

**TOWN OF FAYAL**  
**4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734**

*Heidi M. Coldagelli, Clerk/Treasurer*

*Anthony Tammaro, Chairman*

*Supervisors: Lee Branville, Mark Chad, Richard Sather, Patrick Ziegler*

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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD**

**MARCH 19, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Fayal Town Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Tammaro. Present were: Chairman Tammaro, Supervisor Chad, Supervisor Ziegler and Clerk/Treasurer Coldagelli. Supervisors Branville and Sather were absent. Chairman Tammaro led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Katherine Disterhaft, Matt Hoffmann and Steve Shykes.

***Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

**SCHEDULED GUESTS**- None at this time.

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS**- Katherine Disterhaft was present to request a variance request from the Town of Fayal's Blight Ordinance. She requested the meeting be closed and minutes sealed for her request. Her variance request did not meet statutory closed meeting requirements and was denied. Ms. Disterhaft stated that she has contacted the Township's attorney and he has not returned her calls. Ms. Disterhaft is requesting a variance because she would like a natural property. She would like to collect and restore architectural salvage on her property and would like to keep other items under tarps as she rearranges and sorts items. She has items that are currently frozen to the ground and would like until June or July to move them depending on the spring weather. The Township recently issued her a blight ticket. She would like privacy and would like to put up a privacy fence around her property to keep people off her property. She is requesting her ticket be expunged from the record as the items are frozen to the ground and the bags around the yard are filled with brush to make maple syrup. Ms. Disterhaft continued that we are in a township and not in a city and if people wanted neat, tidy yards then they should move to the city. She has been working on repairing the basketball hoops salvaged from the school that are in the front yard. Chairman Tammaro stated that the ticket is in the court system. Supervisor Ziegler brought forward that the Ordinance exists for a reason and he has received a number of complaints regarding Ms. Disterhaft's property.

***Motion to deny the variance request for the blight, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Chairman Tammaro.*** Ms. Disterhaft questioned why a Town Board Supervisor did not vote in her favor to represent her. Supervisor Ziegler explained that they were elected to represent the majority of the Townpeople. Supervisor Chad stated they are representing the citizens that are upset by the condition of her property. Chairman Tammaro continued that the Blight Officer is there to enforce the Ordinance and give a blight ticket when deemed appropriate. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Ms. Disterhaft would like the Township attorney to contact her within 24 hours. Clerk Coldagelli has provided the attorney her telephone number and cannot control when he returns her call. Ms. Disterhaft would like to file a complaint against her neighbor. Supervisor Ziegler stated that was a civil court issue and not a Township matter.

**REPORTS**

**Clerk/Treasurer's Report**- Bank statements for the month of February have been received and all accounts reconciled. For the month of February, revenues were \$142,177.35 and expenditures were \$147,965.03. Ending balances for the month of February were:

Miners Checking- \$579,079.01

Assessment Savings- \$176.75

CD Savings- \$6,024.29

4M Fund- \$1,548,453.84

For the month of March to date, revenues are \$51,657.75 and expenditures are \$138,812.55.

***Motion to approve the Clerk/Treasurer's Report, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

### Other Reports-

***Motion to accept the Fayal Township Fire Department February report, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Public Access Television meeting minutes from March 13<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Public Utilities Commission meeting minutes from February 13<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the PUC February report, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the PUC Delinquency report, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the February Road and Bridge report, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Planning Commission meeting minutes from January 17<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Chairman Tamaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

### CORRESPONDENCE-

February 23<sup>rd</sup>- Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with board meeting minutes from January 25<sup>th</sup>. Placed on file.

February 26<sup>th</sup>- Letter from University of Minnesota Extension with request for sponsorship for St. Louis County 4-H to participate in the South St. Louis County Fair and St. Louis County Fair. Moved to New Business.

March 4<sup>th</sup>- Letter from St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department with notice that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners has completed the classification of state tax-forfeited properties to nonconservation. Nonconservation lands can be returned to private ownership. If the Town Board disagrees with the classification, a disapproval form must be completed and returned to St. Louis County. Placed on file.

March 5<sup>th</sup>- Email from St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department with variance application for Bradley Hejda. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

March 7<sup>th</sup>- Postcard from Rock Ridge All Night Grad Party with thank you for Fayal's donation to their all night grad party. Placed on file.

March 14<sup>th</sup>- Letter from Lake Country Power regarding the district meeting scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM at the Minnesota Discovery Center. Placed on file.

March 19<sup>th</sup>- Email from St. Louis County Auditor with notice that requests for early distribution of 2024 tax collections must be made by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Placed on file.

