

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Judy M. Sersha, Clerk/Treasurer

Steven J. Kniefel, Chairman

Supervisors: Tony Tamaro, James Pernu, Ron Beldo, Lee Branville

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD

MARCH 1, 2005

The Regular Meeting of the Fayal Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Kniefel. Present were: Chairman Kniefel, Supervisor Beldo, Supervisor Branville, Supervisor Pernu, Supervisor Tamaro and Clerk Sersha.

Audience members in attendance were Amy Brazerole, Kathryn Erjavec, Mike Erjavec and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2005 Regular Meeting made by Supervisor Beldo, support from Supervisor Pernu. Supervisor Tamaro abstained, due to his absence from that meeting. Motion carried.

SCHEDULED GUESTS

Dave Sipila of the St. Louis County Assessor's Office was in attendance to report on the township's valuation. Based upon sales of the last year, Fayal's median sales ratio is at 84 percent, and state law requires we be valued between 90 and 105 percent. Year-round lake homes, off lake suburban and off lake rural are within that valuation, with the lower quality lake cabins being undervalued. Mr. Sipila reported on several ways the correct valuation could be obtained, but stated the real solution is for a re-appraisal of the entire township. Reappraisal used to be required every four years, but this law has changed to once every five years. Mr. Sipila stated that it is unknown at this time if the town would be reappraised in 2005, or if it would be done in 2006, due to the county's workload. Mr. Sipila reminded the Board that the Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held May 4, from 1-.3 PM.

REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer's Report- For the month of February 2005, there were \$41,123.94 in receipts, and \$49,836.71 in expenditures. Tentative ending balances for the month are as follows:

Mt. Iron Checking- \$734,298.60

Miners Checking- \$77,698.61

Assessment Savings- \$526,167.50

Taconite Production Tax in the amount of \$25,106.00 was received and deposited today

Gary Giroux called last week and reported that the 2004 audit will not be ready for the Annual Meeting, due to difficulties with the software for the fixed assets and GASB reports. They will try to forward a draft to us to present at the Annual Meeting. Sersha states that state law requires the clerk to post the audit one half hour before the Annual Meeting. Short discussion. A notice will be posted when the finished product arrives and interested persons can come to the clerk's office to study the audit.

Clerk Sersha stated the Mining Effects tax report is due. Referred to New Business.

Motion to approve the Clerk/Treasurer's Report made by Supervisor Tammaro, support from Supervisor Beldo. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the February 2005 Police Report made by Chairman Kniefel, support from Supervisor Pernu. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the minutes of the Airport Zoning Committee meeting made by Chairman Kniefel, support from Supervisor Beldo. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Excel Business Systems- Quote for digital copier. List price is \$9,275.00, with government discount of \$4,943.00, plus trade in of old copier, they have quoted \$3,832.00. Referred to Old Business.

SLCATO- Regular meeting minutes of Jan. 26, 2005. Next meeting is Feb. 23, 2005, 7:30 PM, Cotton Community Center, speaker will be SLC Assessor's Dept. Placed on file.

MN DOT- Response letter to Chairman Kniefel for several comments and requests regarding the road sign plan. They will change the East Long Lake sign to Long Lake Road this summer, at no cost. To install two Pine Drive signs, the cost is \$1,882.12. Township name signs are no longer installed by MN DOT. Referred to New Business.

Banyon Data Systems- User group conference will be May 5. Cost is \$70 per session. Placed on file.

League of MN Cities- Safety and Loss Control Workshop will be April 19, Giants Ridge. Placed on file.

The Message Program- Thank you for donations of fire equipment. The items were donated to Guatemala. Placed on file.

SLC Solid Waste Dept- They have begun a pilot backyard compost bin distribution program. You can purchase a compost bin for \$15 and participate in the program. Posted, placed on file.

Kristy McCullough of MAT has procured a police liability policy from USG Insurance Services at a cost of \$1206.50. Cost last year from Northland was \$1359.60, and they are no longer providing this type of insurance. Placed on file.

SLC Recorder- Recorded easements from Mike & Debra Erjavec, Charles and Frank Erjavec and Louis & Karen Petrich. Copies sent to property owners, originals placed on file.

MAT- Minutes of the Legislative and Research Committee Meetings, held Feb. 16-17-, 2005. Placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Beldo-

Legislative & Research Committee- Beldo reported he attended the meetings in St. Paul on February 16 & 17 and found them very interesting and informative.

SLCATO- Beldo attended the last meeting and reported the ARDC gave a presentation. Birdwatching has become a big draw for tourists in the area.

Loader- The equipment replacement plan, which was implemented in past years, calls for the replacement of the loader in 2005. Beldo stated he would like to have the R & B department begin developing specifications for the purchase. Discussion on paying for the purchase. The Board agrees, specs should be developed and we should stick with the plan for equipment replacement.

