

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

*Judy M. Sersha, Clerk/Treasurer*

*Steven J. Kniefel, Chairman*

*Supervisors: Tony Tamaro, James Pernu, Ron Beldo, Lee Branville*

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAYAL**

**MARCH 8, 2005**

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Clerk Judy Sersha at 7:00 PM. Approximately 30 persons were in attendance.

Clerk Sersha called for nominations for moderator.

***Motion by Angela Sersha, support from Jim Pernu to nominate Steve Shykes as moderator. Clerk Sersha asked for more nominations. There being none, a show of hands approved Steve Shykes as moderator for the 2005 Annual Meeting.***

Steve Shykes welcomed the people to the Annual Meeting and explained that this is the people's meeting, and it is your chance to speak on issues of concern or interest. Mr. Shykes explained the order of business for tonight's meeting, and asked that people identify themselves by name when speaking.

**APPROVAL OF 2004 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

***Motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2004 Annual Meeting, made by John Damberg, support from Jim Pernu. Motion carried.***

**FINANCIAL & TREASURER'S REPORT**

Moderator Shykes then called upon Clerk/Treasurer Judy Sersha to report on the financial status of the town. Clerk/Treasurer Sersha gave her report on the Financial Statement for the Town of Fayal for the year 2004. Clerk Sersha explained the Annual Audit was done by Walker, Giroux & Hahne, and a draft copy was available for inspection. Sersha asked if there were any questions, and there were none. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

***Motion to approve the Financial and Treasurer's Report, made by Mildred Brehmer, support from Jim Pernu. Motion carried.***

**FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR THE TOWN IN 2006**

Moderator Shykes called upon town chair Steve Kniefel to make his report.

Mr. Kniefel welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and expressed sadness at the passing of Don Voss, who served as a Fayal supervisor for over thirty years. Mr. Kniefel introduced the present board members and asked them to stand as he read their names, and thanked Steve Shykes for agreeing to serve as moderator for tonight's meeting. Mr. Kniefel reported on the difficulty we are having closing out the sewer project, property value assessments in the town, ambulance subsidy discussions that are being held with the City of Eveleth, Planning Committee activities, planned road work to be done in the township by St. Louis County, and plans for a Wellstone Memorial site on Bodas Road. Mr. Kniefel explained funding needs for each department of the town, and reported that the town board has made a recommendation to the freeholders of the Town to adopt a total levy for 2006 of \$487,500.00, which is a 0% increase from 2005. Mr. Kniefel's complete report is attached to these minutes.

### **DESIGNATING POSTING PLACES**

Moderator Shykes explained the present locations of our designated posting places are as follows: 1.) Fayal Town Hall, 2) West Long Lake Road, 3) East Long Lake Road (across from Art Tweten's) 4.) Ely Lake Shortstop, 5.) At Your Convenience (Hwy. 53 South), 6.) Differding Point.

***Motion to continue posting at the same places, made by Jim Pernu, support from Joe Petrich. Motion carried.***

### **SETTING COMPENSATION FOR TOWN SUPERVISORS**

Moderator Shykes explained the present salaries are as follows: Supervisor- \$3,240.00 per year or \$270.00 per month, plus mileage of 40.5 cents per mile and expenses, as incurred and Chairman- \$3,480.00 per year or \$290.00 per month, plus mileage of 40.5 cents per mile and expenses, as incurred.

***Motion to leave the supervisor's salary the same, but to increase the town board chair's salary to \$300.00 per month, due to the extra duties performed by the chair, made by Kathryn Erjavec, support from Frank Erjavec. Motion carried.***

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Fire Chief Steve Shykes reported there were a total of 81 calls in 2004, of which there were: 16 structure fires, 9 wildland fires, 4 rescues, and 42 EMS calls. Currently there are 22 firefighters on the department, with ne on active military leave in Iraq. Chief Shykes reported two grants were received in 2004 and three grants have been awarded for 2005, of which one is in the amount of \$136,800 for a new truck. A raffle was held in conjunction with the TrailHawks snowmobile club and \$8,000 was raised to purchase a rescue sled. Shykes reported on the FireWise Program and that

the 2005 officers are: Chief- Steve Shykes, Assistant Chief- Scott Smith, Captain- Ron Spolar, Lieutenant- Frank Pavelich, Secretary/Treasurer- Steve Kniefel, EMS Director- Therese Elverum. A complete copy of Chief Shykes report is attached to these minutes.

Mary Maki questioned Chief Shykes on a recent fire near her home. The fire department arrived at her home instead of where the fire was occurring. Chief Shykes explained that the dispatch had given the wrong directions to the fire location. Mrs. Maki questioned why the department used the hydrant located by K & B instead of the one by her house. Chief Shykes explained that it was out of habit to use that hydrant, but that the fire department members have been updated on hydrant locations. Mrs. Maki questioned if the hydrant by her house has enough water in it to put out a fire at her home, if one occurred. Chief Shykes assured Mrs. Maki that the hydrant located near her home is in working condition, and indeed has enough water to put out a fire at her home, if need be.

John Damberg questioned how much the rescue sled cost. Chief Shykes explained that there was and \$8,000 profit from the raffle, after paying for the prizes. The rescue sled, which can be used behind a snowmobile, or in the summer has wheels for use behind an ATV, cost \$6,000. The remaining \$2,000 will be used to purchase other equipment needed by the department.

Kathryn Erjavec asked that information regarding the FireWise Program be posted on the local cable tv channel. Chief Shykes will forward the info to Clerk Sersha, and it will be submitted to the channel.

Kelly Campbell questioned how many first responder calls there were this year. Shykes answered there were forty-two, down from last year. Chief Shykes informed the people that there are currently three vacancies on the fire department, and if anyone is interested they are invited to apply for the positions. Requirements are you must be at least 18 years of age, live within 10 minutes of the fire hall and you must pass a written and physical agility test.

John Damberg questioned how many of the sixteen fires were structure fires? Shykes answered the of the sixteen, ten were structure fires.

## **SUPERVISORS REPORTS**

**Road & Bridge-** Ron Beldo reported on the duties and activities of the two road employees, Steve Verkovich and Al Jurenic, during 2004. Mr. Beldo reported that Fayal will be trying to coordinate our road projects with work that will be done by St. Louis County in 2006. The Road & Bridge department is also looking at replacing the 1985 loader this year and is developing bid specifications to call for bids. Mr. Beldo's complete report is attached to these minutes.

Ralph Johnson commended the road crew on the excellent job they have been doing this winter with

all the snow.

Mike Priest questioned if it is wise to wait until 2006 to do Fayal road projects, when the price of oil is expected to double or triple? Mr. Beldo stated that is always a risk, but the county purchases larger quantities than we would and gets quite a good price. In addition, county engineering is used for the road projects and we pay a portion of that, instead of hiring our own engineer.

**Police Department-** Lee Branville read a report submitted by Chief Harvey Thompson on his activities for the year. The report included all calls taken by the Fayal Chief and those of the St. Louis County Sheriff. In total, there were 647 law enforcement 911 calls for service, including traffic stops. Cable style gun locks were applied for through Project Childsafe and 900 of them were received. They are still available for distribution and available at the Clerk's Office. Mr. Branville reminded people to call 911 in an emergency, and not the police chief's home. Mr. Branville stated that Harvey has a big variety of duties, as referenced in his report. The complete report is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Branville also congratulated Fire Chief Shykes for doing a wonderful job on the fire department and noted that due to the high fire rating of the Fayal Fire Department, homeowners insurance is greatly decreased in the township.

Kathryn Erjavec stated there is a Fayal ordinance that states the bike trail prohibits motorized vehicles, and questioned why snowmobiles have been allowed to drive the trail all winter, and why has there been no enforcement? Ms. Erjavec stated that is why people don't want South Airport Road closed—because there is so much motorized traffic on the bike trail, they feel safer walking on South Airport Road.

Mr. Branville stated he has received no complaints regarding snowmobiles using the bike trail, and he will check on the ordinance.

**Buildings & Grounds-** Jim Pernu reported that he was appointed in February 2004 to fill out the rest of Wes Ojanpa's term. Since that time several projects have been accomplished, those being: Replacement of the garage floor drain, replacement of the garage door frame on one overhead door, painting of the town complex exterior, repair/replacement of several windows, replacement of siding on the front of the town hall, installation of rain gutters, electrical work, and removal of dead bushes in the front of the town hall. The flag pole will be re-painted this summer. The projects were paid for with mining effects funds. Mr. Pernu reported on a \$20,000 grant received from St. Louis County for a new playground. The township will contribute \$25,000 in mining effects funds for the project. Mr. Pernu made a presentation with pictures of the new playground, and reported that the project is being coordinated with the Planning Committee. A complete copy of Mr. Pernu's report is attached to these minutes.

**Planning Committee-** Kathryn Erjavec reported on the committee, and stated that she was recently appointed to a three-year term. Ms. Erjavec reported that the committee has compiled a Request for Proposals for site planning and landscaping of town complex grounds. In addition, the committee is seeking plans for future expansion of buildings, due to space constraints in the existing buildings.

**Public Utilities-** Tony Tammaro read a report submitted by Peter Bertucci, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC deals with water, wastewater, cable TV, street lights and natural gas. The PUC meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The PUC is funded through franchise fees from the two cable franchises in the township. Currently, there are three vacancies on the PUC. A copy of the complete report is attached to these minutes.

**Cable TV-** Tony Tammaro reported that a joint board was created with Eveleth, Fayal, Gilbert and the School District, to which Fayal contributes about \$2,000 annually. The Joint Board administers the local cable tv access channel 12.

