

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAYAL TOWN HALL

NOVEMBER 14th, 2023

The regular meeting of the Fayal Public Utilities Commission was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Ed Vest. Members present were Commissioners Chris Erickson, Dave Hamalainen, Eugene O'Brien and Ed Vest. Members absent were Amy Jackson. Guests were Town Board Chairman Tony Tammaro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Motion to approve the Regular PUC Meeting Minutes of October 10th, 2023 made by Commissioner Eugene O'Brien and supported by Chris Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**

GUESTS- None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Delinquency Reports – The list appears to be getting smaller. Clerk Coldagelli added that a number of the chronic delinquents were certified last month and those balances have been removed. Discussion regarding the Surla property and if it was coming up for sale. There was a Supreme Court case impacting tax forfeit properties and St. Louis County is unsure how to proceed with sales at this time. Properties are still proceeding with clean up in order to prepare for a sale.

Water/Wastewater Reports – O'Brien commented that the recycling sign looks nice. Discussion regarding the recycling location and individuals not being respectful of how to properly dispose of recyclables.

Mediacom Franchise Fee Payment – Received \$2,804.81 for third quarter. The payment received covers the Channel 12 dues. O'Brien commended Fayal on the speed that the dues payment is received, whereas the other entities are not as prompt.

Town of Fayal PUC Coordinator Vacancy – Two applications have been received with the due date approaching on 11/15. One of the applicants has been contacted for an interview. The wage is currently \$26.00 per hour, \$150.00 per month for the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and then an additional \$3.50 per hour when on-call. Discussion regarding the on-call component. Discussion regarding duties, call volume and seeking other interested individuals for being on-call.

OLD BUSINESS

St. Mary's Lake Development – Clerk Coldagelli is waiting for grant information from Brad Scott's engineer in order to submit the grant to the IRRRB. The housing grant program is a new grant with no application due dates at this time. The grant is looking for projects that are 9 months to a year out. Mr. Scott's project wanted to move forward in the spring. Clerk Coldagelli added that a meeting is scheduled with MN Power regarding a waterline extension with the City of Eveleth. It would make sense for a waterline loop to go through and then these properties could have water instead of a community well. Chairman Tammaro brought forward that the Town would not be interested in contributing financially. Discussion regarding the benefits to Fayal residents by offering water services but the Town not receiving anything monetarily for those services.

EPA Lead and Copper Survey – Approximately 75% of the surveys have been returned. All of Fayal's lines are newer and there should be little that needs to be completed.

Sump Pump Survey – Approximately 50% or more have been returned. There has been only a few that are not in compliance. In a couple of the instances, there are individuals who have taken steps to eliminate the ground water being introduced into the sewer, but their set up is in violation with Fayal's Ordinance. In those cases, it would be monetarily burdensome for those individuals to change their existing piping. Wastewater Operator Rick Bieganek has been diligently working to identify properties in the Township that it appears groundwater is running into the lift station and contacting the residents to correct the issue.

Sewer Camera and Locator – The Town Board approved proceeding with the Utility Logic quote. Other nearby cities use Utility Logic. Clerk Coldagelli intends to apply for an OSHA safety grant that would cover approximately 50% of the cost of the camera and locator. Town Board Chairman Tammaro added that the product offered lifetime training and technical support. The equipment cost is approximately \$16,000.00.

Smith Property – St. Louis County Planning and Zoning approved the rezoning request and it will go before St. Louis County Board for final approval. Discussion regarding the zoning map discrepancies.

911 – Clerk Coldagelli recommended putting the Fayal Public Utilities number on the bills. The answering machine lists all the employee numbers and could be contacted in an after-hours emergency. Discussion regarding after-hours emergencies. The individual on-call is paid to be on-call. If they are called in then they receive an hourly rate.

NEW BUSINESS – None at this time.

Treasurer's Report – All accounts are cash flow positive and no large expenses besides the camera are expected. The repair of the sewer line has saved the sewer company approximately \$5,000.00 per month. Balances are as follows: Fayal Water Company- beginning balance was \$19,980.49. Revenues were \$10,658.78 and expenditures were \$6,907.89. Ending cash balance was \$34,303.97 and depreciation not in the CD was \$3,609.00. Fayal Sewer Company- beginning balance was \$124,020.52. Revenues were \$70,224.96 and expenditures were \$53,606.06. Ending cash balance was \$137,986.13, Depreciation CD was \$193,096.76 and PUC Truck Depreciation CD was \$35,807.76. PUC- beginning balance was \$2,185.95. Revenues were \$0 and expenditures were \$46.00, for an ending cash balance of \$2,127.64.

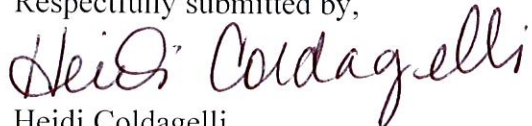
- **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, made by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen and supported by Eugene O'Brien. Motion carried unanimously.**

Next PUC meeting to be held on December 12th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

- **Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Dave Hamalainen and supported by Chris Erickson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Ed Vest adjourned meeting at 6:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,



Heidi Coldagelli

Town of Fayal Clerk/Treasurer

Approved 12-12-2023