March 19<sup>th</sup>- Email from Cathy Rouleau with notice that there are two Lobby Day choices for the 2024 session. One is 3/20 with a bus and the other is a two day event on 4/8-4/9. Placed on file.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Chairman Tamaro-

**St. Mary's Lake Development Grant-** Brad Scott has not contacted Clerk Coldagelli.

**Local Road Improvement Grant-** Clerk Coldagelli has not received any notifications regarding approval or denial status.

**Camera and Locator Grant-** The grant was denied again and the items have been purchased and have already been delivered.

**Ballfield Scoreboard/Power Grant-** Clerk Coldagelli applied for a grant through the Eveleth Community Foundation. The scoreboard needs to be moved from the Eveleth School by May. Foreman Jason Latvaaho is working with a contractor for relocation of the scoreboard.

Chairman Tamaro questioned who the new sick leave laws pertain to? Discussion that it applies to all full and part-time employees. The union employees already receive more than the required amount of sick leave, so they do not receive any additional leave due to the new law.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Annual Meeting Recap**- There was some discussion regarding St. Mary's Court, otherwise not much for follow up.

**Minnesota Association of Townships- Spring Short Course**- Clerk Coldagelli and Deputy Clerk Terry Hiti would like to attend. There is a course in Grand Rapids on April 4<sup>th</sup> or one in Duluth on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

***Motion to authorize them to attend either one of the days and have Linda Shykes come in to answer the phones and help anyone that comes in, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Yard Waste Dates**- Tentative dates are April 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Will leave on the agenda and discuss at the next meeting because could change due to the weather.

**Differding Point Waterline**- Chairman Tammaro discussed that he and Clerk Coldagelli met with representatives from the City of Gilbert. They would like to raise the 31 individuals that utilize water from Gilbert \$31.00 per month so that those residents pay the same as Gilbert residents. Gilbert had some fair disputes in regards to Fayal assisting in paying for some items and in others not. The PUC decided to invite the City of Gilbert and the Differding Point residents to a joint meeting/public hearing on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM with the PUC meeting to follow. Discussed possibly turning the waterline over to the City of Gilbert, with Fayal holding the ability to take back ownership if so desired. It is not fair to those residents and it was stressed that Fayal is a bulk customer.

***Motion to hold a public hearing for the PUC and invite the 31 residents on Differding Point to discuss the waterline and water rates, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Community Service Hours- Volunteer**- Supervisor Chad brought forward that his daughter is seeking to achieve 10 hours of community service. She will work with Clerk Coldagelli.

***Motion to allow her to get her service hours, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Supervisor Chad abstained. Motion carried.***

Supervisor Chad questioned if any other individuals could do community service in Fayal. Chairman Tammaro was supportive of the idea and Clerk Coldagelli added that our insurance covers volunteers.

**Cable Commission Terms**- Chairman Tammaro's term has expired, but he will stay on until his term is filled. The Commission is moving locations to the new Rock Ridge School. Clerk Coldagelli will advertise for two positions as the other individual was staying on until someone was able to take his position.

**Fire Department Projects**- Fire Chief Steve Shykes made the Board aware that Tender 1 is down at Custom Fire. Engine 2 is a 2005 chassis and a 2006 body. The Department has had some significant issues with the drivetrain and rearend issues. Three times the poly tank has been replaced and there is another significant leak in the tank. They are also having some engine issues with a quote of \$20,000.00 for repairs. The proposal is for rechassis the body. Chairman Tammaro questioned why keep a poly tank if they are having so many issues with it? The rechassis would support the tanks. Assistant Chief Hoffmann responded that the tanks are warrantied for life, but access is the issue. Assistant Chief Hoffmann proposed to pay for the project by taking out another loan and would find a way within the Department's budget to cover three or four years to make the payment until the water tender would be paid off. The build would take at least two years. Discussion regarding status of gear. The Department has been receiving \$10,000.00 from Mining Effects per year towards the purchase of new gear. Discussion of needs for other Departments and how to afford the project. Chairman Tammaro discussed that will need to look at the finances and affordability. The Fire Department currently owes \$109,000.00 on the water tender. Clerk Coldagelli will look into options. Assistant Chief Hoffmann also provided an amended quote for the cabinetry project for \$13,376.03.

Amy Kvaternik questioned if volleyball could utilize the courts again for a sand volleyball league for the summer. Supervisor Ziegler asked that they look to see if anything was needed such as more sand, etc.

Chairman Tammaro brought forward the 4-H fair sponsorship request.

***Motion to donate \$100.00, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$143,089.97, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heidi M. Coldagelli*

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Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved:

*Andy L. Panno*

Chair

Date:

4-2-24

Attest:

*Heidi M. Coldagelli*

Clerk