

# **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**

**PHONE (218)744-2878**

**FAX (218)744-5986**

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD**

**JANUARY 6, 2026**

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 and Steve Shykes.

***Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

**SCHEDULED GUESTS-** None at this time.

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS-** Foreman Jason Latvaaho informed the Board that Savers installed the new water heater on Monday and honored the previous quote from 2024 for \$4,000.00.

### **REPORTS-**

#### **Clerk/Treasurer's Report-**

Bank statements for the month of December have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$447,318.62, which included the St. Louis County apportionment for \$375,877.14 and expenditures were \$137,077.92. Ending balances for December were:

Miners Checking- \$779,104.00

Assessment Savings- \$115.80

CD Savings- \$70.79

4M Fund- \$2,107,330.59

For the month of January to date, revenues are \$11,966.39 and expenditures are \$188,904.76.

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

#### **Other Reports-**

***Motion to accept the December Road and Bridge Report, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to accept the November 2025 and December 2025 Fire Department Report, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

### **CORRESPONDENCE-**

December 22<sup>nd</sup>- A letter received to the Fayal Town Board regarding the conduct of a Fayal Fire Department member. Moved to New Business.

December 26<sup>th</sup>- Letter from St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department with public hearing scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM for proposed St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance 62 amendments. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Chairman Branville-**

**Fire Department Rechassis Project-** Chief Shykes updated the Board that the exhaust problem has been rectified, but no other updated information.

**Fire Department Shared Services-** No updated information. The City Administrator from Eveleth retired and Clerk Latvaaho will get to get in touch with their replacement.

**2027 Levy-** Chairman Branville brought forward that at the last meeting discussed establishing a road replacement fund and the other balances were adequate to bring forward to the Townspeople. He would like to proceed with the recommendation at 4.63%.

***Motion to present the levy to the Townspeople, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Tennis Courts-** Jim Prittinen will be in attendance at the February meeting to discuss any findings for grant opportunities. He was waiting to receive some material for the Board.

**Minnesota Paid Leave-** Clerk Latvaaho informed the Board of another discovery with MN Paid Leave. As she was updating 2026 information based upon the Union employees contracts, she discovered that the contract in 2024 already included that the Township pay for half of the union and contracted employees premiums. For the first payroll of January the contracted employees then had the Township pay .33% of the premium and the employees responsible for the other .33%. The other employees are at .44% and .22% for the employer share. She also informed the Board that when she submitted fourth quarter reporting, the Township was over 30 employees so the rate should increase again to .88% anyway, this may be a case where the Township is continually teetering between different rates due to the number of employees reported. Discussion regarding Minnesota Paid Leave.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Branville brought forward the correspondence received regarding the conduct of a Fire Department member. The Board would like to form a two person committee to review the complaint and make any recommendations of action to the Town Board. Supervisors Sather and Erjavec will look into matter and meet with the employee to discuss.

### **Appointment of Chris Erickson to the Planning Commission-**

***Motion to appoint Chris Erickson to the Planning Commission, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Resolution 2026-01-** Clerk Latvaaho read resolution 2026-01, A Resolution to Accept Donations.

***Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-01, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Road Funding Ideas-** Clerk Latvaaho had found a federal grant opportunity and reached out to Bolton and Menk to see if the grant opportunity would be a viable one for the Township to apply for. In speaking with the engineers, that particular grant is extremely competitive and requires an immense amount of engineering work as the grant is a 120 page application. They recommended to discuss with Representative Stauber's office or Senator Klobuchar and request assistance with earmarked funds for a road project and the likelihood of that request for assistance with Thunderbird Trail and nearby roads had better approval potential. The engineers were going to put together some cost estimates and information regarding the requests so she could present that information to the Board for support. Discussion regarding road funding.

Supervisor Erjavec brought forward an article in the newspaper from December 13<sup>th</sup> which quoted Gilbert Mayor Karl Oberstar stating that their public utility enterprise funds transfer a large donation to the general fund to lower their levy on a yearly basis. Discussion that Fayal residents on utilities are then supplementing Gilbert's taxes. Discussion of the legality of using enterprise funds to supplement other funds. Clerk Latvaaho will ask the auditor when they are here.

***Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$211,134.28, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad.*** Chief Shykes commented that it cost \$6,000.00 for the Fire Department to train four new department members. The training is approximately 16 weeks. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion to adjourn made by Chairman Branville.***

Chairman Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Heidi M. Latvaaho

Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved:



Chair

Date:

1/6/26

Attest:



Clerk