

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

SEPTEMBER 17, 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 Branville, Supervisor Chad and Clerk/Treasurer Coldagelli. Supervisors Sather and Ziegler were absent. Chairman Tammaro led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Gina Brascugli, Mike Erjavec, Lorrie Janatopoulos and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of August 20th, 2024, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- Lorrie Janatopoulos was present to discuss that she is running for State House 7(B) seat. She is running as she loves the Iron Range and her previous work experience in the government sector. She believes in a strong Iron Range economy, strong families in regards to healthcare and childcare and strong communities.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- Fire Chief Steve Shykes requested to attend a conference in Mankato for the State Fire Department Association. It was at no cost. Chief Shykes also made the Board aware that the Fire Department provided staff to Woodline for a project they were completing and billed them for services rendered. The short term rental variance for the Damberg property has finally been completed. Firefighter Preiner is also back from leave. Chief Shykes also brought forward that the Chief's vehicle has broken down again and is in need of a new starter and battery. Lundgren's provided a quote of \$1,000.00 to replace the starter. Will discuss with Foreman Jason Latvaaho if he can repair the vehicle or look for another repair shop.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report- Bank statements for the month of August have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$142,328.55 and expenditures were \$149,562.48. Taconite Production Tax Funds were received for \$69,593.00. Ending balances for the month of August were:

Miners Checking- \$568,647.61
Assessment Savings- \$113.88
CD Savings- \$75.67
4M Fund- \$1,742,947.44

For the month of September to date, revenues are \$27,230.20 and expenditures are \$112,177.85.

Motion to approve the Clerk/Treasurer's report, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Chairman Tammaro questioned how all the fund balances looked so far for the year. Clerk Coldagelli responded that only the Public Utilities Fund is projected to end in the negative due to Cable Access dues. There are also Excess School Levy funds received that could be used to offset. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the August Fire Department report, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Public Utilities Commission meeting minutes from August 5th, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the PUC Delinquency Report, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the August Road and Bridge report, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

August 21st - Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with notice of vacancy. Nominations are due by September 20th and appointment will take place on September 26th. Placed on file.

August 21st - Notice from St. Louis County with e-waste expo and collection event on Saturday, October 5th at the Mountain Iron Community Center. Placed on file.

August 23rd - Email from Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation with notice of inaugural state of the Range address on Thursday, September 19th at Giants Ridge Event Center. Placed on file.

August 26th - Letter from St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department with notice of tax-forfeited properties offered for sale via online auction beginning September 19th and closing on October 3rd. The properties available are parcel 340-0056-00050 and 340-0087-00460. Also included was a letter regarding tax-forfeiture law summary. The Minnesota Legislature passed new laws to address the Federal Supreme Court ruling in the Tyler v. Hennepin County case. Going forward, legacy lands (2015 and earlier forfeitures) are no change from previous processes, settlement sales (2016-2023 forfeitures) properties must go to public auction or adjoining owner sales, if applicable. These properties must be offered at appraised value and be paid in full. A portion of the sale will go to the State of help offset the \$109 million settlement costs. Until June 30th, 2027, 75% of the sale goes to the State and after that date, the share is 85%. After June 30th, 2029, any unsold properties revert back to the same process as the legacy lands. New forfeitures, 2024 and later, requires all new forfeitures go to public auction within six months of forfeiture if the previous owner does not repurchase. Properties will first be offered at estimated market value for 30 days after which the properties are then offered at minimum bid (the sum of delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interests and costs assigned to the parcel). If a property is sold for more than the minimum bid, interested parties may claim the surplus proceeds (sale amount less the minimum bid). If a property remains unsold after the second offering, it will be managed under MN Statute 282 and follow previous processes. Placed on file.

August 27th - Postcard from St. Louis County 4-H program with thank you for our contribution. Placed on file.

September 3rd - Email from St. Louis County with notice of seeking public input regarding community development priorities from county residents that live outside of Duluth. Information collected will be used in the County's Community Development Consolidated Plan as well as the Northeast Minnesota HOME Consortium. A link was provided for the surveys and deadline to complete is December 1st, 2024. Placed on file.

September 9th - Email from St. Louis County Association of Townships with meeting minutes from May 22nd. Placed on file.

