

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

*Judy M. Sersha, Clerk/Treasurer*

*Steven J. Kniefel, Chairman*

*Supervisors: Tony Tammaro, James Pernu, Lee Branville, Mike Erjavec*

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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Fayal Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Kniefel. Present were: Chairman Kniefel, Supervisor Erjavec, Supervisor Branville, Supervisor Pernu, Supervisor Tammaro and Clerk Sersha.

Audience members in attendance were E-G School Board members Patty Babich, Mary Spang, Keith Young and Superintendent Deb Hilde, Jerry Ulman, SEH Engineers Jim Johnson and Brad Reifsteck, Attorney Bruce Williams and an E-G High School student.

***Motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 Regular Meeting, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Pernu. Motion carried unanimously.***

**SCHEDULED GUESTS**

Members of the Eveleth-Gilbert School Board, along with Superintendent Deb Hilde were present to explain the referendum questions that will be put on the ballot for the special election on November 8, 2011. There will be two questions on the ballot. The first is to ask for the authorization on the renewal of the expiring revenue referendum. This would be a renewal of the referendum that is already in place, and which has been on property owners past tax statements. The second question is to ask for an increase in general education revenue by an additional \$364.05 per pupil, and would be in place for ten years. A fact sheet was distributed showing the tax impacts of the referendums. For example, on a \$100,000 property, if the additional revenue referendum is approved, it would add \$76.48 to the yearly property tax statement. School board members Spang and Babich explained the cuts that have already been made and what would have to be cut if the referendum is not approved. Programs, extra-curricular programs, and staff would all have to be cut, class sizes would be increased, and a building may have to be closed, or partially closed. The school board members answered many questions by the board.

***Motion to support the school district's effort on the excess levy referendum, made by Chairman Kniefel, support from Supervisor Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

Jim Johnson of SEH was in attendance to give a presentation on proposed development plans by the City of Eveleth at St. Mary's Lake. Three concepts for development in the area were presented. A watermain extension will also be needed for the development.

**REPORTS**

**Clerk/Treasurer's Report**- For the period of September 1-20, 2011, there have been revenues of \$39,447.07 and expenditures of \$35,713.66. Tentatively balances are as follows:

Miners Bank-	\$34,286.56
Assessment Savings-	\$341,456.39
Mt Iron Checking-	\$799,904.42

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

***Motion to accept the September 14, 2011 EFGSD Joint Rec minutes, made by Supervisor Tammaro, support from Supervisor Pernu. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the August 9, 2011 Public Utilities Commission minutes, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Regional Railroad Authority, Robert Manzoline- Letter regarding winter use of Mesabi Trail, Fayal to Eveleth, by snowmobiles. Copies of county ordinance and resolutions. Referred to Old Business.

League of MN Cities- Acknowledgment of Claim for stolen lawnmowers. Placed on file.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Supervisor Erjavec-**

**Gilbert Wastewater Contract-** Nothing at this time.

**Eveleth Water Contract-** The contract has been forwarded to Eveleth's public utilities board. Supervisors Erjavec and Tamaro met with Mike Wiskow to discuss wastewater issues.

### **Supervisor Branville-**

**Building Committee Proposal-** Supervisor Branville reported that DSGW has dropped the price of their proposal from \$13,700 to \$9,700. The services would be for the same scope of project, but they have dropped their fee. Supervisor Branville stated he would like to see us move ahead with the new fire hall project and keep the momentum going.

