

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2004 7:00 P.M.
FAYAL TOWN HALL**

Commissioner Zlimen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL present were: M. Erjavec, Zlimen, Campbell, Kingston, Damberg, & Aultman. Town Board Chairman Kniefel, Supervisors Tammaro, & Erjavec. W/WWO Dickson and recording secretary Stewart. Absent -Bertucci was excused

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- **Motion by Damberg to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 9, 2003 second by Erjavec. Unanimously approved. Motion Carried.**
- **Motion by Kingston to approve the Public Hearing minutes of December 9, 2003 for Peter Kerzie variance, second by Erjavec. Unanimously approved. Motion Carried.**

GUEST

Tim Wedin from LHB engineering reviews the January 2004 Wastewater System Feasibility study, project #3662.30. Brief overview of the most feasible option a Stabilization Pond Alt #1, at US Steel property in sec. 8 West of HWY 53. Lengthy discussion re: the reasons and more questions were brought up. Mr. Wedin would utilize L.S. A-1 to bring the effluent back along Cedar Island Dr. via 8" force main. The entire watershed ends up in the St. Louis River. Possible limitations would be imposed to reduce the phosphorus, which would increase the costs. PUC voices concern with the discharge location. A pond would require a 6' chain link fence and it would need to be kept mowed weekly, exercise the valves occasionally and change the #1 pond. This would require one person approximately 2-4 hours per day. The sludge would be dredged anywhere from 10-20 years out, and the ponds are pumped down 2x a year. Campbell requests figures showing only the additional costs for the operation of the ponds. Chairman Kniefel asks what kind of funding sources are available and what are we going to use to show need to get enough points on the IUP to get in the fundable range. Mr. Wedin is not sure. He also notes the MPCA may make us do an environmental impact study. The PUC feels this would be a hard sell. Campbell feels the option at sec. 11 would be the best option even if we pay for wetland mitigation. The PUC thanks Mr. Wedin for his time. PUC has many questions to be answered before they make a recommendation.

CORRESPONDENCE

1-12-04 Letter from Dept. of Army Corps of Engineers re: Section 569 Northeast Minnesota Environmental Assistance Program. Fiscal year 2004 only \$500,000. They are hopeful the program will be funded in Fiscal 2005; please provide updated application by July 31, 2004.

WATER/WASTE WATER REPORT

- Scada system- data fails: W/WWO Dickson has contacted US Filter re: problems. They are a worldwide company that specialize in radio problems. They will be sending someone to come and review our system for no charge.
- Contactors repair/replacement: Estimates have been requested by several electrical contractors, no response to date.
- Maintenance: Campbell states it is imperative to keep up on all of the maintenance so we don't end up like some of the cities around us.

SEWER

Draft of the Variance stipulations was reviewed. The owners will sign and return as part of the sewer variance process.

- **Motion by Campbell to accept the Variance Stipulations as proposed, second by Damberg. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.**

WATER

Minnesota Dept. of Health was on site today to test Fayal Township's water. Results of the chlorine test were good.

TREASURER

Campbell reports on the comparison between the 2002 Walker, Giroux, and Hahne projected rates and the preliminary review of the enterprise funds provided by the Town Clerk. (see attached) Campbell feels the FWC & FSC will not have to increase rates. Tammaro questions if the depreciation was taken out for the year of 2002. They believe it has not been taken out to date. Seasonal rate was brought up, Supervisor Erjavec stated we should increase the residential customers rate so the seasonal customers can get a reduction. This has been reviewed in October with no action taken.

CABLE

Campbell states his bill is \$93 for cable, compared to his sewer bill of \$34.

Supervisor Erjavec states the joint cable commission could use a couple of members from Fayal Township. The cable commission meets the first Thursday of each month.

GAS

Nothing to report.

STREET LIGHTS

Nothing to report.

FYI

The next PUC meeting will be Feb 10th 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

- **Motion to adjourn the meeting by Damberg, second by Campbell. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Stewart
PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk