

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

A. 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

DECEMBER 21, 2021

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 Sather, Supervisor Ziegler and Clerk/Treasurer Coldagelli. Supervisor Chad arrived at 7:02 PM. Chairman Tammaro led with a moment of silence for employee Diane Dickson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Gina Brascugli, Matt Hoffmann and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of December 7th, 2021, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- None at this time.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- None at this time.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

For the month of December to date, revenues are \$333,322.55 and expenditures are \$117,142.21. Current balances for the month of December are:

Miners Checking- \$1,183,470.13
Assessment Savings- \$430,291.66
CD Savings- \$523,783.90

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

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the Fire Department Business Meeting Minutes from November 17th, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Joint Rec Meeting Minutes from December 8th, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Chad arrived at this time.

Motion to accept the Road and Bridge report for November, made Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Planning Committee Meeting Minutes from November 17th, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

November 30th- Email from St. Louis County regarding conversion to Prosecutor by Karpel. St. Louis County will pay for the first and second year maintenance fees and purchase a license for each attorney. Original cost to Fayal was a one-time license fee of \$281.25 and yearly maintenance costs of \$84.38. With the County contribution, Fayal will be responsible for ongoing maintenance costs of \$84.38 per year starting in 2024. Placed on file.

December 7th- Annual license renewal from the City of Eveleth with license fee payment of \$75.00 for easement for the sewer line. Moved to New Business.

December 9th- Email from Recreation Director Craig Homola with notice of retirement effective April 1st, 2022. Placed on file.

December 9th- Letter from AFSCME Council 65 with notice of 2022 dues increase. Shared with the union employees.

December 9th- Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with board meeting minutes from October 28th. Placed on file.

December 9th- Email from St. Louis County Association of Townships with meeting minutes from October 27th. Placed on file.

December 10th- Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with official ballot for RAMS Board of Directors Election and notice of annual meeting on Wednesday, December 29th. Placed on file.

December 14th- Letter and check from League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. 2021 Dividend received was \$3,583. Placed on file.

December 15th- Email from US Census Bureau regarding 2020 Census Count Question Resolution operation occurring between January 3rd, 2022 and June 30th, 2023. This provided local offices an opportunity to request a review of the 2020 Census housing counts and correct any errors. Placed on file.

December 21st- Newsletter from Contented Critters. The shelter facilities have moved to Ely but they are still active in the Makinen area and intend to continue serving Eveleth and Fayal. Placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Sather-

Old Bullfrogs Building- No updates at this time.

COVID-19 Update- No updates at this time.

Sewer & Water Access Charges Verbiage- On hold at this time.

Gilbert Water Treatment Upgrades- The City of Gilbert is working on funding for the project.

American Rescue Plan- Received an additional \$3,000 for reallocation of remaining funds at the State level.

Engineering for Ballfield Water/Sewer Extension & Picnic Shelter- Will leave on for spring.

Stadium Lights at the Ballfield- Chairman Tammaro will work on in the spring.

Fire Department Equipment- The sled and the trailer have been sold. Another fire department may purchase the four-wheeler.

Equipment Operator- To be discussed with employee contract renewals.

Employee Contract Renewals- To discuss in a closed meeting.

2023 Levy- Chairman Tammaro thought the alternate levy proposal at 5.91% looked sufficient, but the Board still has more time to review.

Engine 91- Repair quotes have been received for both engines and surprisingly much lower than expected at approximately \$2,000.