September 11th - Letter from Iron Range Youth in Action with notice that November 18th is the annual Make a Difference Conference at Iron Trail Motors Event Center. Cost is approximately \$100 per student and they are looking for sponsorship donations. In 2023, contributed \$150.00. Moved to New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Tammaro-

St. Mary's Lake Development Grant- Clerk Coldagelli received a response that the IRRRB will have a sample development agreement soon that they can provide.

Differding Point Waterline- Clerk Coldagelli and Chairman Tammaro met with interim Gilbert Clerk Mike Skrbich. Discussed that Gilbert will be building a new water plant and Fayal is expected to share in that cost. Have not received anything from Gilbert yet in regards to Differding Point water customers.

Fire Department Rechassis Project- No update.

Electronic Water Meters- The Public Utilities Commission tabled the project until there were more members available to discuss.

Policy Language Change- Clerk Coldagelli added language to the Code of Ethics and the Conflict of Interest Resolution that no Township property is to be removed from the premises unless it is being used for Township use or Township business.

Motion to approve the revised Fayal Township Code of Ethics and Business Conduct as written, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-05, A Resolution to Create A Conflict of Interest Policy Within the Town of Fayal, as written, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Branville brought forward a reminder that closed meetings are held on rare occasions in the Township and those discussions are to be confidential. They are designed not to be public information.

Tennis Court Crack Sealing- Foreman Latvaaho had received one quote and has requests out to other companies but has not received a response back. The IRRRB grant requires three quotes. Clerk Coldagelli will check with the IRRRB regarding the situation and she can apply for the grant if they are willing to accept just one quote.

Employee Contracts- Discussion regarding employment rates, cost of living increases and inflation. Chairman Tammaro and Supervisor Branville will serve on the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Delinquent Utility Certification- Clerk Coldagelli prepared a resolution to be sent to St. Louis County to place the delinquent utility customer balances on their 2025 property taxes.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-06, A Resolution Authorizing the St. Louis County Auditor to Assess the Delinquent Utility Charges to the Property Tax Statement of Delinquent Property Tax Owners per Exhibit A, to certify the delinquent utility bills to St. Louis County, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Lift Station A-1- During the storm in June the electrical panel was under water. Telemetry Process Controls was able to reprogram and replace a part to get the lift station back up and running. During the inspection by Minnesota Pump Works, they recommended replacement of the panel and some additional upgrades for over \$30,000.00. Discussion regarding submitting to insurance and if insurance declines the claim, then FEMA would be able to support the cost. Clerk Coldagelli will submit to insurance to start.

Quote for Office Mini-Split System Replacement- Received two quotes to replace the office air conditioning system. The current one is 15-20 years old and struggles to function. One quote was from Savers Plumbing and Heating for \$9,800.00 and the second was from NorthStar Services for \$11,153.00. Chairman Tammaro recommended waiting until spring for better pricing. NorthStar did state their pricing will increase 30% next year. Discussion to wait until next year and will table until spring.

Rink Attendants- Clerk Coldagelli will place in the bills to advertise. Pay is \$15.00/hour. The skate shack has been repainted.

FEMA Submission Summer Flooding- Clerk Coldagelli and Foreman Latvaaho are working with FEMA for some road and culvert washouts. They are still waiting for a repaving quote to finish the project, but costs thus far are \$15,000.00 in reimbursements.

Transfer to 4M Assessment Savings- Clerk Coldagelli has identified \$13,029.14 sitting in a debt service fund in the checking account. After some research, it was discovered that it was assessments paid and a tax forfeit payment both received in 2018 that had not been moved to the Assessment Savings account.

Motion to approve the transfer, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

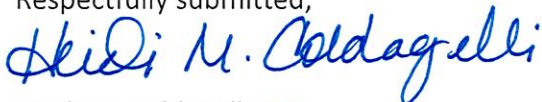
Chairman Tammaro brought forward the Iron Range Youth in Action Donation. Discussion to donate the same as last year of \$150.00.

Motion to approve the donation, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$113,605.10, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:40 PM.


Respectfully submitted,



Heidi M. Coldagelli
Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved:  _____
Chair

Date: 10/2/24

Attest:  _____
Clerk