

# PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL  
SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The regular meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commission was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Chairman Ed Vest. Members present in person are Commissioners Dave Hamalainen, Chris Erickson and Gina Brascugli. Absent is Commissioner Amy Jackson. Audience members in attendance are Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro and Jenny Bourbonais.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the Regular PUC Meeting Minutes of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 made by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen and supported by Commissioner Gina Brascugli. Motion carried unanimously.**

**GUEST** - Jenny Borbonais Land Use Manager Planning and Community Development with St. Louis County here to educate and answer questions regarding a Letter of Understanding (LOU) for short term rentals within Fayal Township. Jenny explains that St. Louis County is seeking input from the Fayal Township Public Utilities committee to create this document so as to have better guidance during the application process for short term rentals within a sanitary district. The St. Louis County recommends using the occupancy numbers set forth by the onsite wastewater system which is two people per bedroom. That number is important for an onsite system and may be equally important for a municipal system. St. Louis County is looking for a common way to address occupancy standards throughout St. Louis County for all short-term rentals. Discussion on having three people per bedroom. Discussion on how well the renter adheres to the occupancy numbers. The St. Louis County holds renters to what they put on the application for occupancy and use a third-party vendor to review listings and making sure that it matches up with the occupancy allowed. Discussion on what prompted the need for an LOU. Resulting from unregulated property rentals and responding to complaints about rentals. Permitting process is a one-time fee and application per property owner. This needs to be addressed because renters are sort of running a commercial activity in a residential zone and that activity would not normally be allowed. The LOU would allow such activity. Short term rentals are those that rent for 30 days or less. The Township needs to decide if there is a need for a LOU between the Township, St. Louis County and rental property owners and then move forward with creation of this memorandum. This is an opportunity for Fayal Township to add requirements/standards to the applications for short-term rental use in the Township or leave this process entirely up to the standards set by the St. Louis County. PUC will review material provided and come back to this decision at the next PUC meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE-**

**Delinquency Reports** - As of 8-23-22 \$11,829.00 a little smaller than prior. Only five residents will be certified to taxes, all others have paid or almost paid off their delinquent amounts. Those that will be certified do pay their taxes and the Township does recoup those delinquent payments.

**Treasurer Report** - July and August treasurer report water company seems to be good and sewer company is maintaining. Interest rates have gone up this year. Investment in CD's could be a good option for some of the Township's liquid funds. Commissioner Chris Erickson explains that there is a potential to gain maybe 10-15 thousand dollars a year in interest dependent on how much money can be put into short term CD's. The 10-15 thousand dollars could be equitable to one to two dollar a month raise in sewer bills.

- **Motion to recommend to the Town Board analyze the interest rates and make an appropriate investment from the water and sewer funds made by Commissioner Chris Erickson and supported by Dave Hamalainen. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen and supported by Gina Brascugli. Motion carried unanimously.**

August Water/Wastewater Report - Discussion on where A1 station is located, power outages affecting several lift stations along Miller Trunk and Beaver dam issues.

St. Louis County Short Term Rental - decision made to review information from Jenny Bourbonais and discuss at next month's meeting.

Mediacom Franchise Fee - \$2,917.51 received from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

MN Rural Water Association - Discussion on ServLine Leak Protection Program, an informational letter only provided. The Township does not pay for the ServLine Leak Protection Program.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Access to Availability Ord 98-1 & 98-2 & Access to Availability and SAC Resolution 2018-13 & 2000-14-Twin homes - Chairman Ed Vest developed a proposed change to the verbatim. PUC to review and Township Clerk Heidi Coldagelli to work with Chairman Ed Vest on this. Chairman Ed Vest has not been able to meet with Town Clerk Heidi Coldagelli as of yet.

Brad Scott St. Mary's Lake Development - no new information

Zebra mussels in Ely Lake - no new information

Mark and Jinny Craddock - Craddock's are moving forward with installing a water line. Property will be marked, then surveyed and an easement will be developed.

MPL/Planned MN Power Outage - April callout, Meter #B560649 Lift Station B on 4-27-22 at 3:16 p.m. Commissioner Amy Jackson explained via email that MnPower does have the correct phone number for the Township and that the automated system does leave a voicemail if it needs to. Fayal Sewer Operator Rick Bieganeck should also be on this call system.

Delinquency Reports - Received \$6,771.86 in July from delinquent utilities that were certified from 2021. Commissioner Chris Erickson shares that the dollar amounts received when a resident pays their taxes and that money is then prorated and divided amongst whom that person owes. Each time the resident makes payments we get a portion of it until we are fully caught up.

Mn Power Rate Change - Due to using more than 2,500 kWh for 3 or more consecutive months MnPower is moving us to On Demand Rates. Demand Rates may or may not increase our monthly bills. Commissioner Amy Jackson and Town Clerk Heidi Coldagelli to work on this. No further information.

Street Light - Both lights are on their respective companies for repair, MnDOT and St. Louis County.

Reschedule the November PUC meeting - General Elections on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, PUC unable to meet that night. November PUC meeting to be held on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Next PUC meeting to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

- **Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen and supported by Gina Brascugli Motion carries unanimously.**

Chairman Ed Vest adjourned meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Approved October 11, 2022

*Rebecca Waldorf*

Rebecca Waldorf

Town of Fayal PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk