

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

FEBRUARY 15, 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 member Matt Hoffmann arrived at 7:05.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of February 1st, 2022, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Supervisor Branville abstained. Motion carried.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- None at this time.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- None at this time.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of January have been received and all accounts were reconciled. Revenues were \$79,355.97 and expenditures were \$188,203.31. Ending balances for the month of January are:

Miners Checking- \$1,089,577.93

Assessment Savings- \$430,450.75

CD Savings- \$524,001.35

For the month of February to date, revenues are \$29,632.60 and expenditures are \$92,210.02.

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 Public Access Television Meeting Minutes from February 2nd, made Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Fire Department Business Meeting Minutes from January 12th, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Discussion regarding a few maintenance projects the Fire Department has and to contact Foreman Jason Latvaaho. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Motion to accept the Joint Rec Board Meeting Minutes from February 9th, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Public Utility Commission Meeting Minutes from January 11th, 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 January Wastewater Operator Report made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

February 1st- Flyer from Minnesota Energy regarding a farm tap proposal. Minnesota Energy has filed a proposal with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission aimed at lessening the safety risks associated with continued service to farm tap customers. Farm tap customers located within one mile of Minnesota Energy's current system will have their fuel lines replaced with Minnesota Energy Resources owned mains and service lines. Costs of this proposal will come from all current customers through a gas utility infrastructure cost rider surcharge.

Several virtual public hearing dates are available in March for more information. Shared with the Public Utilities Commission.

February 3rd - Email and letter from the Minnesota Benefit Association with information regarding township group life and disability programs for 2022. Placed on file.

February 4th- Letter from Minnesota Power with notice of application for general increase in rates for electric service effective January 1st, 2022. The interim rates reflect a 7.11% increase for the residential class (other than dual-fuel) and 14.23% increase for all other customers depending on service class and will remain in effect until a final rate level is determined. Shared with the Public Utilities Commission.

February 7th- Letter from Matthew Johnson, St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department. Every three years St. Louis County must requalify with Housing and Urban Development to continue receiving Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership funding. The Joint Cooperation Agreement between Fayal and St. Louis County will automatically renew unless Fayal terminates the agreement. Placed on file.

February 8th- Email from St. Louis County. The St. Louis County Board approved nine projects to combat aquatic invasive species. Approved was \$430,000 to the North St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District to manage watercraft inspections, decontaminations and public education on Bear Island, Birch, Burntside, Crane, Ely, Gilbert-Pit, Johnson, Kabetogama, One Pine, Pelican, Shagawa and Vermilion lakes. Shared with the Planning Commission.

February 8th- Email from Phil Norvitch from North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District with invitation to participate in a stakeholder meeting on Tuesday, February 22nd from 1:00-3:00 to brainstorm and compile potential implementation activities for the St. Louis River One Watershed, One Plan. They are seeking priorities as an organization such as is there a culvert that is causing ongoing maintenance issues, or a road that is frequently washing out during storm events. Forwarded on to the Road & Bridge Department.

February 8th- Variance request from St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department for Douglas and Mary Sue Mertens. Forwarded on to the Planning Commission for review and employee Richard Bieganek for approval.

February 11th- Letter from Karen McNeal from the St. Louis County Agricultural Fair Association seeking financial assistance for the 2022 Fair. Placed on file.

February 11th- Email from St. Louis County. Local Board of Appeal will take place on Tuesday, April 19th at 1:00-2:00 PM. Placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Sather-

Old Bullfrogs Building- Chairman Tamaro would like to bring forward the issue at the Annual Meeting for resident feedback. In his opinion, the only option is to purchase the property in order to demolish the building and repurpose the land. All other avenues have been exhausted. Discussion regarding property and land value. Clerk Coldagelli will contact Attorney Kearney to discuss.

COVID-19 Update- Will remove from the agenda, unless there are future updates.

Sewer & Water Access Charges Verbiage- Public Utilities Commission is working on.

Gilbert Water Treatment Upgrades- When an update occurs, will discuss.

American Rescue Plan- Lost revenue has been simplified. Under lost revenue, a government entity may spend on government services, which includes any cost that would come up during the course of running the Township. Funds cannot be used to pay down debt, pay into pension funds and place into a rainy day fund, meaning the Town cannot save the funds past December 31st, 2024. Every township in Minnesota may use all of their ARPA funds as lost revenue by electing to use the standard allowance. A resolution isn't required, but is best practice. Clerk Coldagelli will provide a resolution for the next meeting. Discussion regarding funds.

Motion to use the American Rescue Plan Funds for the Fire Department laptop, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineering for Ballfield Water/Sewer Extension & Picnic Shelter- The Public Utilities Commission and the Planning Commission are reviewing the utilities extension. Clerk Coldagelli had concerns if the picnic shelter would be completed this summer. Discussion regarding concessions and storage for the ballfield as well as water and sewer options.

Fire Department Equipment- The ATV and the boat are posted for sale.

2022 EMS Strategic Plan- Will continue to work on. Clerk Coldagelli is the only office employee until the Billing Clerk position is filled and has not had ample time to work on the strategic plan.

Utility Billing Clerk- Received a total of eight applications and interviews have started. Will have a recommendation for the next meeting.

Recreation Board- Clerk Coldagelli, Chairman Tammaro and Supervisor Sather attended the Recreation Board meeting. The Eveleth City Council made a motion at their last meeting that they would like the Joint Rec Board to continue their remaining programs for now and that the parties to the joint power agreement work together on how to best deliver these programs in the future for the benefit of the kids/students (Rock Ridge Community Education, other, etc.). Rock Ridge Community Education is able to oversee the softball and tennis programs. Supervisor discussion regarding the purpose of a replacement recreation director if there are no longer any programs to oversee. The Recreation Board is requesting what direction the entities would like to take prior to Recreation Director Craig Homola's retirement on April 1st. Town Board discussion regarding not taking any action. The Town is no longer interested in continuing with a Recreation Board as long as Rock Ridge Community Education is able to support the programs.

Motion to draft a letter, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Retiree Healthcare Proposal- Discussion regarding Equipment Operator Albert Jurenic's request for spousal health insurance coverage at his retirement. He had originally proposed a stipend of \$800.00 per month until his spouse is Medicare eligible.

Motion to stand by original proposal of not paying for spouse's healthcare past his retirement, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

PUC Appointment-

Motion to appoint Chris Erickson to a three-year term, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Next month will have two term renewals for members whose terms should have been addressed in December. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Fire Department Resignation-

Motion to accept the resignation of Curtis Schramm, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Transfer from General to the Fire Department- A transfer of \$12,198.22 from General is needed to cover payroll expenses that exceeded the Fire Department \$25,000 payroll budget in 2021 due to pay increases.

Motion to transfer \$12,198.22 from General to the Fire Department, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Fayal Water Company Estimate Fee Increase- The Public Utilities Commission has recommended an increase to the water estimate fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00.

Motion to increase the water estimate fee from \$3.00 to \$5.00, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Rate would take effect for the utility bill due in June. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer- Discussion regarding compensation for the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. At this time there is little work required to assist the Clerk/Treasurer, if something were to happen and the work load increases, the wage can be reassessed.

Motion to pay the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer \$150.00 per month, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro brought forward that a letter was received from the City of Eveleth. The letter will be discussed when Chief Steve Shykes returns from vacation and determine how to address it.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$46,152.38, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Coldagelli

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Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved:

Andy F. [Signature]
Chair

Date:

3-1-22

Attest:

Heidi M. Coldagelli
Clerk