

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FAYAL TOWN HALL**

September 8, 2015 7:00 pm

Greg Buckley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL Present were, Cal Turner, Greg Buckley and Chris Erickson. Donna O'Connor and Dennis Pernu were absent. Also present, recording secretary Diane Dickson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2015 made by Turner, second by Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

August 2015 Water Wastewater Report. Ask Dale to check the difference in our pump reports. Delinquency Report as of 8/25/2015 \$46,154. It is up by \$2,000.

Chris has 2 questions for Scott Neff if we can charge the legal costs back to the customer if we took them to court. It's not in our service agreement but it does say you will follow the ordinance and it is in the ordinance. And once we certify with the county the act of certifying makes it a lien against the property. Because we already leveed a lien, is it double jeopardy to take them to court. He is waiting to hear back from Neff. Our ordinance says as alternative to leveeing a lien the Town may file suit. Is that either or. We received a \$664 bill from Scott Neff for this project. The league of MN attorney said that a Certification fee would be reasonable. Diane talked to four cities and they all charge a certification fee. So it is reasonable.

Our original ordinance called for 10% late and 10% every month after. Although it was changed to the 10% per year on the late. So we would be going back to the original. Greg feels keep the \$1 increase for 2016.

7:15 Chairman Tammaro arrives

If the PUC changes the fee schedule it is by resolution. Cal asks if it needs 2 readings. Scott Neff has not answered the emails. Commercial is one and half times more.

- **Motion to amend the Sewer fee schedule by Erickson to impose a \$200 certification fee. Effective next certification in December. Increase the residential sewer rate by \$1 and the commercial rate by \$1.50. Effective December calculation 2015, so the new rate is due the January 2016 billing. Change the penalty charge to 10% current plus 10% per month on past due amounts not certified with the county. Support by Turner. Motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

SCADA- week of the September 14th TPC will be changing over the SCADA system. The towers should be put up Thursday thru Monday. They told us the system would not be down. That was wrong. So we will be down for the week of installation.

Heidi did a request from the IRRRB for the first pay request for \$50,000. We do have the WIF replacement funds for the project, we just needed the permission from the PFA to use it.

Delinquency disconnects- nothing else

NEW BUSINESS

Banyon Certification Module- Diane talked to 4 cities that have been using it. They all said it worked well. You only use it one time a year. You have the ability to make adjustments. So, when we certify the amounts the customer's bill goes back to zero. We create an account on the fund receivable side and it will be tracked there not in the billing side. Diane will do an adjustment for each year it was certified so we have a record for Patty Sabie. The program makes the letter to send out prior to certification. So, the delinquent is only tracked by the county. They have to pay the newest first.

Diane talked to Banyon and they suggest we have training in the fund and payroll. It is \$200 a day, one day for fund and one day for payroll. Tony asks about the Babbitt clerk Heidi has not talked with her. We will save a lot of time by being properly trained. \$400 plus mileage, hotel and meals. It is very short notice but this Thursday and Friday. Chairman Tammaro says he can approve that amount.

- **Motion to authorize Banyon training for Heidi and Diane by Turner, support by Erickson. Motion Carried unanimously.**
- **Motion to purchase the Banyon Certification module by Erickson, support by Turner. Motion carried unanimously.**

Gilbert pumping water into sewer- Dale found City of Gilbert pumping water from the slime ponds into the Gilbert sewage lift station, which goes directly into Fayal's line and lift station. Gilbert had an overflow which trigger the Duty officer and the MPCA. But the MPCA doesn't want any runoff water into the sewer systems. According to our ordinance, it is not allowed, no surface water, run off water, and also there is a PH limits. Dale told Gilbert to stop pumping and they did. Ochis said Gilbert used to hire a truck to come and pump and remove the water before. Fayal needs to send a letter just to document the event. Review the contract and ordinance. Chris will draft a letter and send it to Greg and Tony.

Chairman Tammaro talked with Mayor Kutsi and Mayor Robert Vlasisavljevich will be calling, they are possibly looking at a sewer district. Gilbert doing nothing with their plant and everything going to Eveleth. They may be talking about a water district too.

TREASURER REPORT

We are spending a little more than we are taking in. Chris feels it is going along as planned. Heidi is still trying to come up with a report for us.

CABLE

Greg reports they paid the bills and they are in need of volunteers.

SEWER

Jeremy Nelson property- we reviewed the history, Jeremy claimed the assessment was originally placed on 340-10-1850 and paid. He did split the property prior Fayal did not know, Carl bloom was contiguous but we should have been told. They split and kept 2 pieces on the other side of Ely Lake Dr. we are not sure of the sewer availability. PUC believes the 340-10-1850 will not have another assessment because it was placed and paid. Judy did note on the assessment certifications there would be \$7,000 Sewer Access Charge. Diane will call the title company and advise them.

GAS

Gas line extension- Ely Lake project is complete.

Long Lake extension- The project is on hold.

STREET LIGHTS

Nothing else.

FYI

Next PUC meeting will be held October 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion to adjourn by Erickson, support from Turner. Motion carried unanimously.**
Meeting adjourned 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Dickson
PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk