

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

*Heidi M. Coldagelli, Clerk/Treasurer*

*Anthony Tamaro, Chairman*

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

*PHONE (218)744-2878*

*FAX (218)744-5986*

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

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

Audience members in attendance were Mike Erjavec, Matt Hoffmann, Eugene O'Brien, Steve Shykes and Scott Smith.

***Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Canvass Meeting of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.***

**SCHEDULED GUESTS**- Eugene O'Brien was present to discuss the Eveleth-Fayal Joint Cable Access Television Powers Board where he serves as treasurer. Mr. O'Brien is also a commission member of the Fayal Public Utilities. Franchise fees are received quarterly based upon the number of subscribers from Mediacom with the latest amount received of \$2,642.75, but the Cable Commission invoiced their quarterly dues invoice for \$3,684.35, a difference of \$1,041.60 over what was taken in. Mr. O'Brien has been a member of the Cable Commission since 2016 and has not seen any coverage on Channel 12 that was specific to Fayal Township, despite Mr. O'Brien requesting numerous times to cover events, activities or other content directly from Fayal and its citizens. Mr. O'Brien would recommend to the Town Board to either remove itself from the Joint Cable Board or only pay an amount that is equivalent to the subscriber fees received. Discussion on Cable Commission budget and direction. Chairman Tamaro is on the Cable Commission Board along with Mr. O'Brien and also recommended giving the station manager 60 days to meet our requests. Discussion regarding receiving franchise fees and the requirement of providing a channel, which Clerk Coldagelli can discuss options with Mediacom. Discussion regarding subscribers and the budget not exceeding the franchise fees received. Eveleth, Fayal and the School District make up the Joint Cable Commission.

***Motion to have Clerk Coldagelli send a letter that we need to see progress within 60 days or we will send another letter starting our process to terminate, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to lower our payment down to what we accepted of \$2,642.75, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.***

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS**- Mike Erjavec added to Mr. O'Brien's topic his struggles with his cable installation request.

Fire Chief Steve Shykes provided the Town Board with an executive summary of the current benefit levels and funding levels and the Fire Department's ability to increase their benefit level from \$2,700.00 to \$3,700.00. The plan is currently at 160% overfunded and increasing to \$3,700.00 would put the Department at an approximately 120% overfunded range. The Fire Department would like to increase to \$3,700.00 as it will not cost the Township any additional monies. Chairman Tamaro questioned what would happen if the PERA investments severely drop. Chief Shykes responded that they will still have a \$70,000.00 surplus so it would need to decrease dramatically for an extended period of time. Would also like to earmark that \$14,000.00 for that. Discussion regarding current liabilities. Will address before the end of the year and finalize by the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Fire Chief Matt Hoffmann was present to discuss the Fire Department chassis project and update the Town Board on the status. Chassis build date is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> and arrival date is January 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussion that the original build date was scheduled in 2026. The Town has until December 10<sup>th</sup> to proceed with the order. The 2025 chassis costs \$104,884.07 after trading in the 2006 International chassis for \$35,000.00. That portion is due on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Refurbishing service and other updates will cost \$231,684.59 and will be due in March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, bringing the project total to \$336,568.66. If the Town Board decides to delay production and move further down the wait list, the cost increases approximately \$50,000.00.

Chairman Tammaro is concerned where the funds would come from to support this project, but thought we had a few years in order to determine funding. Still have another Board meeting in order to decide which direction. Clerk Coldagelli had previously determined that the Capital Equipment Fund could handle the estimated \$43,000.00 payment in 2027 for ten years. The water tender will be paid off in 2029. Assistant Chief Hoffmann informed the Board that they are expecting a catastrophic failure to the apparatus at some point with turbo, injector and compression problems. The engine has faced significant powertrain problems since 2006. Discussion regarding that mutual aid still exists. This rebuild should extend the vehicle for another twenty plus years. Chief Shykes is working with a grant writer for a grant that would cover 95% of the purchase of a new fire truck. Discussion that the specific type of engine has had multiple issues company wide and the inability to get parts for the engine.

#### **REPORTS-**

**Clerk/Treasurer's Report-** Bank statements for the month of October have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$85,472.36 and expenditures were \$108,684.66. Ending balances for the month of October were:

Miners Checking- \$444,376.41  
Assessment Savings- \$115.65  
CD Savings- \$70.69  
4M Fund- \$1,784,138.51

For the month of November to date, revenues are \$42,378.08 and expenditures are \$93,804.55.

***Motion to approve the Clerk/Treasurer's report, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### **Other Reports-**

***Motion to accept the Fire Department report from October, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Channel 12 meeting minutes from October 9<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Channel 12 meeting minutes from November 6<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Public Utility meeting minutes from October 8<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

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

***Motion to accept the October Wastewater Operator report, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Road and Bridge report for October, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the Planning Committee meeting minutes from September 25<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### **CORRESPONDENCE-**

October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Email from St. Louis County Association of Townships with meeting minutes from September 25<sup>th</sup>. Placed on file.

