

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

FEBRUARY 17, 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 Zbosnik and Clerk Latvaaho. Supervisor Sather was absent. Chairman Branville led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Matt Hoffmann, Jason Latvaaho, Jim Prittinen and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of January 20th, 2026, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- Jim Prittinen was present to discuss his findings on tennis court grants. Mr. Prittinen stated that the courts need a complete reconstruct versus resurfacing, which would be in excess of \$120,000.00 to complete. He spoke with USTA National regarding grant funding and they could offer up to \$35,000.00 per court. He recommended a virtual meeting with the USTA Director to discuss. In the previous quotes received only one for a total reconstruct. Can get in touch with another company in Minneapolis for a full reconstruct quote. Discussion regarding the safety of the courts in their current condition. Discussion on how to fund the project. Mr. Prittinen will contact the USTA National Director for next steps and work with Clerk Latvaaho.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- Fire Chief Steve Shykes brought forward that the four new firefighters have passed their certification tests, but now need gear. The Town Board has in the past given \$10,000.00 per year for turnout gear from Mining Effects. Boots are urgently needed at this time for approximately \$2,500.00 for four sets. One set of gear is approximately \$4,000.00 per set. Discussion regarding Mining Effects.

Motion to allocate \$10,000.00 towards turnout gear, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer's Report

Bank statements for the month of January have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$89,403.03 and expenditures are \$259,895.45. Ending balances for January were:

Miners Checking- \$643,125.59

CD Savings- \$70.79

4M Fund- \$2,079,475.49

For the month of February to date, revenues are \$31,607.64 and expenditures are \$111,153.84.

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

Other Reports

Motion to accept the Road and Bridge January report, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Chairman Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Public Utilities Commission meeting minutes from December 9th and the Delinquency Report from December, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

January 23rd- Letter from Lake Country Power with invitation to the district meeting on February 16th from 5:00-7:00 PM at Red Rock Hotel in Hibbing. Placed on file.

January 23rd- Email from Michael O'Bryan with St. Louis County Attorney's Office with an update regarding the case of former Town Board Supervisor Tamaro to resolve his file. Placed on file.

January 28th- Email from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority with notice and instructions for the 2027 project

priority lists and intended use plans. Forwarded to the PUC.

January 28th - Email from Megan Julin from St. Louis County Association of Townships with meeting minutes from January 28th. Placed on file.

February 2nd - Letter from Wellabe (the Township's life insurance provider) with notice of privacy practices and annual meeting scheduled March 3rd in Des Moines, Iowa from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM. Placed on file.

February 4th - Email from Jon Utecht from North St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District with the complete 2025 aquatic invasive species report. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

February 6th - Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with annual meeting minutes from December 9th and special board meeting minutes from December 17th. Placed on file.

February 10th - Email from St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department with variance application for parcel 340-0010-05840. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Branville-

Fire Department Rechassis Project- Assistant Fire Chief Matt Hoffmann presented the Town Board with an updated quote from Custom Fire with changes. The original estimate from March 1, 2024 was \$231,684.59 and the new quote with updates and changes is \$303,619.58. Discussion regarding the modifications from the last quote. The largest cost increase was deck gun modifications as well as adding extra storage and lighting. This apparatus would replace Engine 91 that is over 30 years old if it were to fail. A new fire truck would cost approximately \$1.5 million. Need to verify that Custom Fire has included the Sourcewell discount of 15%. This new chassis should last approximately 20 years. The new chassis replaced the old 2006 chassis. Discussion regarding how to pay for the \$70,000.00 price change. Clerk Latvaaho had originally recommended taking an interdepartment loan from the Sewer Company's Assessment Savings and making the payment from the Capital Equipment Fund. She will have to recalculate a new payment. The chassis was paid for through an interdepartment loan from the General Fund. The Fire Department is paying the \$15,000.00 yearly payment from their budget. There will also be a \$30,000.00 trade in received when the old chassis is returned to Ascendance Trucking. Currently, Custom Fire is honoring the original quote from 2024 as it was written. If the Board would like to proceed with the recommended Fire Department quote with changes, there is a 14% price increase and then the other costs for the update. Discussion regarding the number of repairs to Engine 91. The chassis could be completed before summer. Clerk Latvaaho can prepare for the next meeting estimated payments and recommendations to pay for the truck assembly. She also needs evidence of the 15% discount from Sourcewell for auditing purposes. Chairman Branville stressed to the Board that this apparatus will replace Engine 91 and will save the Board from purchasing a fire truck in the near future. Assistant Chief Hoffmann will go back to the vendor and see if they can do anything to lower the cost. Will review at the next meeting.

