

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Heidi M. Latvaaho, Clerk/Treasurer

Anthony Tammaro, Chairman

Supervisors: Lee Branville, Mark Chad, Michael Erjavec, Richard Sather

PHONE (218)744-2878

FAX (218)744-5986

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD

JULY 15, 2025

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 Branville, Supervisor Chad, Supervisor Erjavec, Supervisor Sather and Clerk Latvaaho. Chairman Tammaro led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Terry Hiti, Jason Latvaaho, Jamie Lindseth and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of June 17th, 2025, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- Jamie Lindseth was present to discuss the property insurance renewal. The renewal decreased 5.31% to \$27,222.00, mainly due to the League's performance, but also the lack of claims from Fayal. Work comp has decreased significantly, too. Street construction workers comprised a 40% reduction.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- Fire Chief Steve Shykes brought forward that hydrotesting needs to be completed for the large SCBA bottles used to fill the smaller bottles. Hose testing is finally occurring. The paperwork for the DNR grant is completed and should see reimbursement soon. Funds have also been received for the Brimson wildfire. The Department would like to use some of those funds to eliminate carrying gas cans for equipment and upgrade to battery powered equipment.

Terry Hiti was present to discuss the removal of carrying the pager from her job description. She has tried it, does not like it and is uncomfortable doing it. Chairman Tammaro responded that from day one none of the women should be carrying the pager and being out on a call because number one, they don't go out very often and when they do, he believes that is why one of the former billing clerks left. He would like to remove her from the pager and the other employees take her time. Supervisor Erjavec questioned if it is a Union issue and is there a procedure to follow? Chairman Tammaro responded that they can make the motion and the Union can file a grievance. Supervisor Erjavec added that in speaking with PUC Billing Clerk Hiti today that maybe with more training she would be more comfortable carrying it. The pager pays \$640.00 per week and maybe there is interest from the other employees in carrying the pager more often. Foreman Jason Latvaaho added that the employees have carried the pager for her numerous times and he doesn't want the job duty removed from the job description in the event that PUC Billing Clerk Hiti leaves and the next person would like it. He continued that PUC Billing Clerk Hiti does not go out with generators and someone will come in and help at all times. So far the situation has occurred only in one instance and Wastewater Operator Rick Bieganek came in and assisted. Poor weather conditions are unsafe for any employee. PUC Billing Clerk Hiti's job falls under the Union contract. Chairman Tammaro replied that if PUC Billing Clerk Hiti does not want to be on the pager, they will get ahold of the Union representative to have her taken off. Foreman Latvaaho added that the situation should be handled the proper way as there should be new negotiations per the contract as the other employees will be taking on more work. Discussion among the Supervisors regarding the stress of carrying the pager.

Motion to change that and take Terry off of the pager schedule, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro requested that Clerk Latvaaho reach out to the Union representative regarding opening up the contract to take PUC Billing Clerk Hiti off the pager and meet to discuss.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of June have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$68,786.29 and expenditures were \$176,377.50. Ending balances for the month of June are:

Miners Checking- \$265,122.41

Assessment Savings- \$115.74

CD Savings- \$70.75

4M Fund- \$1,917,681.23

For the month of July to date, revenues are \$639,465.90 and expenditures are \$157,726.83.

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

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the Public Utilities Commission meeting minutes from June 9th, 2025, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the PUC Delinquency Report from June, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Branville. Discussion regarding the assessments and that the assessments will be placed on balances owing through July. One of the residents is a Gilbert resident and Fayal can ask if Gilbert will certify the balance to their taxes. We are not able to shut him off as he is just sewer. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Motion to accept the PUC Wastewater Report from June, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Fire Department Report for June, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

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

CORRESPONDENCE-

June 24th- Letter from Lake Country Power with notice of capital credit allocation of \$774.06 for 2024. Placed on file.

July 1st- Email from Jeri Venne with the IRRRB with notice of grant programs open July 1st. Clerk Latvaaho would like to apply for the Culture and Recreation Grant for the tennis courts. Have received only one quote back. Chairman Tammaro had spoken with Athletic Construction, who just worked on Eveleth's courts and they said they could look at ours in the future. Struggling to have vendors respond back.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Tammaro-

Fire Department Rechassis Project- No update at this time.

Patrick Ziegler Sewer Line- Foreman Latvaaho is working with Mr. Ziegler. Mr. Ziegler will expose the line at the lift station and cap it and Foreman Latvaaho will inspect it. A date has not been scheduled yet.

Tennis Court- Another windscreen was requested for the other side of the court. The screen covers 60 feet and costs approximately \$867.00.

