

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commissioners was called to at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Amy Jackson. Present were Commissioners: Amy Jackson, Ed Vest, Chris Erickson and recording secretary Diane Dickson. Absent: Greg Buckley. Also present were: Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro, John West, Mark and Michael Johnson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the regular PUC meeting minutes of October 8, 2019 made by Ed Vest, second from Chris Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion to approve the Jamie Hendrickson Variance Hearing minutes of October 8, 2019 made by Ed Vest, second from Chris Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS

Tony Tammaro nothing at this time. Mark and Mike Johnson just observing. John West checking on progress. John thanks the PUC for sending the questions to Steve Fenske at the MN Township Association. He is inquiring if we have heard from Scott Neff. John stops to locate the email from Fenske, because he thought it said it was improper. This was from a long time ago. Tony said he talked to Scott Neff last week and he is starting to work on it now.

CORRESPONDENCE

Delinquency Report as of 10-25-19 \$11,437.92.

Certify Summary report as of 10-28-19 \$22,146.56 this amount has been removed from the billing program and placed onto the 2020 tax role. There are 10 customers in the end. The other ones were paid and Heidi sent a letter to the SLC to remove them.

October 2019 Water Wastewater Report. Reviewed and placed on file.

October 9, 2019 Resignation from the Public Utilities Commission with regrets from Cam Jayson effective immediately. The Town Board does have a copy of the letter.

11-7-19 Request from Dale Dickson and Diane Dickson to attend the 36th Annual Water & Wastewater Technical Conference March 3-5, 2020 in St. Cloud. The member fee is \$250 each. Tony questions if we want to do this every year. Diane states these are very informative trainings put on by MN Rural Water Association we attend this one every other year and the waste water collection every other year. Dale may be retiring next year. Amy feels it is worthwhile and she would like to see the agenda. Chris feels it is a good idea to attend and keep up on what is going on. Tony says when Dale retires they are planning to put all of the departments together and Jason would be more involved. Jason is still learning and maybe have Jason go also.

- **Motion by Chris Erickson to recommend the Town Board approve Dale and Diane attend the MN Rural Water Assoc. Water & Wastewater Technical Conference and have Jason consider going also, second by Ed Vest. Motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

GIS SEH-June 25, 2019 SEH Agreement for professional services for collecting all available information of all Fayal Township water main and sanitary collection for \$12,800. Tabled until the spring of 2020.

Test Fee-MN Dept. of Health - (yearly) change from \$6.36 to \$9.72 effective Jan 1, 2020 charged in May. Heidi will update our fee schedule.

Review the ordinance 98-2 regarding twin homes, apartments etc. and the sewer connection charges SAC. Diane found the 1-2019 Sewer Availability Charge Procedure manual from the Metropolitan Council. A very detailed manual regarding setting charges for all kinds of buildings, residential, apartments, business

and commercial. Diane stated last time she provided the Sample from MN Rural Water Association and that is more in line with Fayal Township. Tony stated we are not that far off from the ones provided. 2019 Fee Schedule from Hugo regarding the per unit availability charge for research purposes only. Amy will continue working on this project. We are talking about charges regarding single family units compared to multi units and how other entities come up with the charges. Maybe a working committee if needed to work on it.

John West reads an old email from Steve Fenski and is asking for an answer from Attorney Scott Neff. At this time Scott has not responded to the questions although Heidi recently responded to John. Tony stated he did not want to send it to the attorney but he did send it to him. John's issue is he doesn't think there should be a fee if you are not connecting to the sewer. Twenty years ago the Town did state the purpose and the reason for the charges. Heidi was told the Town can spend the fees in any way they deem fit. John continued rehashing his complaint and we will notify him as soon as we get a response from Scott Neff. John asks about the WAC is it for connection, availability or access. This will be answered by Scott Neff. Amy believes there are too many scenarios and it needs to be reviewed by the Attorney. Tony will send an email out to Scott as a reminder.

Garage drains and saunas, can Dale and Diane have the option of signing off on them if they are just a normal connection. Did not discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

11-7-19 Rcvd a call from Surla relatives regarding property. It is owned by the county and was under contract. There will not be anyone paying the monthly bills, the water is shut off and winterized, power is being shut off and the gas is being shut off. Diane asks should we stop billing the monthly fee until someone buys the property. This has been certified. The family informed Fayal they have no rights to the property due to no husband or children. Tony reports we did waive the fee when the house burnt down so sort of the same. Amy believes as long as it is winterized she is in favor of removing the charges from the account due to savings. Ed feels if we do this, then where there is a cabin not being used it shouldn't be charged. Amy and Chris state the difference is the charges are due to the availability of coming in and using the sewer at any time. Ed asks what other cities charge. Amy states if someone has a cabin they are the owner and they can come in and use it at any time. The county will not pay the bills. Amy says if there is an account shut off by MPL for non-payment, then there is no fees charged. If the meter base is removed and you ask to have it all put back on then MPL will back bill you for the services if it is less than a year. Amy says we also have costs involved to send out the bills and we know the County will not pay. Chris says the monthly service fee is to recoup some of our costs serving the sewage loan and we are not in the business of turning on and off for vacations and such. We pay Gilbert based on the gallons of usage. Amy does not have a preference. Ed just wanted to discuss it. Chris feels it would just penalize the next person trying to buy the property. Chris is in favor of waiving the charges until a new owner purchases.

- **Motion by Chris Erickson to recommend the Town Board waive the monthly sewer fees on the Surla/ County owned property until a new owner purchases, second by Ed Vest. Motion carried unanimously.**

Tony says we need to make sure if the county removed the assessment that we put it back on for the years she lived there and did not pay.

Review Water and Sewer for the annual rate review that is to be sent out yearly. The last meeting we did say the water co is fine. Chris reports the cash flow is good and he is not worried about the rates. There should be some excess funds after the final payments are made.

TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer report provided by Clerk Coldagelli as of 10-31-19-2019. Year to date. Chris reports the water company is \$12,000 cash flow positive. The sewer company's revenues exceeded expenditures by about

\$43,000 so cash grew by about the same amount. Chris does not see a need to raise the rates as long as it is holding its own.

FWC Beginning balance 2019 \$55,549.10 Revenues \$66,785.84 Expenditures \$54,219.85.

Current cash balance \$59,729.00.

FSC Beginning balance 2019 \$247,045.40 Revenues \$522,002.66. Expenditures \$479,774.60.

Current cash balance \$296,306.34.

Depreciation 4M \$204,798.85 PUC Truck Depreciation 4M \$19,306.98.

PUC Beginning balance \$-3,188.26 Revenues \$7,262.53 Expenditures \$7,141.00. Ending balance - \$3,066.73.

- **Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Ed Vest, second by Amy Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.**

CABLE

Franchise fees received for July 1, 2019 to Sept 30, 2019 total amount of \$2,529.98.

Tony asks if they cleaned up the mess. Ed does not believe so. Amy says they coiled the wires by her house. The Town should make an issue about the clean-up in the spring.

STREET LIGHTS

Nothing at this time.

FYI

Next PUC meeting will be Tuesday January 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion to adjourn the regular meeting made by Ed Vest, support from Chris Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Vice Chairman Amy Jackson adjourned the regular meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Dickson
Fayal Township Deputy Clerk
PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk

Approved 12.10.2019