**Motion to hire DSGW for the fee of \$9,700.00, made by Supervisor Branville. Supervisor Tamaro stated he would support, for discussion.** Tamaro stated he understands about starting over, but there is a lot of legwork that has already been done that could be used, and he cannot see spending another \$10,000 to get the same thing we already have and paid \$10,000 for. Branville stated we are holding that against DSGW, our mistake of not holding Architectural Resources feet to the fire. Branville stated he would like to get going again- a fresh start and a whole new picture. Chairman Kniefel stated he is torn with making another investment, but we have been talking about the need to do something with our building for 15 years, and if we do not get someone on board to keep this moving, nothing is going to happen—either we go ahead, or nip it right now and just sit here. Supervisor Pernu stated he is not convinced the people think we need a new fire hall, but they are convinced we need more room—maybe we could put another building up, but not necessarily a new fire hall, maybe that study could be made. Supervisor Branville stated the study from Arch Resources shows the best use for the current building is to build a new fire hall and use the existing fire hall for the employees. Supervisor Erjavec stated he would rather see the \$10,000 put into an actual building—the big fire engine could go in the storage building and we could build another building for the puc equipment. Chairman Kniefel stated those same ideas have been talked about for 10 years, and the building still is not here. Supervisor Erjavec stated we cannot afford a fire hall. Supervisor Branville stated we have not gotten to that stage yet. Chairman Kniefel asked if there was any more discussion and restated the motion. ***Branville and Kniefel voted yes. Erjavec, Pernu and Tamaro voted no. Motion fails.***

### **Supervisor Pernu-**

**Town Hall Air Conditioning-** The work is in progress, it should be finished in 1-2 hours.

### **Supervisor Tamaro-**

**Township Sign-** The lights have been put on, the lettering needs to be done yet. MN Power and Qwest will be coming to remove the pole.

### **Chairman Kniefel-**

**Solar Project-** Chairman Kniefel introduced and read aloud Resolution 2011-03. A resolution is needed to change the use of the public works grant received two years ago, also a new application must be made and sent with a cover letter to the Iron Range Resources Board. Brad Reifsteck and Mike Larson of SEH will see to it the application and cover letter are prepared.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2011-03 Authorizing the Fayal Township Chairman and Clerk to Make Application To the Iron Range Resources Public Works Infrastructure Grant Program for the Fayal Town Hall Soar Photovoltaic Project. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Korpela Plat**- Nothing at this time.

**Fayal Absentee Ballots**- Clerk Sersha reported she has been contacted by the SLC Auditor Patricia Stolee regarding Fayal taking back the absentee balloting. Copies of the 4-20-2010 Regular Meeting minutes were distributed, which shows the town board deferring the administration of absentee ballots in Fayal Township to St. Louis County for the 2010 election. Clerk Sersha asked the board if they would like to continue this policy for the 2012 election? Chairman Kniefel asked if there were any complaints from voters regarding the change, or if there were any reason we would want to incur the expense? Clerk Sersha stated she received no complaints from the voters on the change, and if any voter in the township has a question or needs help she is available to help them any time. Absentee ballot applications are available in the clerk's office and if voters need help filling them out, she is providing that and will forward the applications to the county for the voters, if requested.

***Motion to continue having St. Louis County administer absentee ballots for Fayal Township in the future, and we respectfully decline the invitation to take it back, made by Chairman Kniefel, support from Supervisor Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Pernu reported some new LED light fixtures were installed in the clerk's office, IF they work out, we may install them in other parts of the building for the energy savings. Supervisor Branville questioned how much the fixtures cost? Supervisor Pernu reported they were donated by Supervisor Tammaro.

Supervisor Pernu reported the Rinnea hot water system is being repaired, but the parts are all warranted. Cost for repair will be labor only.

***Motion to table discussions on whether or not to allow snowmobiles on the Fayal portion of the Mesabi Trail, made by Supervisor Tammaro, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.***

**CITIZEN CONCERNS AND COMMENTS**

Jerry Ulman, Brad Reifsteck and the E-G student had no comment.

Jim Johnson advised the board they will need to adopt a resolution to apply for a joint grant with Eveleth, to the IRRRB, for the St. Mary's Lake project.

***Motion to pay the bills made by Supervisor Pernu, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to close the Regular Meeting to confer with legal council Bruce Williams on the pending litigation with Gilbert, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.***

Regular Meeting closed at 8:30 PM.

Regular Meeting re-opened and adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Sersha  
Clerk of Fayal

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk**