

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Heidi M. Coldagelli, Clerk/Treasurer

Anthony Tammaro, Chairman

Supervisors: Lee Branville, Mark Chad, Richard Sather, Patrick Ziegler

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD

JUNE 16, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Fayal Town Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Tammaro. Present were: Chairman Tammaro, Supervisor Branville, Supervisor Chad, Supervisor Sather, Supervisor Ziegler and Clerk/Treasurer Coldagelli. Chairman Tammaro began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Jackie Bird; Matt Reid from SEH; Joe Sopp; and Diana, Frank & Emily Werschay. Steve Shykes arrived at 7:25 PM.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of June 2nd, 2020, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- None at this time.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- All audience members were present to discuss a potential sewer extension at Horseshoe Lake listed under New Business.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of May have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$65,499.24 and expenditures were \$127,265.85. Ending balances for the month of May are:

Miners Checking- \$847,770.58

Assessment Savings- \$114,847.15

CD Savings- \$83,905.28

4M Fund- \$473,086.17

For the month of June to date, revenues are \$27,264.29 and expenditures are \$118,768.98.

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

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the Fire Department Business Meeting Minutes from May 13th, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Joint Rec Board Meeting Minutes from June 3rd, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the May 2020 Road & Bridge Report, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Public Utilities Commission Meeting Minutes from March 10th, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Delinquency Report, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Fire Department Shared Services Committee Meeting Minutes from May 11th, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

June 3rd- Email from Dawn Trexel with SWOP. With the summer program cancelled, they are now offering a YouTube channel with weekly videos on different life skills. The new channel can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC79ufelA8HZLYtJK3K8yQNO>. Placed on file.

June 4th- Letter from State Demographic Center. Population estimates as of April 1st, 2019 are population 1,778 and households 786. Placed on file.

June 5th- Letter from Lake County Power with capital credit allocation for 2019 of \$316.90. Un-retired capital credits to date are \$7,091.92. Placed on file.

June 8th- Email from Jeri Venne, IRRRB. Residential Redevelopment Grant Program still has funding available and applications are being accepted through June 23rd. Placed on file.

June 11th, Email from Jeri Venne, IRRRB. The Taconite Area Community Relief Grant Program is now accepting applications through July 6th. Cities, townships or tribal units of government located within the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation service area are eligible to apply for a grant that serves as a lending program to businesses within that community. EDAs, HRAs, joint powers boards and community nonprofits are eligible to apply as a community's fiscal agent. Grant applications will be competitively evaluated and awards to communities could range from \$50,000 to \$400,000. Applicants are required to provide a 1:4 match per project. Businesses are not eligible applicants and must contact their local unit of government or are eligible to apply for 2% interest loans of up to \$40,000 to be used as working capital or any legal purposes. No repayment on the loans will be due for the first six months, followed by 60 payments of principal and interest. Eligible businesses must have been in operation for at least one year and operating on March 1, 2020. Applicants must intend to re-open if currently closed due to the pandemic. It is anticipated that this program could assist approximately 200 local businesses. The Taconite Area Business Relief Loan Program is funded at \$5 million and will be administered by The Entrepreneur Fund. Shared with the Planning Committee.

Horseshoe Lake Sanitary Sewer Extension- In respecting the audience's time, the Town Board addressed the sewer extension. At the Annual Meeting Joe Sopp requested a sewer extension for a development at Horseshoe Lake. A preliminary budget was developed by SEH, with an estimate of \$114,000. At the most recent PUC meeting, the extension was discussed and Mr. Sopp asked if the project could be put out for bid. Chairman Tammaro stated it is a great project and something the Board should proceed with.

Motion to approve putting the Horseshoe Lake Sewer Extension out for bid, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. The extension would benefit the lake and the Township. Motion carried unanimously.

Matt Reid provided a proposal for \$5,500 from SEH.

Motion to approve the SEH agreement for professional services, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Matt Reid informed the Board that SEH will put together a small bid package for the contractors. A sanitary sewer extension permit with the MPCA will need to be applied for. Quotes will be solicited from a number of contractors due to the small scale of the project. This approach will allow for a faster turnaround time. The IRRRB community infrastructure grant program will be open July 1st. Discussion regarding the IRRRB and time frames. Supervisor Branville was in support, but questioned how to fund the project in the event that a grant is not awarded. The motion is to seek bids and if the bids are not reasonable, do not need to proceed with awarding the project. There are internal funds to support the project cost.

Motion to apply for the IRRRB grant for the Horseshoe Lake sewer extension, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Branville-

Wastewater Operator Position- The internal posting expires June 18th and if no applications are received, will post externally. An internal employee has expressed interest in the position and Clerk Coldagelli requested to remove herself from the hiring committee if that application is received due to a conflict of interest. In that event, Supervisor Ziegler will fill in. Supervisor Branville also brought forward that the union contract title is equipment operator/collection system operator. The Hiring Committee would like to make it clear that the primary function is a collection system operator with an assist as an equipment operator. Supervisor Branville also discussed a recommendation of a salary increase for the position due to increased responsibilities.

Supervisor Chad-

Fire Department Shared Services- Clerk Coldagelli is working on a joint powers agreement with Eveleth City Administrator.

MnDOT Relocation- Webex meeting will be held June 23rd at 7:00 PM.

Old Bullfrogs Building- Clerk Coldagelli and Chairman Tammaro met with Mr. Toman. Discussed demolition of the building utilizing the fire department and also transferring the property to the Township. Mr. Toman offered to pay the delinquent taxes, but requested compensation equivalent to the \$51,000 taxable value of the property and then he would reimburse the Township for 50% of the demolition costs. The Township does not have an interest in purchasing the property and is only concerned with removal of the structure.

Motion for Clerk Coldagelli to draft a letter to Mr. Toman stating that the Township is not interested in the property, but the Township is willing to assist in attaining the 50% match of funds for demolition, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Discussion regarding the building needs to be secured and there have been recent sightings of individuals entering the property. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Motion to have Attorney Mike Kearney proceed with the blight charges, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro-

COVID-19 Update- Per the State of Minnesota, a COVID preparedness plan must be in place by June 29th. Clerk Coldagelli provided a plan for approval based on a template from DEED. Discussion regarding sick leave. The COVID preparedness plan is subject to change and can be amended as needed. Chief Shykes updated the Board that he was working in conjunction with Scott Lesnau regarding distribution of a vaccine as it becomes available.

Motion to adopt the COVID preparedness plan, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Supervisor Ziegler and Chairman Tammaro opposed. Motion carried 3-2.

Supervisor Ziegler-

Job Descriptions- Clerk Coldagelli provided the updated Foreman's job description with the combined position. Included an addendum for the Equipment Operator, Senior Wastewater Operator and Wastewater Operator job descriptions with the performance responsibilities reflecting the on-call responsibilities and assisting in the other departments.

Motion to approve the Working Foreman job description and the addendum to the other job descriptions, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Thunderbird Trail Repair Quotes- Discussion regarding the road. Patch may last a considerable amount of time. Supervisor Ziegler would like more exploratory research to be completed. Joe Sopp stated that the road is sloughing into the swamp and suggested placing rock along the edge to assist in stabilizing the road prior to having a repair done. Supervisor Ziegler will meet with Foreman Latvaaho to discuss.

Joint Powers Agreement with the B.C.A.-

Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-05 Resolution Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with Fayal Township on Behalf of Its Prosecuting Attorney, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Sopp would like clarification on the MnDOT relocation and questioned why does Fayal want them in our Township? MnDOT would be purchasing the entire acreage. The City of Eveleth will most likely not develop the property if retained. Chairman Tammaro added that a portion of Thunderbird Trail will be upgraded to a ten-ton road and a waterline loop is possible. While the Township will not receive any taxes with MnDOT, a potential waterline loop is the most significant benefit by providing water services and fire protection for the residents.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Recreation Budget- Table until next meeting.

Yard Waste- Summer Yard Waste schedule will be June 27th & 28th, July 25th & 26th and August 22nd & 23rd.

Motion to approve the summer Yard Waste Schedule, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Ziegler. The site was highly utilized this spring and the pile needs to be chipped. Will retain the wood chips and will have them available at the Hall for the citizen use. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Sewer & Water Access Charges Verbiage- There has been much discussion regarding the charges. The word "access" should be replaced with the term "availability" in the Ordinances. Would like to send to the PUC to review. Discussion regarding current charges and how they are based on the cost of the assessments. Supervisor Ziegler would like the rates reviewed.

Retiree Insurance Eligibility- Informational for the Board that retirees are able to remain on the Township insurance plans, but the retirees are responsible for the cost of the premiums.

Joe Sopp had questions regarding the sewer bills and how the MPFA loans were paid for. Assessments paid for the bulk of the loans with the exception of the third smaller loan that was taken out to cover the project shortage. The loans were paid off due to assessment prepayment, interest collected and paying down debt early. The project is now paid for and there are excess funds remaining and payments continue to come in from the assessments. Mr. Sopp questioned if his entire sewer bill is applied to the Gilbert payment and Chairman Tammaro responded that the sewer bill also pays the PUC employees, equipment, depreciation, etc. Money is set aside that can be used for new development. The PUC made a motion at the last meeting to increase the yearly depreciation from \$20,000 to \$40,000. Will table for now until Clerk Coldagelli can take a closer look the recommendation. Discussion regarding bills, depreciation history and projects in the PUC to answer Mr. Sopp's questions.

Motion to approve the PUC motion to approve the variance for Dave Zlimen with the stipulation it won't be used for rental property, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to table the PUC motion to increase the Depreciation Fund from \$20,000 per year to \$40,000 per year until Clerk Coldagelli and Chris Erickson can discuss, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the PUC motion to recommend the Town Board move forward with the proposal from SEH Engineering for a sanitary sewer extension to Horseshoe Lake to go out for bids, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Shykes provided an updated regarding the Fire Department Shared Services. The Chiefs are working on the budgets and the group is waiting on the JPA. Eveleth has not approved the Q&A yet. Clerk Coldagelli will send the request to the City Administrator. Once the Q&A is approved a press release can be published. First bylaw reading occurred to increase benefit levels.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$35,951.29, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Ziegler.

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Coldagelli

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Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved:

[Signature]
Chair

Date:

7-7-20

Attest:

Heidi M. Coldagelli
Clerk