Motion to buy the additional windscreen, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Chairman Tammaro. The screens do take 3-4 weeks to ship. ***Supervisor Chad opposed. Motion carried.***

Compost Screening- Chairman Tammaro hasn't heard an update and it can be removed from the agenda. Chairman Tammaro questioned when the Yard Waste site was going to be chipped. Foreman Latvaaho doesn't have a date yet, but it will be done this year.

BCA and Master Services Agreement- Clerk Latvaaho left a message with the St. Louis County Attorney's office and has not received a response back yet.

Class 5 Production in the Road and Bridge Pit- Foreman Latvaaho has a message to Ulland Brothers to look at it. Supervisor Branville questioned the pile on Highway 5 and could it potentially come up for sale? Discussion to keep an eye on it. Supervisor Erjavec questioned if an engineer needed to be involved or the property surveyed. Discussion followed. Foreman Latvaaho was concerned with the amount of clay content in the material. Discussion regarding the clay content.

Solar Panel Repair- Foreman Latvaaho spoke with Hometown Electric and it is very difficult to get into the electrical and then have to close it up and suggested a decision be made right then and there to move forward or not. Chairman Tammaro will contact them.

Thunderbird Trail Patch- Foreman Latvaaho had not received a quote to repair the patch. A quote was going to be provided from Midwest Construction to remove the patch, remove the existing class 5 due to the clay content and replace with class 5 from Nemanich's pit. Water continues to boil up. Supervisor Sather suggested

having Midwest Construction complete the entire project. An estimated repair was a verbal quote of \$10,000.00. Discussion regarding the need for the repair is our class 5 was used and then with all the rain that came and the class 5 continued to absorb water. There was also an issue with people driving over the area when they were asked not to. The road was closed when the work was being completed. There is an estimated 20 yards of class 5 that needs to be replaced so a significant amount of funds is for material. Supervisor Erjavec suggested removing the material, put in class 5 and let it set up for a month or two. Discussion regarding liability using our material. Foreman Latvaaho recommended utilizing the contractor's material as that location has had numerous issues. Discussion to remove the material and let it set up to save some money. Foreman Latvaaho will take a look at the project and see what can be done.

St. Mary's Lake Development Grant- Brad Scott reached out to Clerk Latvaaho to see if the Township would entertain looking at a grant again and would reach out to the IRRRB. They would be looking at significantly less funds.

Motion to write a letter of support to the IRRRB for a grant for the St. Mary's development, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Road and Bridge Supplies- Foreman Latvaaho received an estimate from Lawson Products for \$1,115.28 for a variety of tool and supplies. Chairman Tammaro suggested purchasing under the \$750.00 limit.

Motion to buy the Lawson quote, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Chad. Supervisor Branville added moving forward just keep on top of it. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

PUC Bylaws- A few months ago the PUC updated their bylaws for term expirations to all end on December 31st of the expiration year.

Motion to adopt the PUC Bylaws, made by Chairman Tammaro, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Sump Pumps- Supervisor Erjavec brought forward that the PUC was discussing what kind of mechanism they could use to increase the response rate of the surveys. There are approximately 200 residents that have not yet responded. PUC Billing Clerk Terry Hiti has started emailing some of the residents this week to try that route. The PUC had recommended starting to charge \$10.00 per month until the survey was responded to. Discussion that some residents are paying online so they are not reading the notices. Discussion that the bill from Gilbert is higher when there has been more rainfall during the month, which indicates water is getting into the system. One additional item that will need to be decided is how to address the noncompliant residents whose sump pumps are going directly into the sewer. So far there has only been a few that were found in violation of the sewer use ordinance. Discussion to send another letter for those that did not respond. Clerk Latvaaho will put the survey on the website.

Supervisor Branville brought forward that the Town Hall rental rates have not been reviewed for a number of years and the cost of supplies has increased. Will look at those rates and come back with a recommendation.

Supervisor Chad brought forward two new hires for the Fire Department to approve in order to get the background check and other items moving forward.

Motion to hire Alexis Ketola as a single role EMR, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to hire Lindsay Hoag for firefighter/EMR, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Chairman Tammaro. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro questioned if National Night Out was being held this year and there being no plans, one isn't being held at the Town Hall this year. Chairman Tammaro also questioned if Fire Chief Steve Shykes had any updates regarding the Eveleth, Fayal and Gilbert Fire Departments. All entities have approved moving forward and the next step is for the group to meet. Chief Shykes spoke with Clerk Latvaaho regarding some procedures and approval needed from the State. Discussion regarding cost, availability of grants from the IRRRB and other logistical issues such as PERA.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$213,580.77, made by Supervisor Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Tammaro adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M. Latvaaho

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Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: _____

[Signature]

Chair

Date: _____

8/19/25

Attest: _____

Heidi M. Latvaaho

Clerk