

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Heidi M. Latvaaho, Clerk/Treasurer

Lee Branville, Chairman

Supervisors: Mark Chad, Michael Erjavec, Richard Sather, Daniel Zbosnik

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Fayal Town Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Branville. Present were: Chairman Branville, Supervisor Chad, Supervisor Erjavec, Supervisor Sather, Supervisor Zbosnik and Clerk Latvaaho. Chairman Branville led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Jason Latvaaho, Paul Peltier and Steve Shykes. A minor child and their parent arrived during the scheduled guest speaker.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of October 21st, 2025, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of October 21st, 2025, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- Paul Peltier, Executive Director of Range Association of Municipalities and Schools, was present to discuss RAMS with the Town Board. RAMS is made up of 70 units and assists townships, cities and school districts. The RAMS Board of Directors consists of 24 elected officials around the region. Mr. Peltier wanted to share with the Board some of the things that RAMS is doing and advocating for and what can RAMS do to assist Fayal. They have been strong advocates for use of taconite production tax in the region, reform for sulfate standards, town aid, parks and trails development and EMS reimbursement aid. RAMS looks to this next legislative session to push seasonal tax based aid. If the bill passes, that would essentially be a tax cut for the citizens. Individuals with seasonal recreation property currently pay into the state business levy instead of the local school district where the funds are generated.

Chairman Branville brought forward the lack of funding for roads as a need. The Township has many of miles of paved roads and there is a high tax base and alot of people that pay alot of money in taxes and they can't have a decent road. The Township has to scrimp and save and then has to borrow for it. There is no help for small entities as far as road reconstruction. Clerk Latvaaho added that unless updating infrastructure, which Fayal's is relatively new in terms of age, or including products such as "smart" roads or adding trails, there isn't much for grant opportunities when a project is strictly road replacement. LRIP grants are available, but are highly competitive. This year, there is only \$5 million available for townships and Fayal is submitting an application for \$1.5 million for just one road. Discussion regarding the seasonal recreation properties and taxes. Clerk Latvaaho also questioned if there could be a push for an increase in town road aid. The Township usually receives approximately \$20,000.00 per year in road aid, but that does not go very far when the Town has 30 miles of roads, of which 15 miles are paved. The Township also phased out of taconite municipal aid last year due to the sharp increase in property valuations in the Township according to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Discussion regarding taconite production tax. The RAMS annual dinner is December 9th and RAMS meets the 4th Thursday of the month. Chairman Branville thanked Executive Director Peltier for attending and educating the Board on everything that they do.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- A minor youth read the Town Board an apology letter for damage to the playground area. She will pay for the damages and intends to do community service in the Township and would accept any ideas. Chairman Branville thanked her for her apology.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of October have not yet been received so this report is tentative. Revenues were \$82,752.31 and expenditures were \$117,268.41. Tentative ending balances for October are:

Miners Checking- \$636,711.91
Assessment Savings- \$115.77
CD Savings- \$70.77
4M Fund- \$1,964,124.01

For the month of November to date, revenues are \$2,509.40 and expenditures are \$68,609.16.

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

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the October Road and Bridge Report, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

October 23rd - Email from the IRRRB with a grant opportunity through the Minnesota Department of Commerce for solar on public buildings. Applications are due by December 1st. Grants award 70% of the project costs and is the lesser of 40kW system or 120% of the building's annual energy consumption. Clerk Latvaaho looked closer into the grant and it doesn't sound like this grant would be appropriate due to the size requirements. Foreman Latvaaho did send it off to Hometown Electric for their opinion.

October 26th - Thank you card received from St. Louis County 4-H program for Fayal's donation. Placed on file.

October 27th - Email from the MN Department of Natural Resources with notice of 2026 invasive aquatic plant management grants open on November 10th. Application deadline is December 8th. Placed on file.

October 27th - Email from Victor Lund, Traffic Engineer with St. Louis County Public Works Department. St. Louis County is developing a new Safety Action Plan for greater St. Louis County and inviting cities/townships to join their focus group. The commitment would be one hour-long virtual meeting. Forwarded to Supervisor Sather and Foreman Latvaaho.

