

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

JANUARY 4, 2022

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 led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Gina Brascugli, Rick Bieganeck, Albert Jurenec, Amanda Metsa and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of December 21st, 2021, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- Amanda Metsa from AFSCME Council 65 was present to discuss the employee contract renewal as there were a few items needing resolution. Discussion regarding continuance of insurance coverage for an employee's spouse at the employee's time of retirement. A request was made last year for the Township to pay 90% of the spouse's healthcare premium for eight years until medicare eligibility. While the Town Board certainly appreciates all the years of service that employee Al Jurenec has contributed to the Town, there are concerns justifying costs for insurance coverage for his spouse. Chairman Tammaro suggested to not approve the request at this time, but relook at the subject and reopen the contract to discuss. Ms. Metsa brought forth unresolved item Union 4 of adding an additional personal day. Discussion that all contract items come to the Town Board for final approval and the Negotiating Committee does not have the authority to make final agreements. Item Union 6 to change carryover comp time from 10/31 to 11/30 was approved. Union 8 regarding removal of clerical staff from the on-call rotation was not approved by the Town Board. Removing another person from the rotation places a burden on the remaining three staff members for sharing the on-call schedule. Concerns were raised from Ms. Metsa regarding the position replacement and would the Town be able to find someone willing and competent to perform the on-call duties. Discussion regarding Union 10 of fully funding the HSA deductible. The Town currently funds employee HSA levels at \$3,500 for individual and \$7,000 family and the employee is responsible for 5% of the premium.

Ms. Metsa requested permission for the Union to caucus before responding. Ms. Metsa, Rick Bieganeck and Albert Jurenec left the meeting at 7:26.

Clerk Coldagelli questioned what should be discussed with the Union regarding replacement of the Utility Billing Clerk. The position is recommended to be filled at 25 hours per week. Discussion regarding creating a new position.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of December have not yet been received so this report is tentative. Revenues were \$366,360.25 and expenditures were \$135,224.77. Tentative ending balances for the month of December are:

Miners Checking- \$1,198,425.27
Assessment Savings- \$430,450.75
CD Savings- \$524,001.35

For the month of January to date, revenues are \$1,858.80 and expenditures are \$41,832.71.

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

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the Road and Bridge report for December, made Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Public Utilities Commission Meeting Minutes from November 9th, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Delinquency Report, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the November Wastewater Report, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

January 4th- Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with notice for Twin Metals and Federal Land Withdrawal Lunch and Learn on Tuesday, January 11th to learn more about the proposed copper/nickel mine in Northeast Minnesota. Placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Sather-

Old Bullfrogs Building- Chairman Tammaro brought forward that the 2021 taxes owing have been paid. Discussion regarding how that affects the tax forfeit status. Chairman Tammaro also spoke with the insurance adjuster and the Town may be responsible for damages. Discussion regarding condemnation and Chairman Tammaro is seeking Board permission to speak with an attorney regarding starting that process.

Motion for Chairman Tammaro to go ahead and talk with Mike Kearney, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

The Union employees and Ms. Metsa returned at this time to discuss the unresolved items. The first item regarding employee Jurenic, the Union is agreeable to defer to discuss but suggested coming to a resolution by 6/1/2022. All were agreeable to those terms. Union 4 the Union will drop. All parties were agreeable to changing comp payout for item six to 11/30. Union 8, Ms. Metsa discussed that the Union was agreeable to the employer's interest, but concerns regarding finding competent individuals to do that work. The Union was agreeable to the employer's on-call pay counter offer for Union 9. Union 10 the Union will drop. Discussion regarding the replacement of the Utility Billing Clerk position. The Board will prepare a proposal for the Union and the Union will need to complete the Union contract for the Town Board to sign.

COVID-19 Update- No updates at this time.

Sewer & Water Access Charges Verbiage- No updates at this time.

Gilbert Water Treatment Upgrades- No updates at this time.

American Rescue Plan- A transfer for 2021 expenses should occur during the audit to cover the year end Zoom and conference call expenditures. The Town Board should start thinking about how they would like to utilize the remaining funds.

Engineering for Ballfield Water/Sewer Extension & Picnic Shelter- SEH provided an estimate for running water to the ballfield. Possibility for a loop to be completed with an infrastructure project if funding is available.

Fire Department Equipment- No updates at this time.

2022 EMS Strategic Plan- Chairman Tammaro discussed that the concept is good, but a wage of \$50/hour is unable to work. A separate pension would need to be established, which would provide an additional expense.

Employee Contract Renewals- For future negotiations, the Union should be present at a Town Board meeting to discuss so a resolution would be more timely. The Union should provide the ratified contract for the next meeting for signatures. Clerk Coldagelli will have to provide back pay to the employees until the contract is approved.

2023 Levy- Supervisor Ziegler had concerns if there is enough funding for the Public Safety Fund. Chairman Tammaro stated there are other sources that could be used if necessary.

Mining Effects- Discussion regarding the remaining balance. Funds should be used in entirety each year. Can use to cover the 2021 pager pay increases.

Motion to transfer \$7,247.13 to Fund 602, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Utility Billing Clerk- Chairman Tammaro was in support of creating a new job title. Supervisor Ziegler recommended a starting wage of \$24.50 per hour and 25 hours per week. Discussion regarding the

probationary period and 80% of the wage. The Board would like to keep the probationary period, but not the portion of the wage withheld. The position will be in the Union contract. Clerk Coldagelli will create the job description and send to the Union for review and approval at the next Town Board meeting.

Employee Contract Renewals- All Supervisors were in agreement with what was discussed with the Union.

Motion to proceed with Union contract as discussed at tonight's meeting, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisors Branville and Ziegler would like to discuss the Office Manager's contract renewal for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Tamaro brought forth that at the last meeting Robbi Ochis was appointed as Interim Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, but the Board neglected to make a motion to add her to all three bank accounts to replace Diane Dickson.

Motion to have Robbi Ochis sign new signature cards, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sather brought forward a Fire Department request for approximately \$1,500 for health screenings.

Motion to approve \$1,500 for health screenings, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Tamaro. Motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Department also needs to purchase small equipment such as gloves and hoods that will exceed \$750.

Motion to approve up to \$1,500 for those several items needed to purchase, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sather brought forward a memo reminding all employees about spending authority and limits and a chart highlighting all departments, the department heads and liaisons.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- None at this time.

Supervisor Ziegler asked if a work schedule for the rink could be posted. Clerk Coldagelli will speak to the Rec Department.

Supervisor Ziegler would also like to get additional individuals to carry the pager to help alleviate the number of weeks for the employees.

Chairman Tamaro added that a meeting will occur next week to discuss the future of the Joint Rec. It appears that the school is taking over all the sports programs except youth hockey and possibly youth baseball.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$59,915.27, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn, made by Supervisor Ziegler.

Chairman Tamaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:14 PM.

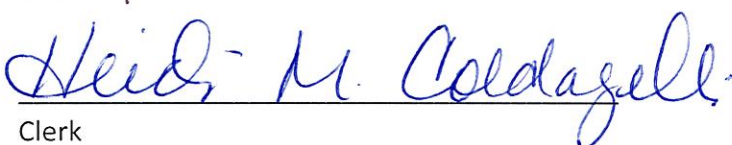
Respectfully submitted,


Heidi M. Coldagelli

Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: 
Chair

Date: 1-18-22

Attest: 
Clerk