

**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**

**DECEMBER 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 Sather, Supervisor Ziegler and Clerk/Treasurer Coldagelli. Supervisor Branville was absent. Supervisor Chad arrived at 7:02 PM. Chairman Tammaro led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Mike Erjavec, Matt Hoffmann, Will Takanen and Steve Shykes.

***Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

**SCHEDULED GUESTS**- Chairman Tammaro introduced Will Takanen from Ascendance Trucking to the Board. He had asked Mr. Takanen to come to the meeting to discuss the issue with the Fire Department chassis. When the proposal was signed in April, that form was to order the chassis. When the project was presented to the Board in March and April, Assistant Chief Hoffmann had informed the Board that it was only getting in line for a truck and it was a contract that could be cancelled. Supervisor Chad arrived at this time. Mr. Takanen confirmed that Assistant Chief Hoffmann was his contact at the Township for the project and provided the Town Board copies of their text messages and statuses of the process. Discussions began in November of 2023 regarding the project. Messages sent in July 2024 stated the truck would be built in September or October of 2024 with delivery in November of 2024. Mr. Takanen further notified Assistant Chief Hoffman that the chassis was delayed for two more months. The Board was under the impression from Assistant Chief Hoffmann's presentation earlier this year that the truck would not be ready for at least another two years or longer. Assistant Chief Hoffmann was unavailable during the summer to provide updates to the Town Board and had the understanding that the truck would be an 18-24 month production. He apologized for his part that there was a misunderstanding and believed that the Town would be able to cancel prior to the build date. Mr. Takanen informed the Board that pushing the build another year, there would be a \$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 increase. There is also not any obligation to take ownership of the truck, but they would like Fayal to purchase the truck as it was customized to Fayal's request. They are willing to be flexible in extending delivery out for six months. Chairman Tammaro stated he is not comfortable purchasing a truck at this time as the Town was not ready to do so. Much discussion from all parties regarding statuses and communication. The Town did not put the \$1,000.00 down as no invoice was received in order to make payment. Discussion regarding how to pay for the truck. Clerk Coldagelli suggested that the Town could borrow from the Fayal Water Company Depreciation Fund to pay for the \$100,000.00 chassis. The \$14,000.00 that was designated for the Relief Association could satisfy that payment. The remaining of the truck project, \$225,000.00, could come from the Sewer Company Assessment Savings. Discussion regarding financing through Ascendance and extending payment out another year. Supervisor Sather reminded the Board that 2026 is the time frame they were looking at and Supervisor Ziegler stated that if extending to 2026, Fayal should take a low interest loan by borrowing from ourselves and pay ourselves back versus other financing options. The Town does have money in other Departments but at this time does not want to use. Discussion that Fayal should at least pay the \$1,000.00 down that should have been paid when the contract was signed. Supervisor Sather brought forward that he discussed with Ascendance holding off for six months and see if Ascendance can sell the truck in the meantime. Chairman Tammaro then informed Mr. Takanen that the Board will put a pause on the truck for six months and then can come back to Ascendance sooner. Clarification that Ascendance has authority to sell the truck in the meantime.

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS**- None at this time.

**REPORTS**-

**Clerk/Treasurer's Report**- For the month of December to date, revenues are \$385,350.78 and expenditures are \$103,921.41. Current balances for the month of December are:

Miners Checking- \$687,488.07

Assessment Savings- \$115.65

CD Savings- \$70.69

4M Fund- \$1,802,493.28

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

**Other Reports-**

**Motion to accept the Public Access minutes for December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

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

**Motion to accept the Wastewater Operator Report for November, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE-**

December 9<sup>th</sup>- Letter from AFSCME Council 65 with notice of a change in the minimum and maximum dues effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Forwarded to the employees.

December 10<sup>th</sup>- Email from Jon Utecht with North St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District with the watercraft inspection program 2024 season update for Ely Lake. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

December 16<sup>th</sup>- Letter from St. Louis County with notice of public hearing for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 9:00 AM seeking comments for proposed St. Louis County Floodplain Ordinance. Also received a copy of the Floodplain Ordinance. Placed on file.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Chairman Tamaro-**

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

**Differding Point Waterline-** No response from Gilbert yet, but that may change with the new mayor.

**Fire Department Rechassis Project-** Assistant Chief Hoffmann added that there was a miscommunication between he and Mr. Takanen with delivery dates and that there was no intention to mislead the Town Board.

**Electronic Water Meters-** The PUC has decided to table for now. Per the survey sent to the residents, there were more not in favor. Down the road, may look at the project again.

**Employee Contracts-** Supervisor Branville and Chairman Tamaro met with the Union today. There is a \$2.50 pay increase for 2025 and then \$1.00 increase for 2026 and 2027. Benefits will stay the same, but an increase to the pager pay as it really is an inconvenience. Clothing allowance increased from \$150.00 to \$200.00 in 2025, \$250.00 in 2026 and \$300.00 in 2027. There is also a 3% cap for a deferred compensation match.

**Motion to approve the contract that was written that was negotiated with the AFSCME Union, made by Chairman Tamaro, support from Supervisor Chad. Clerk Coldagelli's contract still needs to be completed. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Lift Station A-1-** Clerk Coldagelli sent FEMA a few more items that they requested. The summer flooding request has been signed and tentatively appears that for the road and culvert damage, Road and Bridge will receive \$29,000.00 in reimbursement.

**2026 Levy-** Clerk Coldagelli provided an updated levy proposal reflecting the \$2,500.00 increase in the Public Safety Fund. Discussion regarding the large increase and the other increases in the previous years have been smaller. Still have time to discuss.

