

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

September 8, 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, Amy Jackson and recording secretary Diane Dickson. Chris Erickson was attending via conference call.com. Also present were: Town board chairman Tony Tamaro, and John West.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the regular PUC meeting minutes of August 12, 2020 made by Amy Jackson, second by Gina Brascugli. Chris voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS

John West nothing at this time. Tony nothing at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Delinquency Reports as of 8-27-2020 \$16,812. Reviewed and placed on file.

No Water Wastewater Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Wastewater / Equipment Operator- Rick Bieganek started 8-31-20. Greg asks how it's going, good.

Certify list- Diane will update the list and run a current report prior to the Town Board meeting. Clerk Coldagelli will be certifying to St Louis County Auditor to be placed on the tax role payable in 2021 \$13,791 as of 9-4-20. Tony asks about the process. Heidi will send the list to the County Auditor and if someone pays prior to SLC posting it on the tax role Heidi can request they remove it from the list. Fayal will get the list certified prior to SLC taking possession of tax forfeit properties. Once the State owns the property we cannot certify any delinquents onto the property.

SEH Horseshoe Lake Sewer Extension- the project bid was won by Jola and Sopp. The Town Board approved it contingent on the IRRRB grant. Tony states if we don't get a grant the money we have received from the SAC should cover it. They are saying it should be a full grant, IRRRB meeting will not be until October. Joe Sopp said he can still install the sewer line in November.

TPC Telemetry & Process Controls, Inc.- Diane has not heard anything new regarding the SCADA new computer.

*Great Lakes Pipe Services-*Cleaning and Televising section 3 which is the area south of Ely Lake, Woodlawn and Park Dr. Rick is clearing the area. Tony thinks it should be starting soon.

*GIS SEH-*Nothing new has happened.

Availability wording to Access- Ord 98-1 98-2 Resolution 2018-13 & 2000-14 for review to update wording to Availability from Access. Greg asks if anyone has submitted any other changes than what Diane proposed last month. Chris states the wording should be changed and when the charges should be imposed. Amy feels the words availability and access need to be defined. You can change terms all day long but without a clear definition it means nothing to change the word. Chris says other cities typically use the word availability and we should try and be more consistent with other places. John West asks is it for the cost of installation the owner has to pay for the actual connection. Chris says it's like a property improvement even if you are not connected it is still available which is an improvement to the property and they can connect in the future. The second issue is when do we impose the charge. When it becomes available, when there is a connection or split the difference and pay half of the SAC for each part. Greg states we weren't going to keep both words just change it to availability. Chris says and when do we impose the charges? Greg states the Township has offered low interest promissory notes in the past, to help make it more affordable. John West says the word connection charge can be used when they make the connection. Amy asks if we have a connection fee, Diane says not for the sewer just the water. It is an inspection / connection fee. Amy says it is confusing to her and she has been dealing with this all along a resident is not going to understand it. Tony says it's been the \$6625 when they split the land. The assessment is done. John West asks about assessment. Diane and Tony explain the word assessment is a procedure the Town does. It is a voter approved improvement that is then placed on the tax role for however many years the Town decided and paid over time with your taxes. Some people chose to pay it off and not be placed on the taxes and avoid paying the interest.

Greg asks if everyone is fine with having a rough draft with the word changes for the next meeting and just deal with one issue at a time. Ed says if you change the process people who paid are not going to be happy and are going to ask for a refund.

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

Timing of SAC charges- when to impose the charges connection vs the splitting / creation of a lot. Greg explains it is paid when the property is split or created the fee becomes payable. Amy asks how we know. It is typically a sale which we are usually notified through an assessment search. Greg states he is for development and if someone is planning to develop something and can't afford it he doesn't want the fee to be a hindrance to a development. Ed says he doesn't have a problem with someone subdividing and creating more lots and not charging the fee until someone else buys a lot. Greg states if it is contiguous and remains with the original owner. Discussion about how a developer would not pay additional SAC until they sell a lot to a new person then the fee would be charged. It would be up to them to decide who actually pays the fee and could be negotiated into the price as long as the Town gets the fee. Amy asks if we are notified every time a sale is conducted. Diane states sometimes there are contract for deeds or other sales that we are not 100% of the time notified. In the past it has always been or when we find out then we send a bill. Greg is ok with keeping it the way it is and if a developer comes in he could go to the Township and negotiate something with the Town. John West says if Sopp splits his parcel into 6 then you can't according to John charge them an assessment again, but you could when they want to hook up. Tony says that's what we are working on now. What we did was legal. Chris says we could wait until there is a third party to charge the fee. We are only charging when there is new owner. Amy states Gentilini can develop his property and put sewer in and we have to protect the environment the county and our township. So as soon as they purchase it they have the availability and they should be charged. She thought it was for multiple units but we skipped that one for now. Ed reviews the original sewer project each owner was charged the same fee even if you owned a quarter mile of property. Even though it cost the Township a lot more than a small lot. So, when it gets divided and sold then they are charged. Everyone in the system helped pay for the quarter mile. Now we are trying to get some of the money and it can be used to do other projects that we all paid for. Greg asks for now are we keeping it the way it is. Amy asks where people are not understanding. Tony says they are not. John says he feels it was a connection fee when there was no connection and Scot Neff clarified that as an availability fee.

Greg restates we will leave the availability fee for now to the time the lot is sold or split with a new owner.

O'Neil Campers- Nothing new remove from agenda.

State of MN/ Eveleth Gravel Pit- Nothing new.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing new at this time.

TREASURER REPORT

No current treasurer's report was provided. Chris has nothing else to add.

CABLE

Prices went up.

STREET LIGHTS

Tony noticed some of the lights have been changed. Amy says MP has changed out to LED sometimes they have to be redirected because they are brighter. There is a contractor doing the work.

FYI

Next PUC meeting will be Tuesday October 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

- **Motion by Ed Vest to adjourn the meeting, second by Amy Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Greg Buckley adjourned the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Dickson

Fayal Township Deputy Clerk

PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk

Approved 10.13.2020

