

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

JANUARY 16, 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, Supervisor Sather, Supervisor Ziegler and Clerk/Treasurer Coldagelli. Chairman Tammaro led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Gina Brascugli and Matt Hoffmann.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of January 2nd, 2024, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- None at this time.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- None at this time.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report- For the month of January to date, revenues are \$36,191.22 and expenditures are \$187,330.38. Current balances for the month of January are:

Miners Checking- \$599,308.06

Assessment Savings- \$20,886.63

CD Savings- \$16,566.18

4M Fund- \$1,400,382.29

Motion to approve the Clerk/Treasurer's Report, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Chairman Tammaro questioned the balances in the Assessment Savings and the CD Savings and moving those funds into the 4M Fund. Clerk Coldagelli would like those accounts to remain open as the Assessment Savings is still receiving deposits for a few more years. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Motion to look at the Assessment and CD Savings and move as much of those funds over as we can to the 4M Fund, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the Public Utilities Commission meeting minutes from December 12th, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion to accept the December Wastewater Operator Report, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Public Access Television meeting minutes from January 3rd, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Supervisor Branville discussed that Channel 12 appeared to have some mechanical issues and a black screen was aired. Chairman Tammaro replied that some issues are being experienced. Next month, Channel 12 will need to move from their space at the school. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

CORRESPONDENCE-

January 3rd- Email from Duluth Community Foundation with notice that spring 2024 grant applications are now open. Placed on file.

January 8th- Letter from Minnesota Power with notice of proposed changes in monthly electricity costs. Placed on file.

January 10th- Email from Brooke Wetmore from St. Louis County with request for letter of support or a letter

of commitment regarding the NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant proposal. Moved to New Business.

January 12th- Email from Lora Skarman with St. Louis County's Assessor's Office. The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting for Fayal Township is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th from 1:00-2:00 PM. Placed on file.

January 16th- Letter from Walker, Giroux & Hahne with confirmation of the scope of services provided for the audit. The audit cost is \$20,300.00 and signatures are necessary to accept the terms of the engagement. Moved to New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Tammaro-

St. Mary's Lake Development Grant- Clerk Coldagelli met with Brad Scott last week. Mr. Scott was going to further discuss his application with the IRRRB to ensure he is applying for the correct grant. Once he receives confirmation, he will get the additional information from his engineer in order to submit the application.

Spring Flood FEMA Request- The Town has received a disbursement for nearly \$10,500.00 to be deposited to Road & Bridge.

Local Road Improvement Grant- Clerk Coldagelli submitted two grant applications and is awaiting notification.

Zoning Change Request- Unsure if the request was approved by the St. Louis County Board.

Camera and Locator Grant- The grant was denied due to the number of applications submitted. Another grant round is available in February and the price should remain the same for first quarter. Clerk Coldagelli will apply for the grant and if its denied again, then the Town will just purchase the equipment. MN Rural Water is able support the Town with use of a camera and a locator in the meantime if one is necessary.

2025 Levy- Chairman Tammaro thought the current proposal looked good. Clerk Coldagelli added that all the departments ended positive, with the exception of the Recreation Department. With the purchase of the sweeper, they may end 2023 slightly negative. Chairman Tammaro suggested paying for the sweeper from Capital Equipment if necessary.

Motion to approve the Levy as written for \$892,500.00 at 4.69%, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Clean Heavy-Duty Off-Road Equipment Grant- Awaiting to hear if the grant was approved.

Assistant Fire Chief Matt Hoffmann brought forward that at the last meeting, the Town Board approved \$4,900.00 to have the trailer resided. The Fire Department has chosen not to proceed with that route.

NEW BUSINESS

Eveleth Water Rate Changes- Eveleth's water rate changes take effect on January 24th. The rates increased from \$4.48/1,000 gallons to \$5.15/1,000 gallons. The monthly service charge also increased from \$75.00 to \$200.00. The PUC approved at their last meeting to increase Fayal's monthly service charge from \$13.00 to \$15.00 and change the gallons from \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons, up to 2,500 gallons, to \$6.00. When using over 2,500 gallons, the rate of \$10.00 would increase to \$11.00. Rates would take effect February 1st, payable on the bill due March 20th.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01, A Resolution to Amend Water Services Fees in Accordance with Town of Fayal Water Ordinance #97-3, as written, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Eveleth Bulk Water Purchase Agreement- The City of Eveleth requests notice from Fayal to renew the agreement for another five years.

Motion to request from Eveleth to renew the Bulk Water Agreement, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro brought forward that discussion was held regarding raising just the volume rate or just the service charge. Raising just the service charge would only cover the current increase. It was decided to raise both due to wage increases and other cost increases in the past few years and for in the future.

Election Judges Resolution- The Presidential Primary will occur on March 5th. Clerk Coldagelli has 11 judges committed and both her and Terry Hiti would assist. Election judges will receive \$15.00 per hour, with head judges receiving \$18.00. Lunch would be provided.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-02, A Resolution to Appoint Election Judges, as written, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

March Meeting Schedule- Due to the Presidential Primary, the first meeting of March needs to be rescheduled.

Motion to cancel the first meeting, have the Annual Meeting, hold the second meeting and authorize Chairman Tammaro and Clerk Coldagelli to pay bills as needed, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Contented Critters 2024 Contract- Discussion that there are very few calls in Fayal and Supervisor Chad questioned if there was a possibility to piggyback with the City of Eveleth's contract. Unsure at this time how many animals are actually transported from Fayal. Contented Critters is working with Pup North for temporary animal holds. Contract cost is \$300.00 per month. Discussion of approaching Contented Critters for a smaller plan for next year's renewal.

Motion to approve Contented Critter's contract, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Rock Ridge Scoreboard- Clerk Coldagelli was approached by a member of the School Board that the scoreboard is available and the school is willing to donate the scoreboard if interested. Chairman Tammaro discussed running power in the ballfield. It could be a perfect opportunity for a grant. Clerk Coldagelli can draft a letter of interest.

Motion to accept the offer for the scoreboard, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Eveleth Fee Office Easement Lease- The easement is an annual renewal for the sewer line.

Motion to approve the \$75.00 to the Eveleth Fee Office, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.

Certificate of Indebtedness Payment- The payment for the parking lot repaving project and the 2017 road project is due, payable to Miners Bank for \$68,447.55.

Motion to pay the Certificate of Indebtedness payment in the amount of \$68,447.55, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Discussion regarding the amount owing. The balance will be paid off in 2027. Suggestion that the year prior to payoff, to start looking at what roads to do next. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Tammaro brought forward the letter of commitment for the grant proposal from St. Louis County. Discussion regarding the project is for advancing regional climate resilience for Minnesota's Lake Superior coastal region. The project lists a wide variety of climate change threats, but Clerk Coldagelli wasn't quite sure exactly what the project is focusing on and what is needed.

Chairman Tammaro brought forward the Walker, Giroux & Hahne proposal. The letter correctly sets forth an understanding what the auditors will provide for the audit.

Motion to approve the audit for \$20,300.00, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro also brought forward that Clerk Coldagelli will be providing the necessary information to complete the PERA enrollment for the Fire Department.

Supervisor Sather brought forward estimates for SCBA batteries and a charging bank for the Fire Department for a total of \$3,904.38. This will allow the Fire Department to be able to change all the batteries monthly. The batteries will come out of repair and maintenance and the charger will be charged to small tools and equipment. There will be no shipping costs and the batteries are warranted for the life of the airpaks.

