

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

APRIL 7, 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, Jim Prittinen, Steve Shykes and Kris Wilson.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of March 3rd, 2026, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- Jim Prittinen was present to discuss the summer tennis program. They would like to expand their program for the summer and add an extra two hours for lessons so they will run from 8:00-3:00 Mondays and Wednesdays with Fridays for make ups due to weather. Mr. Prittinen would also like to request \$400.00 for a new ball cart and extra balls. He questioned the status of the courts if that would impact the program's schedule this summer. Clerk Latvaaho did receive a quote from Classic Turf that offered post-tension concrete with a 50-year warranty. The cost came in at \$379,860.00, but the demolition of the existing courts can be completed in house, to reduce the price by \$32,200.00. The 50-year warranty does require re-coating every 5-8 years as needed. Clerk Latvaaho did question if Classic Turf needs to complete the re-coating and what is that cost as well as if they offer financing options. Crack sealing costs approximately \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 approximately every five years, so a 50-year warranty is where the savings occur. Clerk Latvaaho did speak and sign up for USTA. They are supposed to assign an individual to our account but has not had anyone contact her yet. The grants offer \$35,000.00 per court. Clerk Latvaaho had questions in regards to Fayal's court dimensions as it doesn't meet their standard court sizes and also any grant awards are strictly for tennis so pickleball lines could not be painted at the same time. A previous quote for a total reconstruct was approximately \$190,000.00, but there was no warranty in comparison with Classic Turf. Discussion regarding the cost and impact on the Town. Discussion that having the courts done properly could prevent continuous cracking issues.

Motion for \$400.00 for the tennis program, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- Fire Chief Steve Shykes brought forward a request for the purchase of MSA G1 Airpack Reading/Writer and 25x Model M7 Accountability Tags for \$2,640.87 to be paid from their budget. The items would provide clear communication between the facepiece and the radio via bluetooth. During a fire scene currently its very difficult to hear and is very garbled.

Motion to approve the expenditure, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of March have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$72,213.79 and expenditures were \$163,204.24. Ending balances for March were:

Miners Checking- \$602,721.96

CD Savings- \$70.81

4M Fund- \$2,083,776.83

For the month of April to date, revenues are \$11,814.74 and expenditures are \$49,827.71.

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

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the PUC minutes, the Wastewater Operator report and the PUC delinquency report, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept Foreman Latvaaho's road report for March, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

March 13th- Email from Krista Makela with St. Louis County with notice that requests for early distribution of 2026 tax collections must be made by May 31st. If no request is made, the total distribution will be on July 3rd. Placed on file.

March 16th- Letter from St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department with notice of public hearing scheduled on April 14th at 10:00 AM in Aurora in regards to proposed amendments to St. Louis County Ordinance 62. Forwarded to the Planning Commission. Discussion regarding the Ordinance changes.

March 20th- Thank you card and certificate for being a 2026 sponsor for Iron Range Youth in Action. Placed on file.

March 23rd- Letter from Carr's Tree Service regarding services they offer for roadside brushing, tree trimming, tree removal and spraying. Forwarded to the Road and Bridge Department.

March 23rd- Email from Megan Julin from St. Louis County Association of Townships with meeting minutes from February 25th. Placed on file.

March 26th- Email from St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department with notice of County Board of Adjustment Public Hearing on Thursday, April 9th for the variance application for Lake Country Power. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Branville-

Fire Department Rechassis Project- The Public Utilities Commission approved funding of \$269,564.98 for 10 years at 4.5%. The payment would come from the 4M Sewer Savings. They did request that if the funds were ever needed for anything that the loan could be called back.

Motion to proceed with the Sewer Savings funding the rechassis project with the payment coming from Capital Equipment, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Road Funding- Received notification that the LRIP grant application was denied, but applications are being held in the event that more funding becomes available later this year. Stauber's Office turned down our funding request, but haven't heard a response yet from Smith's or Klobuchar's Office.

