

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

August 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Greg Buckley. Present were Commissioners: Greg Buckley, Ed Vest, Gina Brascugli, and recording secretary Diane Dickson. Chris Erickson was attending via conference call.com. Amy Jackson was absent. Also present were: Town board chairman Tony Tamaro, and Pat Brascugli.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the regular PUC meeting minutes of July 14, 2020 made by Ed Vest, second by Gina Brascugli. Chris voted in favor Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS

Tony Tamaro nothing at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Delinquency Reports as of 7-22-2020 \$17,001.63. Gina asks why the same people are always on the list, and she is able to pay and she is below poverty level. Ed asks about the State owned Surla property, SLC does not keep any assessments on the property when they own it. Fayal has to make sure the buyer knows there is unpaid assessments.

Certify list sent out 18 notification letters \$16,758.96. When people pay their amount is reduced. The Town Board will approve the list in September and the County will have it before the October forfeiters.

No Water Wastewater Report.

6:04 Pat Brascugli arrives.

Ord 98-1 98-2 Resolution 2018-13 & 2000-14 for review to update wording to Availability from Access. Chris states the description of the access, availability wording is unclear and definitely needs to be cleaned up. Chris asks if the Horseshoe Lake project goes in and assuming it all happens. The parcels that will be served along that route will they all be subject to a \$6,625 Availability Charge? That's how it was when it went around Ely Lake correct? Tony and Diane state yes, some of them have already paid the SAC, and the others can't be charged until the sewer line would abut their property. Chris states there are 2 scenarios here. 1. There is a new sewer line going by and there is a SAC per owner. This is very clear. 2. The area is already being served. And it's been paid and then they want to split the property. Chris is wondering if in this scenario possibly a lien on the property, or it's not due and payable until a connection is made. Because, the project is paid and there is not another user. If there is a new user then they would pay the SAC of \$6,625. That is how Chris is feeling and not sure how the commission feels on this. Ed Vest is thinking if there is a different owner then it should be paid. But if someone splits there land into many parcels but never sells it to anyone there would not be a SAC until they would sell each of the lots. So if they split and give to a kid then they would have to pay, due to a new owner. Tony brought up when Cerar was going to subdivide into 10 lots, Cerar was going to put in all the lines and pay for it. Then when the lots were sold the Town would give him his money back. Tony states the Horseshoe Lake sewer project if we don't get a grant we have enough in the SAC charges to pay for it. That money can be used for expansion. Chris asks how the group feels about the 2 scenarios? Ed brings up the last meeting the owner was selling his home and splitting the property and did not want to pay the SAC because he was not connecting to the line. He was animate he was not going to pay. Diane stated he sold the property and the \$6,625 was collected at the closing by the Title Co. He was not happy but it was paid. Tony says he understands where Chris is going with this. And Chris asks everyone to think about it for a month. Greg says he thought about splitting the fee up and part is paid when it is subdivided and the other part is paid when there is a connection, making it more affordable. Tony brings up the fact the people who are on Horseshoe Lake extension are ready and willing to write out a check. Ed clarifies what he said. If someone goes to the county and makes a subdivision they would not have to pay until they actually sell any of the

new parcels. Ed is not sure how other Cities handle this. Greg asks everyone to continue working on that and we will address it at the next meeting.

Greg asks Pat Brascugli if she has anything for the PUC nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

GIS SEH- Ed asks what has happened. Matt told Heidi there is not going to be other phases with additional costs. It will just be for the program they have started gathering our maps together. We will see.

Review the ordinance 98-2 regarding twin homes, apartments etc. the sewer connection charges SAC.

Diane asks if anyone saw reference to this in the ordinance, she saw it listed in the definitions under “users”. Amy asked us to review the entire ordinance and get it all cleaned up. We have to have 3 readings and then publish it before a change can be made to the ordinance.

SAC when to impose the charges connection vs the splitting / creation of a lot. This has been discussed.

