

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

JUNE 14, 2022

The regular meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen. Present were Commissioners Dave Hamalainen, Chris Erickson and Gina Brascugli. Absent were Chairman Ed Vest and Commissioner Amy Jackson. Audience member in attendance was Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the Regular PUC Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2022 made by Commissioner Gina Brascugli, supported by Commissioner Chris Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS- Brad Scott was present via telephone to discuss putting in a development on St. Mary's Lake and wanted the PUC's support of the project. Mr. Scott has 35 acres and 1500 feet of lakeshore that he is going to develop and is interested in creating 20-22 lots. Final drawings are not done yet. Mr. Scott would like to bring city sewer and water to each and every lot that they have if possible. Commissioner Dave Hamalainen questioned if Fayal would have to have an engineer review. Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro responded that Mr. Scott is using Benchmark and that Fayal would need to contact Gilbert and let them know what our plans are and that Fayal is going to do this development. Benchmark is engineering the whole thing and putting together the project costs for infrastructure and Mr. Scott should have that back in the next week or week and half. Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro expressed that this is where Mr. Scott needed to start to get the ball rolling, present it to the PUC, so that they can recommend the project to the Town Board. Mr. Scott also had a scheduled meeting with the IRRRB, but it was postponed. Discussion about making sure people can get water and that there is water there for a well. There is always a possibility that people may not be able to hit water but that is not a responsibility of the Township. Mr. Scott informed the PUC that there are six nearby houses that all have wells and across the highway TUFCO and Woodline manufacturing have a well. Mr. Scott knows all the contractors are backed up now and that he has to use the contractors approved by Fayal Township and get bids but would like to get going right away. He would like to get the sewer in place for the lots before winter or early October/November, then have them up for sale by spring. Commissioner Gina Brascugli clarified that each lot will be required to pay a \$6,625.00 sewer access charge. Mr. Scott expressed that he's received a lot of interest in people purchasing the lots and would like to get things sold right away so the Township can start collecting. Commissioner Chris Erickson wanted clarification as to when this fee is charged? Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro expressed that this will cost a significant amount of money and the Township would like to contribute some money towards the project to help with the IRRRB. Discussion on how the SAC fees are obtained. Money is received when the lots are sold and not when they are subdivided. There is a payment plan option so that people don't have to come up with the money all at once over a 5-year period. The biggest thing is that Fayal needs the PUC to support the project. Mr. Scott is hoping to work with the IRRRB and the Township for assistance and Mr. Scott has an investment on his end as well. Mr. Scott wants to get the project going and get houses up there as quickly as possible so that everybody can get a return on their investments including the Fayal Township.

- **Motion that we recommend we go ahead with the project, made by Commissioner Chris Erickson, supported by Commissioner Gina Brascugli. Motion carried unanimously.**

CORRESPONDENCE-

Delinquency Reports- As of 05/25/2022, \$14,548.19. Several on the list have already paid or made partial payments. Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro questioned if the balance seems to be coming down and PUC Coordinator Rebecca Waldorf shared that nine people on the list made payments or partial payments after the list was printed. Discussion regarding the balances stay about the same and seems to be the same people that are delinquent and compared with April, May delinquency is higher and then reduce by the nine that paid and it really stays somewhat constant. Commissioner Dave Hamalainen questioned is there much the PUC can actually do? Response that it is placed on their taxes, charge 10% interest and a fee to certify.

May Water/Wastewater Report- Discussion about the I&I and fresh water as there is a lot of water and the Gilbert bill was high. Discussion on how in 2021 it dropped down to 2.8 due to the dry hot spring. It has trended up over the decade, which might be the age of the system and there really isn't more people in Fayal. Discussion on what is the worst-case scenario with all this excess water, could people's basements back up if something happened to a sewer pipe it could if the pump quits. Usually if a pump quits on a well you only get one flush and that's it. All of our lift stations have two pumps.

Planned MN Power Outage- Waiting to hear more information on this from Commissioner Amy Jackson.

Mediacom Franchise Fees- PUC Coordinator Rebecca Waldorf explained that she spoke with Theresa Sunde with Mediacom who is our representative. The fees are increasing and that money is then used to pay for Channel 12, this is a good thing as its revenue for us. There are approximately 164 Mediacom customers in Fayal.

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 been working on.

American Rescue Plan Act- Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro shared that he and Township Clerk Heidi Coldagelli are looking at putting about \$60,000 toward the PUC. American Rescue Plan funds paid for the line cleaning, bought an office envelope folder for \$7,000, and gave the Fire Department and Road & Bridge Department money. Also \$25,000 towards the Gazebo that is being built this summer.

Waterline- No further updates. Commissioner Gina Brascugli expresses that its quite expensive, but we have to have someone do the work.

Mark and Jinny Craddock- No further update.

Zebra Mussels- No further update.

Frozen water lines- May credits were \$273.98. Four people were running water.

NEW BUSINESS

Historical records of I&I- Discussed under Correspondence.

Mediacom Franchise fees- Discussed under correspondence.

MPL April callout- Discussed under correspondence.

St. Mary's Lake Development- Discussed under guests, but make sure that the PUC stays informed each step of the way.

Delinquency Payments- Payments received during sale of home bring everything up to date at closing and delinquent accounts receive payment from the earnings of closing costs. Typically, this is caught during the title search phase.

Garage Floor Drains- Discussion on Clerk Heidi Coldagelli looking into the Township Ordinance in regards to what can or cannot be introduced into our sewer system and then the PUC can look into creating an Ordinance. Commissioner Dave Hamalainen questioned if we can look into people having sump pumps in their basements and do they drain into our sewer system? This would need to be investigated as this could put a lot of water into the system. Gilbert just went through it and it is wrong to have sump pumps drain into the sewer system. Eveleth also went through this many years ago. Discussion that sump pumps help keep basements from flooding, but the water needs to be pumped outside and not into the sewer drain. How do we police this? Can we put this in the sewer bill to ask people to be mindful that if they have a sump pump that they cannot introduce that water down the drain. Is there an ordinance against that in Fayal? Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro responds that there probably is but doesn't know for sure. Commissioner Chris Erickson would like to know if there is an ordinance. PUC Coordinator Rebecca Waldorf to check into that, and if there isn't one, we can create one.

TREASURER REPORT- Commissioner Erickson reported that everything is cash flow positive so far this year for the water and sewer company. Part of it is because Clerk Heidi Coldagelli was doing both jobs earlier this year so that will narrow up as the year goes on. Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro also informed the PUC that one day a week Rick Bieganeck is working in the Road & Bridge Department, so that will help a lot.

CABLE-Discussed under correspondence

STREET LIGHTS- Highway 53 and Miller Trunk is still out. It's been out for a while and Commissioner Amy Jackson was to be checking on this. It's difficult to have someone come and change the light and MPL is busy.

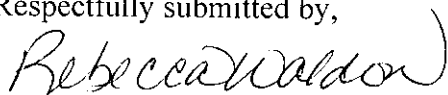
Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro brought forward that a new employee, Jason Westby started tomorrow to replace Albert Jurenic. He came from St. Louis County and he looks like he is going to be a good acquisition.

Next PUC meeting to be held on July 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- **Motion to adjourn by Chris Erickson, supported by Commissioner Gina Brascugli. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Dave Hamalainen adjourned meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Rebecca Waldorf

Town of Fayal PUC Coordinating/Billing Clerk

Approved 7-12-2022