**Recreation-** Fayal is a part of the Joint Rec along with Eveleth, Fayal and the School District. Craig Homola is the rec director and administers all rec programs. Fayal's representatives on the board are Tim Thompson and Jack Lalli. The Fayal Rec, along with Eveleth, placed park benches along the bike trail this past summer. Money is being set aside each year in the rec budget to update the bike trail.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Moderator Shykes asked for a motion to set the time of the 2006 Annual Meeting.

***Motion to set the 2006 Annual Meeting for the second Tuesday in March at 7:00 PM, made by Frank Erjavec, support from John Damberg. Motion carried.***

Moderator Shykes asked if there were any business from the floor.

Lee Branville stated that there are many people in the township that participate in motorized recreational products, and suggested that Fayal township should explore the feasibility of developing a motorized recreational trail, from "downtown" Fayal to Highways 53 and 37, where there are already a system of trails that are developed, and would also access the OHV park and possibly future motorized vehicle trails branching from there, as well. This would alleviate using the bike trail. Mr. Branville requested that the town board look at appointing someone to make recommendations on a trail centerline, gather cost estimates, and find potential funding sources.

Steve Kniefel stated that Mr. Branville's suggestion is a very good one because there is a very significant gap in the snowmobile system—there is a trail that comes to the old Brantz, and one up by MerryMaids, but nothing in between. Kniefel stated there has been discussion of filling that gap, suggested expansion of that link also, and requested that DeLyle Pankratz inform us on that issue.

DeLyle Pankratz of the trails division of the IRB stated there is one major problem, and that is the live railroad tracks coming through. There is a crossing there, but it is private and the railroad will not give permission for the public to use that crossing. There are two or three alternatives—1) Bore underneath the tracks 2) Go between the two columns adjacent to the highway, within the highway right-of-way, which can be done by state statute 3) Cut across St. Mary's Lake

Joe Petrich stated he likes to walk in the winter, but the bike trail is not plowed in the winter. With the snowmobiles using it in the winter, you are able to walk on the trail, and at least there is some

use of the bike trail in winter, otherwise it is unusable.

Ron Beldo stated that in the years he has been on the board, he has heard complaints on a regular basis about snowmachines using the town property, and there has been discussion of ordinances and actions to be taken to ban them from the property. Mr. Beldo states he has always felt that is the wrong way to go—these machines are a part of our every day life, and are here to stay, and the proper thing to do is provide the proper corridors in the township, and agreed we should look for funding.

**Motion to have Fayal Township explore the feasibility of developing a motorized recreational trail, made by Lee Branville, support from Mary Maki.** John Damberg questioned if that would be only for snowmobiles, or would it include ATV's? Mr. Branville stated it would be multi-use. DeLyle Pankratz stated there is money available this year at least, there is a 50/50 grant match—\$200,000 projects, so you can get \$100,000 in grant money, and we don't have enough takers to use all the money that we have allocated for motorized recreation. Mr. Pankratz was unsure of what would happen to the allocated money if it was not awarded. Discussion on highway right-of-way. Kelly Campbell suggested the Planning Commission be involved in the project. Beth Anderson expressed her appreciation to the town board on the good work they do and stated that the town is run very efficiently. Moderator Shykes asked if there was any more discussion. There being none, Moderator Shykes called for the question. **Motion carried.**

Ralph Johnson stated he would like to make a motion to have a plaque board put up for our past, present and future supervisors. Joe Petrich supported the motion. Judy Sersha questioned how far back the plaque should go? Ms. Sersha explained there is a gap in records that were lost in the early 1900's, and the township started in 1896. Moderator Shykes asked if there was any more discussion. Motion carried.

Mary Maki questioned if there was any way of knowing if the recycling bins are full—or which days they are changed? Tony Tamaro answered there is no way of knowing, and when called, they are very slow in coming to change them. Clerk Sersha suggested that Mrs. Maki attend the town board meeting of April 5 because the department head of the St. Louis County Solid Waste Department will be attending that meeting.

Moderator Shykes asked if there were any other issues to be discussed. There being none, Mr. Shykes stated the time has come to set the levy.

**Motion to set the 2006 levy at \$487,500.00, as recommended by the town board, made by Frank Erjavec, support from Ron Erjavec.** Kathryn Erjavec stated that costs are increasing, such as fuel costs, employee costs and questioned whether the board was anticipating revenues from other sources increasing? Steve Kniefel stated the board is aware that costs are going up, but there is a significant reserve in the town's funds, and we should not be a bank. Mr. Kniefel stated that if necessary, we will draw on the reserve. **Motion carried.**

Judy Sersha informed everyone that Fayal has a new website, [www.fayaltwp.org](http://www.fayaltwp.org) . The minutes are on the site and they are updated after approval.

***Motion to adjourn made by Ron Erjavec, support from Frank Erjavec. Motion carried.***

Annual Meeting 2005 adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Sersha  
Clerk of Fayal