Motion to have the work done, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Lodging Tax-

Motion to transfer \$1,421.91 to the Iron Range Tourism Bureau, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. These funds are from the lodging tax received from Veterans Park. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Motion to transfer the remaining 5% to the Public Utilities Fund, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

2022 EMS Strategic Plan- Assistant Chief Hoffmann distributed a proposed EMS strategic plan designed by the Fire Department. EMS calls make up 46-47% of total calls received and approximately 17% of EMS calls are missed due to poor staffing or response. The goal is to respond to 100% of calls through the use of civilian staff that are non fire trained. In 2022, would like to incorporate five EMS single role responders. Proposal is \$50/hour for EMS staff with pension eligibility. There are some equipment and supplies to cover operational

costs. The Fire Department is seeking \$16,000 to incorporate this plan. Currently averaging 80 EMS calls per year and the \$16,000 would cover outfitting two individuals to cover those 80 calls at \$50/hour. Discussion regarding costs, recruitment, staffing and grant opportunities. The Town Board will review the information provided, review the Town and Fire Department budgets and continue to discuss.

Fire Department Simulcast Paging- Fire Chief Steve Shykes brought forward that Biwabik Township has requested consideration for simulcast paging to Biwabik Township as they no longer have a simulcast agreement with the City of Biwabik. They have approximately 30 calls per year for response to wildland and structure fires. The Department is already responding as they are on the box alarm system and responding would not overburden the Fayal Fire Department members.

Motion to go ahead and simulcast with Biwabik Township on certain calls, not all calls, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department Resignations- Supervisor Sather read both resignation letters.

Motion to accept the Fire Department resignation of Erik Moe, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Fire Department resignation of Richard Sather effective 1/1/2022, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Supervisor Sather abstained. Motion carried.

Chief Shykes brought forward the election of the Fire Department Officers. Officers are as follows: Fire Chief Steve Shykes, Assistant Chief Matt Hoffmann, Battalion Chief Nick Preiner, Captain Cory Christianson, Lieutenant Jeremy Widmer and Secretary/Treasurer Greg Chad.

Motion to approve the Fire Department Officers, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Bank Transfers-

Motion to transfer from the Checking to the Assessment Savings \$4,975.59, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department Business- Chief Shykes provided the Town Board an update that the turnout gear has been ordered and currently awaiting reimbursement. Paperwork for an SCBA grant has been completed but not submitted as the grant requires a 5% match. The SCBA total costs are \$204,000, which includes a harness, two bottles and a face piece.

Motion to apply for the grant, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Chairman Tammaro added that he and Clerk Coldagelli have been looking at ways to fund SCBAs for in the future if unable to secure a grant. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Chief Shykes also brought forward that as of January 1st, Walker, Giroux & Hahne are no longer able to conduct relief association audits and the Fayal Fire Relief Association is in search of an auditor. Clerk Coldagelli had received some contacts to check with.

Mining Effects- A small balance remains.

Motion to approve the \$75.00 fee to the Eveleth Fee Office for sewer line easement renewal, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Utility Billing Clerk- Utility Billing Clerk Diane Dickson passed away and will need to replace the position. The position is part of the union contract.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$54,967.28, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sather brought forward that for Town Board agenda items, each department should run items by their department head before giving to the Clerk to add to the agenda or if it is added last minute to ensure the department head understands and is aware.

Supervisor Ziegler questioned the status of the loader bucket. Road & Bridge checked with the companies that Supervisor Ziegler recommended from a prior meeting and the Department bought the bucket premade as it cost more to have it fabricated. Discussion regarding the miscommunication that final approval did not come back to the Town Board.

Motion to close the meeting as permitted by section §13D.03 to discuss the Township's labor negotiation strategy in relation to the Township's negotiation with the Union, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro closed the meeting at 7:46 PM.

(Clerk's Note: Per MN Statute §13D.03 Subd. 2 (a) & (b) the closed portion of the meeting was audio recorded. The audio recording will be preserved for two years after the contract is signed and will be made available to the public after all labor contracts are signed by the Town Board).

Motion to close contract negotiations and reopen the meeting per MN Statute §13D.03, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was reopened at 8:34 PM.

Motion to approve the appointment of Robbi Ochis as Interim Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Pay will be the same as prior Deputy of \$300/month. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion to advertise for a part-time billing clerk, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Coldagelli

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Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: *[Signature]*
Chair

Date: 1-4-22

Attest: *Heidi M. Coldagelli*
Clerk