Motion to purchase batteries and a charging bank for the Fire Department for a total sum of \$3,904.38, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Fire Chief Matt Hoffmann brought forward that the Fire Department needs the waterpipe repaired in the Fire Hall. The lockers are not completed yet due to the location of the pipe. The Department is also having an issue with water dripping in front of the building. The Department contacted Biss to install a key lock on the north mandoor. Discussion regarding where the water is coming from. Assistant Chief Hoffmann continued that Buyck Fire Department had purchased the rescue sled last year and a few items the Department held on to such as a backboard. Buyck has purchased the remaining items for \$500.00. The Fire Department also has some loose, outdated equipment. Assistant Chief Hoffmann questioned if the Department can sell those items to other Fire Departments? Clerk Coldagelli thought that was an acceptable practice, but can check with the auditors as they

are currently present for the audit. The Fire Department has a few items that they would like to sell and could place on Do-Bid. All Departments can look. Assistant Chief Hoffmann asked if they could donate loose equipment or tools that have little value or outdated to the smaller area fire departments. The Supervisors agreed that was acceptable.

Assistant Chief Hoffmann added that two vendors have been used in the past for DOT checks and pumps. There is now a vendor in Gilbert that can perform both checks and will begin at the end of the month. The water tender project is scheduled for April and will be out of service for a little while. Assistant Chief Hoffmann requested if any pollution control or low impact grants are available to let the Department know. They are interested in replacing gas powered equipment, such as saws or generators.

Assistant Chief Hoffmann went on to update that the trailer has become a burden with the amount of bottle fills that occur on scene for other departments and not enough staff to man the trailer. Current capacity only allows for filling 26 bottles. By adding 10 SCBA bottles, can increase capacity to 150 hours of SCBA operation, 38% more than now. By doing so, the trailer can be eliminated as well as approximately 13%-19% of calls received. The trailer has been inspected. A quote from MacQueen Equipment was provided for 12 SCBA cylinders for a total of \$16,856.76. The Department only needs 10 at this time and would like to sell the trailer. There are other departments interested in the trailer and it is estimated at approximately \$16,000.00-\$17,000.00 for value with the equipment. Chairman Tammaro suggested purchasing the cylinders using the Capital Equipment Fund and reimburse Capital Equipment once the trailer is sold. Supervisor Ziegler brought forward discussion regarding purchasing all 12 bottles, which the trailer sale should cover. There is other loose equipment that could cover the purchase in event the trailer doesn't sell for as much as expected.

Motion to purchase 12 bottles for \$16,856.76 out of Capital Equipment and with the sale of the trailer money to reimburse back to Capital Equipment, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. Assistant Chief Hoffmann assured the Town Board there would be no freight costs. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Assistant Chief Hoffmann brought forward that a grant will be applied for Engine 91's replacement and the second grant will be for the water tender chassis remount project. In looking at the future, the water tender lease is until 2029, but if the grant is approved, funding will be necessary to cover those 2 to 3 years. Could the Board entertain trading in the chassis to be applied towards the loan? Would need to look at an approximate \$60,000.00 gap. Currently the water tender has a balance owing of \$118,000.00.

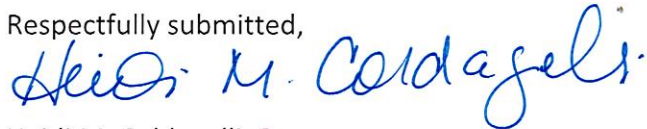
Supervisor Ziegler brought forward that he would like to attend the Minnesota Rural Water conference in March and would like to ask for Board approval. Discussion if anyone else would like to attend.

Motion to allow Patrick Ziegler to attend, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Supervisor Ziegler abstained. Motion carried.

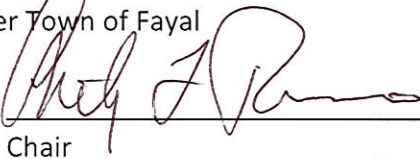
Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$108,192.61, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

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

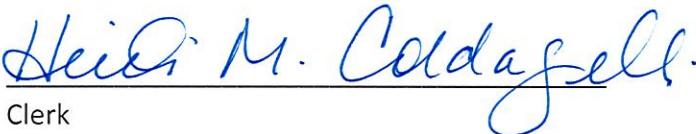
Respectfully submitted,



Heidi M. Coldagelli
Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved:  _____
Chair

Date: 2-6-24

Attest:  _____
Clerk