October 30<sup>th</sup> - Email from Megan Julin with St. Louis County Association of Townships with notice that Township Day at the Capitol is January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Minnesota Association of Township will pay the registration fee for any officer attending. There will be social time and legislative briefing at the Radisson Hotel in St. Paul, followed by a noon lunch and then a visit to the Capitol. Sign up is due by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Placed on file.

November 5<sup>th</sup> - Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with notice of nominations for RAMS board of directors. Nominations are due by December 9<sup>th</sup>. Placed on file.

November 8<sup>th</sup> - Email from League of Minnesota Cities with a reminder that the Regional Safety Group Training will increase 5% for 2025. Each RSG meeting costs \$1,820 and LMCIT will continue to pay 55% of the cost with the remaining \$819 per meeting the responsibility of the RSG split among its members. Placed on file.

November 8<sup>th</sup>- Email from Kevin Gray with St. Louis County with the proposed draft Cannabis Ordinance. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will take place November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the St. Louis County Courthouse. The proposed ordinance will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. If the County receives a registration of a cannabis or hemp business located in a town in which St. Louis County exercises planning and zoning authority, they will contact the town to request consent per Minnesota State statutes. Placed on file.

November 12<sup>th</sup>- Email from Jason Janisch with the IRRRB with notice that a federal grant opportunity is available for energy improvements in rural and remote areas. Concept papers are due by February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Placed on file.

November 19<sup>th</sup>- Email from St. Louis County Association of Townships with meeting minutes from October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Placed on file.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Chairman Tammaro-**

**St. Mary's Lake Development Grant-** Have not received any further information from the Developer.

**Differding Point Waterline-** No response from Gilbert yet.

**Fire Department Rechassis Project-** Assistant Chief Hoffmann added that \$54,100.00 would be the new increase amount. He will also find out why the delivery date was moved up with the dealership. He can also discuss with International and Custom Fire regarding delaying payment if that would be of any assistance. Discussion that original presentation was a 2026 delivery.

**Electronic Water Meters-** Have received a significant number returned, with the majority declining. Billing Clerk Terry Hiti is going to send out one more mailing to those that didn't respond.

**Tennis Court Crack Sealing-** Will wait until the spring.

**Employee Contracts-** Chairman Tammaro and Supervisor Branville met this evening and will put a proposal together.

**Lift Station A-1-** After the site visit was completed, it appears that FEMA is not in support of replacing the panel, but are sending it in for review. At a minimum, should receive reimbursement for the costs to get it operational after the storm.

**FEMA Submission Summer Flooding-** That request should be close to completion with an estimated reimbursement of \$20,000.00.

**2026 Levy-** Still have time to review and currently at 8.79%. Clerk Coldagelli informed the Board that Police Chief Jesse Linde contacted her and that the City of Eveleth is seeking an increase in police services. He wasn't sure of the amount but thought possibly 10%. Clerk Coldagelli did calculate the existing cost for a levy increase, but the Police Fund may need a further increase based upon what Eveleth comes back with. Discussion regarding the Public Safety Fund.

**Fire Department Hourly Wage-** Chairman Tammaro would like to put on hold for now to review funding. The wage will need to increase as minimum wage increases to \$11.13 effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Pickleball Screens-** Chairman Tammaro received a call from a nearby neighbor regarding the noise from the pickleball court. There are noise reduction screens that can be purchased to help alleviate the noise. Clerk Coldagelli can look into options.

**Mining Effects Balance- \$976.02-** Clerk Coldagelli recommended transferring the remaining balance to the PUC Fund to help cover the deficit.

***Motion to transfer the remaining Mining Effects to the PUC, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Rink Attendant-** Received applications from Brynn Rozinka and Anthony Launderville. Discussion to reach out to the volunteers for flooding.

***Motion to hire the two rink applicants, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.***

Supervisor Sather brought forward the Fire Department request of hiring Elaine Svoboda for position as EMR, dependant upon passing a physical and background check.

**Motion to hire Elaine Svoboda, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion to hire based upon the Fire Department recommendation, Dalen Robillard, pending his physical and background, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.**

Supervisor Ziegler brought forward employee working hours and would like all the employees working 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM, excluding the office staff. He would like the Foreman working to 3:00 PM.

**Motion for the guys to work 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Chairman Tammaro. Starting effective Monday. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$112,728.34, less the adjustment for the Cable Commission, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heidi M. Coldagelli*

Heidi M. Coldagelli  
Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: *Phil Brown*  
Chair

Date: 12-3-24

Attest: *Heidi M. Coldagelli*  
Clerk