October 28th - Email from the IRRRB with notice of small community planning grants for stormwater, wastewater and community resilience are available through the MPCA. Application deadline is November 20th. Forwarded to the Public Utilities Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Branville-

Fire Department Rechassis Project- Fire Chief Steve Shykes updated the Board that the chassis will go to apparatus manufacturer by December 1st. There was a minimal price increase since the last estimate. Assistant Fire Chief Hoffmann has the estimate. The Town Board needs the new estimate in order to approve the project moving forward. Chief Shykes will get those figures to the Town Board for the next meeting.

St. Mary's Lake Development Grant- Clerk Latvaaho submitted the grant application last week and should see a response in December whether approved or not.

Fire Department Shared Services- Clerk Latvaaho spoke with St. Louis County Assessor's Office and received estimated market values for the three communities. Fayal's value of \$356,037,900.00 is greater than both Eveleth and Gilbert combined. Eveleth's value is \$182,480,700.00 and Gilbert's is \$110,613,200.00. Fire Chief Shykes recommended that the Clerk speak with the State Auditor's Office regarding if a fire district was formed if there could be a flat fee to each fee holder versus assessed value as Fayal would take on a significant share of the cost. Clerk Latvaaho can check on that before the next meeting. Discussion regarding fire districts.

LRIP Grant- Clerk Latvaaho received an estimate from Bolton and Menk for \$2,063,977.50 for Thunderbird Trail. If approved, the grant would cover up to \$1,500,000.00. Awaiting a resolution from St. Louis County and then the application for the grant is due in December. The engineer was going to contact the business owners on that road for letters of support. Discussion that there are areas of full reconstruction and then mill and overlay.

2027 Levy- October ending balances will be updated for the next meeting as October's 4M Fund statement has not yet been received. Every department should end in the positive and Clerk Latvaaho still thinks that \$50,000.00 can be set aside in the Road and Bridge Department and \$10,000.00 in the Fire Department without increasing the levy.

Tammaro Pending Case- Clerk Latvaaho received from St. Louis County Attorney's Office paperwork to submit for restitution. Mr. Tammaro had previously provided a check for \$165.94 which was the incorrect amount for restitution. The total amount of the rebate checks were \$82.97. The Attorney's Office stated that the Town Board could either cash the check and issue the difference to Mr. Tammaro or return the check to him and request restitution.

Motion to take restitution from the check that Mr. Tammaro has written us and refund the balance to him,

made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

MN Paid Leave- Clerk Latvaaho attended a legal seminar a few weeks ago and it was recommended to draft a resolution for the Town’s portion of the contribution and stipulate that Family Medical Leave and Minnesota Paid Leave run concurrent. If not stipulated, employees could exhaust sick leave, vacation leave, Minnesota Paid Leave (up to a maximum of 20 weeks) and then add an additional 12 weeks of FMLA leave. MN Paid Leave also confirmed that recommendation. The Clerk will have a resolution for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Skating- There was a resident who requested holding adult open skating Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM at the skating rink. They are aware that there isn’t a rink attendant on staff during that time so in the event of snow there will not be anyone to clear the rink as the Township employees will be out plowing.

Motion to grant open skating to the group, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Appreciation- In the past have always sent those serving on our volunteer commissions a \$50.00 Super One gift certificate as a thank you for serving on the commission. Have also sent in the past \$200.00 to the Garden Club as a thank you to their members for all their hard work on the grounds. Total amount is \$350.00 for commission members and \$200.00 to the Garden Club.

Motion to approve \$550.00 for the Garden Club and the volunteers, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Zbosnik brought forward that a resident questioned how to request a streetlight. There is a procedure that Clerk Latvaaho can assist them with and they would submit that request to the Public Utilities Commission. Discussion that the Township would be responsible for the cost.

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$87,826.36, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Chairman Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Sather.

Chairman Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi M. Latvaaho

Clerk/Treasurer Town of Faval

Approved: _____

Chair

Date: _____

11-18-2025

Attest: _____



Clerk