Supervisor Branville-

Board of Appeal- Branville reports he attended the Board of Appeal and Equalization training held in Virginia recently. The training was very educational and well attended.

Air Exchanger- Branville questioned if there has been any follow up on costs for running the unit. Supervisor Pernu states he has the manual and will be talking with the engineer that designed it.

Supervisor Pernu-

Board of Appeal- Pernu reported he also attended the training in Virginia.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Supervisor Tamaro-

Conflict of Interest Policy- Tamaro states he thinks the policy is being taken too literally by the employees, regarding use of the garage and tools. Tamaro states there are times when an employee may need to use something, or thaw their car in the garage and by doing so, there is no personal gain. Discussion. Tamaro states he will bring a revised policy to the next meeting.

Chairman Kniefel-

Commission Vacancies- Kniefel states there are two vacancies on the Planning Committee. Recently, Kathryn Erjavec expressed an interest in filling one of the positions.

Motion to appoint Kathryn Erjavec to a three year term on the Planning Committee, made by Chairman Kniefel, support from Supervisor Beldo. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Tamaro stated there will be a vacancy on the PUC in April, due to Kelly Campbell filling out his term. Tamaro states the issue will be discussed at their next meeting, and they have a list of interested persons. Tamaro requests posting for the Joint Cable TV to fill his spot.

RLK Litigation- A mediation session has been scheduled in Duluth with mediator Jerry Brown, on April 8. Kniefel, Tamaro and Sersha to attend.

Copy Machine- Discussion on the quote from Excel, and whether or not we should keep the old copy machine for the fire department. The old machine is nine years old, and a service contract would have to be paid monthly because repairs would be expensive. Consensus is not to keep the old copy machine, but to trade it, per the quote. Sersha states the quote is based on government pricing and we would be obtaining the copier at a big discount.

Motion to buy a new copier, per the quote from Excel Business Systems made by Supervisor Tamaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on the road improvement schedule from the 2002 Fayal Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Kniefel distributed copies to the board, along with bituminous projects to be done by St. Louis County in the years 2005-2010. Kniefel states we should look at piggybacking our projects with the county. Discussion. Beldo will discuss with the Road & Bridge department.

Supervisor Tammaro requested that Supervisor Beldo discuss with the Road & Bridge Department coordinating with Dale to create permanent entrances to some of the lift stations.

Supervisor Pernu reported he attended the Planning Committee Meeting to inform them of the playground plans. Pernu reports a 100 by 70 foot playground is being planned, with plans for expansion. Pernu, along with Albert Jurenic and Jack Lalli of the Planning Committee, will be meeting with a playground equipment distributor on Wednesday, so more should be known at that time as to the type of equipment and its placement. Pernu reported the Planning Committee discussed areas for placement of the playground, and the consensus is to keep it in the area of the tennis courts. Some trees may have to be removed.

Chairman Kniefel reported that the Planning Committee is seeking Request for Proposals from planning consultants. The Committee is requesting ideas for a long range plan for the town complex site, and to identify future expansion areas. The project is expected to cost \$3 - 4,000.

Chairman Kniefel reported he spoke with Roger Nelson of the DNR. Rasmusson Logging was the successful bidder for the timber sale, to be held in conjunction with properties owned by Eveleth and located in Fayal. Trees we would like taken down will have to be marked, and Nelson will assist with that.

No action was taken on the MN DOT offer to place two Pine Drive signs along Hwy. 53 at a cost of \$1,882.12.

Chairman Kniefel informed the Board he was contacted by a consultant working on the site plan for the Wellstone Memorial. The site plan, at this time, is about 75 percent complete. Plans involve paving the horseshoe type drive, establishing walking paths, installing information kiosks, and over the wetland portion, installing deck observation platforms. Kniefel requested a copy of the site plan be sent to the township upon its completion.

Supervisor Pernu reported the playground grant budget was completed and sent in along with the signed agreement. We are awaiting signature by the county board for grant finalization.

Fire Chief Steve Shykes reported on the FEMA grant awarded to the Fayal Fire Department in the amount of \$136,800. The grant application was submitted in the amount of \$152,000, on a 90 - 10 basis, with the township paying \$15,200. A committee of fire fighters has been formed to spec a fire truck and make a recommendation to the town board.

CITIZEN CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Kathryn Erjavec was in attendance and thanked the board for her appointment to the Planning Committee

Amy Brazerole was in attendance but had no comment.

Mike Erjavec was in attendance but had no comment.

Steve Shykes was in attendance but had no further comments.

***Motion to pay the bills made by Supervisor Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville.
Motion carried unanimously.***

Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Tammaro.

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____
Chair

Attest: _____
Clerk

Judy M. Sersha
Clerk of Fayal