**Fire Department Hourly Wage-** Chairman Tamaro addressed that the Department will get the minimum wage increase in January, but will need to figure out the truck first before looking at the wage further.

**Pickleball Screens-** Supervisor Sather will look into.

**Eveleth-Fayal Cable Access-** The Cable Board has had some good discussions and put together some numbers that we will be receiving.

**2025-2026 Police Contract Renewal-** The City of Eveleth approved a 10% increase in 2025 and 2026 that would bring the total to \$55,900.00. The police budget would need to increase to support. Currently spend

approximately \$10,000.00 per year on prosecution costs. Discussion that the majority of Eveleth and Fayal attorney costs are tickets issued on the highways by the State Highway Patrol and St. Louis County Sheriff. Discussion that should be addressed at the State level as all the communities are faced with the same problem.

***Motion to approve the police contract, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**TruGreen**- Have renewed yearly and receive a 5% discount by prepaying. One quote is for the Ballfield and the other for the Town Hall grounds.

***Motion to approve TruGreen for \$1,129.30 and \$2,335.85, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Chad. The bill for the Ballfield is charged to the Recreation Fund and the grounds is charged to Building and Grounds. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Year End Fund Transfers**- Clerk Coldagelli reviewed the following transfers:

***Motion to transfer from Capital Equipment (Miners Checking) to the Fire Department for the water tender payment \$21,000.00 and to Road and Bridge for the Dump Truck for \$29,000.00, for a total of \$50,000.00, made by Chairman Tamaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to transfer from Miners Checking to the 4M Assessment Savings from the St. Louis County Apportionment for \$713.01, made by Chairman Tamaro, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

Clerk Coldagelli brought forward transfers from Miners Checking to the 4M Fund for the levy transfers. Transfers included \$10,000.00 to the Town Hall Fund, \$13,143.24 to the Capital Equipment Fund, \$9,000.00 to the Road and Bridge Truck Fund and \$15,000.00 to the Employee Benefit CD for a total of \$47,143.24.

***Motion to transfer \$47,143.24 from Miners Checking to the 4M Fund, made by Chairman Tamaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

Clerk Coldagelli presented the normal year end transfers from Miners Checking to the 4M Fund of \$4,000.08 to the Water Maintenance Contingency, \$4,330.80 to the Water Depreciation Fund and \$8,142.18 to the Sewer Maintenance Contingency, for a total of \$16,473.06.

***Motion to transfer \$16,473.06 from the Miners Checking to the 4M Fund, made by Chairman Tamaro, support from Supervisor Chad. Clerk Coldagelli still needs to transfer the Standby Water Fees charged in 2024 but does not have those figures yet. Motion carried unanimously.***

For consideration, Clerk Coldagelli brought forward a transfer of \$7,000.00 for Water Availability Charges to transfer from the Miners Checking to the 4M Fund.

***Motion to approve the transfer of \$7,000.00, made by Chairman Tamaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

Last transfer was to transfer from the 4M Fund to the appropriate departments in Miners Checking from the Employee Benefit CD for the retirees. The transfers are \$1,063.92 to General, \$12,691.22 to Road and Bridge, \$642.84 to the Water Company and \$2,571.36 to the Sewer Company, for a total of \$16,969.34.

***Motion to transfer \$16,969.34, made by Chairman Tamaro, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Mediacom Franchise**- A representative from Mediacom contacted Clerk Coldagelli regarding an expired franchise agreement. The agreement is in ordinance form. In speaking with the representative, Fayal is entitled to keep the franchise fees as they are not PEG fees, even if there is no longer an active channel. The Cable Commission can discuss dissolving if they decide to do so. Clerk Coldagelli read the ordinance to satisfy the first reading.

**Rink Attendants**- Two applications were received from Caden Slavich and Carson Rozinka.

***Motion to hire the rink attendants, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

Clerk Coldagelli requested authority to hire any additional rink attendants as needed and there were no objections.

**Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program**- A contract was provided to enroll in the program to satisfy the state competitive bidding requirements for the chassis project. Participation is at no cost.

**Motion to use Sourcewell for state bid, made by Supervisor Ziegler, support from Chairman Tammaro.** Clerk Coldagelli clarified that one does not have to purchase through Sourcewell, but it's giving the state bid pricing. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Walker, Giroux & Hahne 2024 Audit**- An understanding of services contract was provided to complete the 2024 audit in 2025 for a total cost of \$21,550.00.

**Motion to approve \$21,550.00 for Walker, Giroux & Hahne, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Tammaro brought forward a blight complaint that he had received and wanted to ensure that Blight Officer Chad was notified. Discussion that Supervisor Chad will address the issue on Thunderbird Trail. Clerk Coldagelli created a blight complaint form that residents can fill out and she will add that to the Fayal website. Discussion regarding the property on Ely Lake Drive with the downed tree. Clerk Coldagelli recently read an article regarding fire codes and that could fall under a dangerous situation that a Fire Marshall or Fire Chief can deem hazardous. She will check if the tree would qualify.

Chairman Tammaro thanked Supervisor Ziegler for his years of service as a Supervisor for the Town of Fayal and welcomed Mike Erjavec as the incoming Supervisor.

Clerk Coldagelli questioned if she could pay any normal outstanding bills by the end of the year and Chairman Tammaro responded that have done that often in the past and that would be okay.

**Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$34,163.81, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Ziegler. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heidi M. Coldagelli*

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Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*Anthony J. Romano*  
Chair

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

*1-9-25*

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Heidi M. Coldagelli*  
Clerk