7-10-20 Horseshoe Lake Sewer Extension- SEH Matt Reid put the Horseshoe Lake Sewer Extension project out for bids. Tony reports the bids were opened Jola & Sopp was at \$95k, Casper was at \$116k and Bougalis was at \$170k. The Town accepted the bids and put it under review until we see where the grant is. The work could be done in September. Everything is done for the Grant IRRRB will have their meeting this month.

7-10-20 TPC Telemetry & Process Controls, Inc.- Diane has not heard anything new.

Great Lakes Pipe Services-Cleaning and Televising section 3 which is the area south of Ely Lake, part of Woodlawn, Park Dr. Diane sent a note out with the bills saying the easement area will be cleared prior to the sewer cleaning and televising.

*O’Neil Campers-*by the Short Stop, Gina asks if anyone knows where the human waste is going. Tony states he did see them utilizing a portable unit on wheels. We do not know anything more.

State of MN/ Eveleth Gravel Pit- Ed Vest states they had a neighborhood meeting at Cossalter’s house. They had a good turnout. Representative Dave Lislegard was there and the State Ombudsmen was there. They got the message that the locals on the lake do not want it. Some people think it’s going to be a good deal for water and sewer sales. Tony states the big thing would be a new waterline going past the airport. Greg asks if they have a date or another site they are looking at. Tony says this is their number one site, and the Town will not get anything out of it, they don’t pay taxes. The only thing we would get would be sewer user fees. Ed says they claim they are not going to drive the trucks through Thunderbird Trail. Greg asks if they can just expand their existing facility. Ed says they could buy out a couple of neighbors and move them. Ed says they told the State they don’t want the big vehicles by the lake. They may put the salt dome across the road in the hole.

Water Wastewater / Equipment Operator- has been hired pending all tests and background come back good. August 31, 2020 will be day one. He has worked in a sewer plant so he will have to learn about collections, but he does have the licensure.

Greg asks when Dale is done. He retired June 20th, Tony said everything fell apart the 4th of July.

Greg asks if anything was sent to Dale thanking him for his 21 years of service. The Town had cake here for him. Greg will send something out.

NEW BUSINESS

Rcvd a SAC \$6,625 from Gentilini at the closing/ split of the property. He wasn’t happy but he paid. We have to be consistent.

MN Warn provided 80,000 masks from FEMA for Water & wastewater utilities in MN. Diane was able to obtain 30 washable masks.

TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer report provided by Clerk Coldagelli as of 7-31-2020 year to date and reviewed by Chris Ericson. The Sewer Company is almost cash flow neutral for the year, so that’s good. The Water Company is just a little bit negative and that’s not a big deal. Chris reports everything is in good shape.

FWC Beginning balance 2020 \$52,690.12 Revenues \$ 41,135.73 Expenditures \$47,250.67

Cash balance \$49,372.05

FSC Beginning balance 2020 \$185,921.48 As of 7-31-20 Revenues \$395,942.85 Expenditures \$393,248.82

Cash balance \$185,327.46.

Depreciation 4M Fund \$227,497.89 (2,699.04 int.) PUC Truck Depreciation 4M Fund \$24,903.02 (269.90 int.)

PUC Beginning balance \$0 As of 7-31-2020 Revenues \$4,919.43 Expenditures \$5,004.36.

Current cash balance \$-84.93

- **Motion by Ed Vest to approve the Treasurers Report, second by Gina Brascugli. Unanimously approved Chris voting in favor. Motion carried.**

CABLE

Rcvd franchise fees for April 1 to June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$2,601.96. Greg asks if Channel 12 is still operating. Tony reports they are going to keep the Channel going for now. Virginia has their own person also.

STREET LIGHTS

Tony reports Jason wants to change all of the lights at the lift stations to LED. Greg says they should pay for themselves.

FYI

Next PUC meeting will be Tuesday September 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Greg asks if there is anything else for the good of the cause, hearing nothing.

Chairman Greg Buckley adjourned the regular meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Dickson
Fayal Township Deputy Clerk
PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk

Approved 9.8.2020
