

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

JUNE 13TH, 2023

The regular meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ed Vest. Members present in person are Commissioners Amy Jackson, Dave Hamalainen, and Eugene O'Brien. Members absent are Commissioner Chris Erickson. Audience members are Town Board Chairman Tony Tamaro and Town of Fayal Wastewater Operator Rick Bieganek.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the Regular PUC Meeting Minutes of May 9th, 2023 made by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen and supported by Eugene O'Brien. Motion carries unanimously.**

GUEST

Town of Fayal Wastewater Operator Rick Bieganek here to answer questions that the PUC members might have about the sewer system. Rick discusses repairs needed for a leak at Lift Station L located on West Long Lake Road. Amy Jackson joins meeting 7:05pm. There is a service line that is capped and it is leaking, it's not in use and could be eliminated to solve the leakage problem. Discussion about the sewer system on Differding Point. There are two separate sewer systems on Differding Point, Gilbert owned and Fayal owned. Rick explains there is some shared area there for sewer, however we are billed off of Lift Station A because that is totally Fayal Township sewer. Discussion on Differding Point residents that receive their water from Gilbert and how the sewer bill to Gilbert is calculated for those people. Commissioner Amy Jackson finds an error in the May 9th meeting minutes and the motion regarding Gilbert seeking to acquire the 33 residents on Differding Point as water customers. The minutes reflected "sewer customers" and it should have stated "water customers" typographical error occurred. Corrected motion to reflect water customers.

- **Motion to amend the May 9th, 2023 minutes and motion regarding Differding Point area residents that the minutes and motion is to reflect water service instead of sewer service for the Differding Point water residents and supported by Dave Hamalainen. Motion carries unanimously.**

Discussion if Differding Point area residents did go to City of Gilbert how would Fayal calculate the wastewater treatment for those customers. Currently we use the metered water for those residents to calculate sewer usage and pay City of Gilbert for that wastewater treatment. If the residents in the Differding Point area become water utility customers of Gilbert, then we would no longer have their water meter readings to calculate sewer usage. Wastewater Operator Rick Bieganek uses a formula to calculate the sewer usage based off the water usage for those residents.

Discussion on Lead and Copper revision survey of water service lines. Survey to be conducted of water lines up to the water meter and documentation of what material these lines are made of, please see comments under new business. Will survey for sump pumps connected to the sewer at the same time. Discussion on sewer line repairs at Russ Rd; when the contractor connected to the sewer system, he damaged a sewer pipe and connected it to the home incorrectly. The repair will be from the main line all the way to the house.

CORRESPONDENCE

Delinquency Reports – Not much change from previous month. Discussion on a few regular non payers.

Water/Wastewater Reports – Discussed above under guest with Wastewater Operator Rick Bieganek.

April and May Financials – Treasurer Chris Erickson absent from meeting

- **Motion to accept financial report as printed made by Eugene O'Brien and supported by Amy Jackson. Motion carries unanimously.**

Fayal Township letter to residents – Copy of the sewer rate increase letter to residents provided.

Servline Leak Protection – Letter received from MN Rural Water Association informing customers of their protection program. More info can be found at <https://watersolutions.homeserve.com/servline-leak-protection>

St. Louis County Planning Commission T-Mobile Cell Tower letter – Commissioner Amy Jackson attended a meeting on Thursday May 11th. The meeting was to discuss the proposed T-Mobile Cell Tower site specifications. Currently they are not meeting the minimum requirements for the proposed location off of Bodas Rd. Commissioner Amy Jackson and other nearby area residents attended this meeting to protest said location for the cell tower as it is close to their homes. Letter received from St. Louis County Planning Commission dated June 1st, 2023 states that the Conditional Use Permit has been denied. Per Commissioner Amy Jackson the tower would have been too close to residents and too close to a roadway. T-Mobile could still build in this location but will need to make adjustments to exact positioning of the tower.

OLD BUSINESS

City of Gilbert Utility Rates – \$5.25 debt service increase, \$5.20 volume rate increase

Fayal Sewer Rates –\$2.55 increase

Saint Mary's Lake development – No new information.

Eveleth Water Agreement – No new information

NEW BUSINESS

Lead and Copper revision – MN rural water association representative met with Wastewater Operator Rick Bieganeck, Town Clerk Heidi Coldagelli and PUC Coordinator Rebecca Waldorf to discuss how to comply with the Lead and Copper revision survey for Lead water lines in the Town of Fayal. Town of Fayal will have to survey all water customers by way of photos or in person home inspections. Town of Fayal is required to survey lines up to the water meter only. If a homeowner has lead water pipes in their home after the water meter, that is the homeowner's responsibility. The survey is to document what materials were used to install the public water line up to the water meter in the home.

Treasurer Report – discussed above under April and May financials.

Next PUC meeting to be held on July 11th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

- **Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Amy Jackson and supported by Chairman Ed Vest. Motion carries unanimously.**

Chairman Ed Vest adjourned meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Rebecca Waldorf

Town of Fayal PUC Coordinator/Billing Clerk

Approved 7/11/2023