

# PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

MAY 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commission was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Chairman Ed Vest. Present in person were Commissioners Ed Vest, Chris Erickson, Gina Brascugli, Amy Jackson and Dave Hamalainen. Audience member in attendance was Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the Regular PUC Meeting Minutes of April 12th, made by Commissioner Amy Jackson, supported by Chairman Ed Vest. Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS- None at this time.

## CORRESPONDENCE

*MN Energy Farm Tap Proposal*- Chairman Vest made a recommendation to go ahead and do it as there is no charge to the Township. Commissioner Amy Jackson agreed

- **Motions to recommend that we allow MN Energy to replace our Farm Tap, made by Chairman Ed Vest, supported by Commissioner Amy Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.**

*Delinquency Reports*- As of 04/26/2022, \$11,606.28. Several on the list have already paid. Chairman Vest questioned if someone sells their house do these delinquency accounts go through the Township and do they get cleared up during the closing? Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro responded yes, and PUC Billing Clerk Rebecca Waldorf believed so and will check with Clerk Heidi Coldagelli.

*April Water/Wastewater Report*- Discussion about the I&I and fresh water as there is a lot of water and the Gilbert bill was high. Chairman Vest questioned if there is a leak someplace from the repair on Shady Lane.

*Planned MN Power Outage*- Commissioner Amy Jackson questions if MN Power did make contact attempts to let us know about the planned outage and wants to know which meter was affected so she can investigate why the Township was not notified or was it missed due to incorrect contact information. Need to update the account if necessary. PUC Clerk Rebecca Waldorf will find out what meter was affected.

*Mediacom Franchise fees*- Chairman Ed Vest questioned that it seems like there are less and less residents in the Township using Mediacom services due to prices going up and people are switching providers. Chairman Vest would like to know how many customers in the Township are using Mediacom. Commissioner Amy Jackson would like to know if we can negotiate our franchise fee. Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro states about every 10 years franchise fees are negotiated.

## 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. Discussion regarding developments and parcel splits. Chairman Vest suggests that the Township consider this an assessment versus an access charge, depending on how it works out to receive payment, either when property is sold or at the time it is split.

American Rescue Plan Act- Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro shared that we can use this money for the line cleaning and televising.

Waterline- Chairman Vest questioned if we have any decisions that can be made on the ballfield. Commissioner Amy Jackson brought forward that they wanted to see what kind of money they end up with, including the possibility of grant funding, before they can make a decision.

Mark and Jinny Craddock- No further update and this is tied to the ballfield waterline.

Zebra Mussels in Ely Lake- Chairman Ed Vest made contact with DNR on 4-27-22 and told them the water was high enough. The DNR closed the aqueduct on 4-28-22.

Frozen water lines- Frost is out now. April credits were \$860.02.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

MN Energy- Chairman Ed Vest recommends they go ahead and change the lines. Commissioner Amy Jackson added that the Township isn't going to change the fuel and there is not another utility that provides gas, therefore the Township doesn't have a choice and there is no upfront cost.

**Motion made to recommend option one, made by Commissioner Chris Erickson, supported by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen. Motion carried unanimously.**

Televising and Line Cleaning Proposal- Township received two proposals which differ in cost greatly. We have used Great Lakes Pipe Service in the past with no issues. Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro states this could be our last one that we have to hire out as we are hoping to do this in-house next time.

- **Motion to take the Great Lakes Pipe Service proposal and to utilize the American Rescue Plan Act funds to pay for the televising, made by Commissioner Amy Jackson, supported by Chairman Ed Vest. Motion carries unanimously.**

Garage Floor Drains- Discussion on previous advice that floor drains belong hooked up to the sewer and currently our sewer staff feel that garage floor drains should not be hooked up to the sewer. Discussion on daylighting the garage drains and the effects of that versus the sewer. Discussion regarding what our town ordinance allows. There is no specific ordinance regarding floor drains, however, there is verbatim in the ordinance that clearly states what materials are not allowed to be introduced into the sewer system. Residents that have a garage floor drain need to have drain traps/filter screens. Discussion if the Township wants to implement guidelines for new construction garages with regards to requiring homeowners connect floor drains to the sewer. The Ordinance doesn't address how to handle. For the current resident, Chairman Ed Vest recommends to go ahead and allow them to hook it up to the sewer. Discussion regarding requiring connection to the sewer for new construction garages with a drain.

- **Motion to approve the garage drain being hooked up to the sewer system if the resident so chooses, made by Commissioner Gina Brascugli, supported by Dave Hamalainen. Commissioner Amy Jackson would like to see verbiage added to the Ordinance. Motion carries unanimously.**
- **Motion for in the future if new construction if people choose to put a floor drain in the garage, they would need to connect to the sewer, made by Commission Chris Erickson, supported by Amy Jackson.** Discussion if that was the motion that was just passed? Clarification that the previous motion

was for the one resident. This motion would be how to handle going forward and would require an ordinance change. Clerk Coldagelli can work on that. This would require someone if they have a floor drain, to connect to the city sewer. **Motion carries unanimously.**

**TREASURER REPORT-** Commissioner Erickson thought the financial reports were the same from last month. Last month it was in good shape and as long as there were no big changes everything should be fine. Chairman Vest is interested in seeing how the frozen water lines affected the April water usage being sent to Gilbert via the sewer system for the next meeting. PUC would like to see the comparison from April 2021 to April 2022, or a historical record for the month of April as this could be a significant impact on the budget. PUC Coordinator Rebecca Waldorf will get this information.

**CABLE-** Discussion that the Mediacom franchise fees are high.

**STREET LIGHTS-** Light on the corner is now working, but the one up on the highway is burnt out. Amy Jackson to look at it, its located at Highway 53 and Miller Trunk Road.

Next PUC meeting to be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- **Motion to adjourn by Chris Erickson.**

Chairman Ed Vest adjourned meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Approved Rebecca Waldorf

Rebecca Waldorf  
Town of Fayal PUC Coordinating/Billing Clerk