Fire Department Shared Services- Will remove from the agenda for now.

Road Funding Ideas- No updated information.

Old Bullfrogs Building Update- Clerk Latvaaho received a call from Commissioner Keith Nelson and St. Louis County awarded a demolition contract for the building and the structure should be removed soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Utilities Commission Appointments-

Motion to reappoint Ed Vest, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to appoint Curtis Wercinski to the open position on the PUC, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Utilities Billing Coordinator- Utility Billing Coordinator Terry Hiti provided notice effective March 12th as her last day. Will need to advertise for the position. Clerk Latvaaho would like the position to work Monday through Friday, 20-25 hours per week. Discussion that per the union contract carrying the pager is required of the position. Discussion of the pager process and the improvements that have been made to make it better for those carrying the pager. Applications will be due by March 31st.

Sewer Line Easement Eveleth Fee Office- The easement is sent yearly by the Eveleth Fee Office for signature and a cost of \$75.00.

Motion to pay the easement fee to the Eveleth Fee Office, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor

Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Fund Transfers- Clerk Latvaaho had the following transfer requests. A transfer of \$317.34 from the 4M Assessment Savings to Miners Checking to correct an error that the County made in December in a payment allocation that was corrected in January. A transfer from Miners Checking to the 4M Fund for Stand By Water payments of \$1,943.62 and Sewer Availability Charges of \$494.04. A transfer from Miners Checking to the 4M Fund of \$115.80 for closing out the Miners Assessment Savings. Lastly was a correction of transferring \$3,500.00 for water availability charges received and \$6,625.00 for sewer availability charges received from the 4M Fund back to the Miners Checking account. These were already transferred in June and then transferred again at year end.

Motion to approve all the transfers as written, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Officer Vacancies Fire Department- Fire Department member Tim Sklors resigned due to relocation out of the area.

Motion to accept the resignation of Tim Sklors from the Fire Department, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

The resignation created an opportunity for two open positions in the Fire Department. Three letters of interest were received, but only two of the applications held the required number of time in order to move within grade.

Motion to recommend Jeremy Widmer as Captain, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Chairman Branville. Discussion that the positions were posted internally and the two eligible applicants are very qualified. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Motion to accept Erik Moe's letter of interest and promote him to Lieutenant, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Chad brought forward that the Fire Department physicals are due next month for \$3,960.00 plus mileage.

Motion to approve the Fire Department physicals, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Chairman Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Chad brought forward a quote for the purchase of a new thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department out of their budget.

Motion to move the purchase of \$2,865.60 and \$477.96 for the truck charger, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

March Meeting Schedule-

Motion to hold the regular meeting March 3rd and cancel the second meeting of the month, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Branville informed the audience that the Town Board would like to close the meeting to discuss a firefighter personnel issue per Minnesota State statutes §13D.05 Subd. 2(b).

Motion to close the meeting, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was closed at 8:30 PM.

Motion to reopen the meeting, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was reopened at 9:37 PM

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$115,216.65, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Chad.

Chairman Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Latvaaho

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Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: _____

Chair

Date: _____

3/3/26

Attest: _____

Heidi M. Latvaaho

Clerk