 is confusing still have an at large definition of off the property and not on a leash. #9 saying you just have to have the leash with you. Chairman Tammaro says there is no voice control. He questions it is still under voice control if you have the leash with you.

Kelly Sather- feels that makes a gray area, and we should make sure gray areas are removed.

Scott Wudinich- Bear and Deer make my dog bolt out of the yard. Bateson is concerned about his dog could be killed. I'm guilty I deserved 2 tickets, not 5 but more laws make more trouble.

Steve Salzer- His dog was attacked while walking his dog.

Supervisor Coldagelli states put your dog on a leash or carry a leash with you. The roads are so busy its safer.

Supervisor Tammaro read the Mesabi Trail ordinance which states if you are on the bike trail you must have your animal on a 6' leash. We are doing the same thing.

Butch Bateson- He's been here 40 years he stopped biking and walking years ago because they were attacked by dogs all the time. He knows a person who had to have rabies shots because he was bitten and the dog couldn't be found. He has a small yorkie and is afraid it will get killed by a bigger dog coming into his yard, and getting tangled with his dog. He has set up a trail cam and has photos of a collie. He is in favor of the leash law. My neighbors are 100' away we are not rural, I don't want dogs in my yard.

Chairman Tammaro states 30 minutes are up, the board will take citizen input into consideration we are going to table this. Work on clarification. Have Chief Thompson attend if need be.

Danielle Larson- There should be clarification on the definition of if I can have my dog on a leash or in my pocket.

Chairman Tammaro states we will have another meeting if need be.

Meeting adjourned 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Dickson
Billing Clerk
Fayal Township

Approved: _____
Chair

Date: _____

Attest: _____
Clerk