Public Utilities Billing Coordinator/Billing Clerk- Nine applications were received and four applicants were interviewed. The Hiring Committee would like to recommend Kris Wilson for the position of the Public Utilities Coordinator/Billing Clerk pending a background check and drug screening. They also requested not to adhere to the 80% of pay during the probationary period that is listed in the Union contract as no other Billing Clerk's have been subject to the 80%.

Motion to hire Kris Wilson as the new Billing Clerk pending background check and drug screening, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer- Neglected at the last meeting to make a motion to add Linda Shykes to the Miner's Bank accounts.

Motion to add Linda Shykes to our bank accounts as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Department Budget- Chairman Branville, Supervisor Zbosnik and Clerk Latvaaho met with the Mayor of Eveleth and the City Administrator last week to discuss the proposed increase. Currently, not in the budget to go from \$60,000.00 to \$125,000.00 all at once, even if we could go that high at all. Requested documentation for the number of hours that an officer is out here as a starting point and then look at increases if the Board chooses to go that route. Could also decrease services. Have been happy with the service provided by Eveleth Police. The two-year contract expires at the end of the year. Discussion regarding level of service and calls. Discussion that the Town of White, which is similar to Fayal Township, discontinued their police services about 20 years ago and rely on St. Louis County for response at no cost to the Township. Discussion that continuing services with Eveleth needs to be affordable.

NEW BUSINESS

ZixMail Quote- Clerk Latvaaho uses ZixMail for payroll and other secured items. The quote is for a three-year renewal for \$810.00.

Motion to approve ZixMail, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Lift Station Maintenance Quote- Every other year one-half of the lift station pumps are inspected. Cost for pump inspections on 15 lift stations is \$3,806.26. There is an additional fee for confined space entry, but they typically do not have to do that. The cost can come from the Maintenance Contingency.

Motion to approve and pay from the Maintenance Contingency, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of the Annual Meeting- A total of 15 individuals attended. Usually have anywhere from 20-30 in attendance in years past. There was nothing notable that occurred. The citizens raised the Town Board Supervisor's pay by \$25.00. Discussion regarding that legally the Town Board is responsible for setting their own wages, but has historically left that decision to the Townspeople at the Annual Meeting.

Motion to accept the raise from the Townspeople at the Annual Meeting, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Branville thanked Steve Shykes for serving as Moderator at the Annual Meeting.

Yard Waste- Yard waste spring dates are scheduled for April 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th and May 2nd and 3rd. Foreman Latvaaho made the Board aware that employee Albert Jurenic is no longer interested in serving as yard waste attendant after the spring dates. Discussion regarding difficulty in finding staffing for yard waste and the cost. Discussion of the casual labor rate and to look internally for an individual to staff it. Discussion to keep the casual labor rates the same and advertise for the position.

Dust Control- Foreman Latvaaho received a quote from Trimark Industrial & Edwards Oil for \$1.42 per gallon for magnesium chloride with a minimum of 4,200 gallons. The cost is just under \$6,000.00 and could possibly waver slightly as its a minimum of 4,200 gallons. This company has been used in the past. Discussion regarding dust control is placed on more populated roads and when necessary the Township puts water on the less populated roadways to control dust.

Motion for the quote from Trimark for \$1.42 per gallon, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department Payments-

Motion to transfer \$17,547.99 from Mining Effects to the 4M Sewer for airpacks, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to transfer \$7,948.60 from the Fire Department to the 4M General for the chassis payment, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.


Supervisor Chad brought forward the recommendation to hire Tanner Lokken to the Fire Department pending physical and background check.

Motion to hire Tanner Lokken, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$101,554.71, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:46 PM.


Respectfully submitted,



Heidi M. Latvaaho
Clerk/Treasurer Town of Foyal

Approved:  _____
Chair

Date: 4/21/26

Attest:  _____
Clerk