

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

APRIL 12, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Ed Vest. Present were Chairman Ed Vest and Commissioners Chris Erickson and Gina Brascugli. Clerk/Treasurer Heidi Coldagelli and Public Utilities Clerk Rebecca Waldorf were also present. Commissioner Amy Jackson joined at 7:02 PM. Commissioner Dave Hamalainen was absent. Chairman Vest welcomed new Fayal Township Public Utilities Clerk Rebecca Waldorf.

Audience members in attendance were Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro and Supervisor Richard Sather.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the Regular Public Utility Meeting Minutes of February 8th, made by Gina Brascugli, supported by Chris Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS- None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

MN Power provided notice of rate increases effective January 1st. Discussion regarding the rate process.

MN Energy provided a flyer regarding changes to farm taps. 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. Discussion regarding farm tap locations within the Township and how the farm tap located at the Town Hall is affected.

Delinquency Reports- As of 2-24-22 \$10,755.69 and as of 3-30-22 \$12,133.61. Discussion regarding individuals on the list and a number on the list have paid.

February and March Water/Wastewater Report- Discussion regarding 4 frozen water lines and 10 residents that are running water. Frost levels were down 73" and significantly dropped one week in February. There are no known major issues with any of the pumps.

State of MN Consumer Confidence Report- Clerk Coldagelli will draft for the next utility billing. Residents can request a copy.

OLD BUSINESS

Access to Availability Ord 98-1 & 98-2 & Access to Availability and SAC Resolution 2018-13 & 2000-14-Twin homes- Chairman Vest has not had an opportunity to work on this yet, but would like to get it done soon.

American Rescue Plan Act- Use of the funds has been revised to include that all funds can be deemed as lost revenues, which opens up the ability to use the funds. The Town Board has discussed potentially divvying the funds among the different departments. If the funds are not used, they need to be returned to the Federal Government.

Waterline- Three engineer's estimates were provided from SEH. Estimates included a waterline loop, coming down Park Drive for a ballfield connection and then the final estimate was connecting the ballfield from

Woodlawn Drive East. Suggestion from Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro to consider there may be available grants. Discussion regarding options. Commissioner Jackson supported looking at grant opportunities and doing what's best for the community.

- **Motion to recommend to the Town Board to apply for federal funds to improve on this project as best as we can for the community, made by Amy Jackson, supported by Gina Brascugli. Motion carried unanimously.**

There has been no further information from the Craddock's regarding the status of their request.

Zebra Mussels in Ely Lake- The City of Eveleth retained a permit to open the aqueduct on March 17th, 2022. Permit awarded under the conditions that water may be transferred when lake is ice covered and water temperature remains below 48 degrees. Discussion regarding zebra mussels.

PUC Vacancies- Gina Brascugli and Ed Vest terms were renewed on April 5th.

NEW BUSINESS

Frozen Water Lines- February through March Clerk Coldagelli credited residents \$353.59. Have not had any frozen lines since 2019. Discussion regarding 4 frozen water lines and 10 residents that are running water. Frost levels are down to 73".

TREASURER REPORT- Both the Fayal Water and Sewer Company have cash in the positive with some cushion. With lack of staff, payroll expenses have been lower. The line cleaning is in its final year, which has typically been approximately \$50,000. Discussion regarding frequency with line cleaning and the potential of doing the cleaning and televising in-house. Discussion regarding the City of Gilbert as they are in the midst of a rate study as well as having capacity issues with their sewer plant.

The Town sets aside \$400 per month for the PUC Truck Fund and there is \$30,000 in the fund. Discussion regarding the cost of a new truck and it should be some time before the truck needs replacement. Chairman Vest questioned if any generators were needed at this time. Town Board Chairman Tammaro is working on getting pricing for generators and potentially utilizing ARPA funds.

- **Motion to suspend funding for the PUC truck depreciation account, made by Chris Erickson, supported by Amy Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion to approve the Treasurer's report, made by Amy Jackson, supported by Ed Vest. Motion carried unanimously.**

CABLE- Discussion regarding fiber installation on Highway 37.

STREET LIGHTS- No updates.

Next PUC meeting is on May 10, 2022.

Chris Erickson brought forward additional questions regarding the opening of the aqueduct and questioned if there were filters available to aid in preventing infestations. Discussion that they are available but expensive. Discussion regarding the permit conditions.

- **Motion to adjourn by Amy Jackson, supported by Ed Vest.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Approved 5-10-2022



Rebecca Waldorf

Public Utilities Coordinator/Billing Clerk