

TOWN OF FAYAL
4375 SHADY LANE, EVELETH, MN 55734

Heidi M. Latvaaho, Clerk/Treasurer

Lee Branville, Interim Chairman

Supervisors: Mark Chad, Michael Erjavec, Richard Sather

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAYAL TOWN BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

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

Audience members in attendance were Terry Hiti and Jason Latvaaho.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of August 19th, 2025, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- None at this time.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- Terry Hiti was present to discuss the pager. She is not happy still being on the pager. Interim Chair Branville added that at hiring it was discussed to try the pager and if it becomes a problem to remove her. Having anxiety with it becomes a safety issue. In the past have had firefighters on the pager. Foreman Jason Latvaaho will work on a schedule with the existing employees. Discussion that this summer had some extreme weather and during the winter the pager normally doesn't have very much activity. PUC Billing Clerk Hiti wants to be off the pager completely.

Motion to take Terry off the pager system we have and have Jason come up with a schedule to make it work without Terry, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Discussion that the Union did not want the pager duty removed from the position in the contract for the future. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of August have not yet been received so this report is tentative. Revenues were \$144,740.56 and expenditures were \$141,075.55. Tentative ending balances for the month of August were:

Miners Checking- \$775,591.83
Assessment Savings- \$115.74
CD Savings- \$70.75
4M Fund- \$1,924,570.78

For the month of September to date, revenues are \$60.00 and expenditures are \$94,630.98.

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 July Fire Department Report, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Interim Chair Branville. Discussion that staff is up to 20. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

CORRESPONDENCE-

August 25th- Postcard from the Minnesota Discovery Center with invitation for Friday, September 5th from 5:00-9:30 for Night of Discovery, a night of connection and celebration to benefit the museum of the Iron Range. Placed on file.

August 27th- Invitation from Virginia Mayor Larry Cuffe for an informal meeting regarding Quad City Fire and EMS, outside of mutual aid, on September 4th at 9:00 AM at the NESCU building in Mt. Iron. Clerk Latvaaho will attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Interim Chair Branville-

Fire Department Rechassis Project- No update.

Class 5 Production in the Road and Bridge Pit- Foreman Latvaaho is still waiting until the Highway 53 project winds down to contact Ulland again. He is also working on the aggregate crushing program with St. Louis County. The purchase is a one-time purchase and discussion regarding the details. Discussion regarding if anything is left in the pit.

Solar Panel Repair- Interim Chair Branville spoke with Hometown Electric and they haven't had an opportunity to look at them. Interim Chair Branville reiterated that he does not believe that it is worth investing funds into repairing the panels due to the age and condition of them. Will continue to leave on the agenda in the event Hometown Electric can take a quick look.

St. Mary's Lake Development Grant- Clerk Latvaaho has not heard a response back from the IRRRB.

Town Hall Rental Rates- Clerk Latvaaho and Interim Chair Branville need to meet to discuss. Clerk Latvaaho had been on vacation.

Fire Department Shared Services- Supervisor Chad informed the Board that the group met on August 27th. Expectations were set that a merger process is a 2-3 year process. An advisor, Jesse Buhs, who assisted with the Cloquet Fire District will be available. The next meeting will not occur until after October 2nd. Issues raised were concerns with pensions and entities existing debts staying with the original parties. For now can continue business as usual and will continue to explore if a merger is beneficial. Clerk Latvaaho also added that Fayal's taxable values are greater than those of the other cities and could really affect what Fayal residents pay if a taxing district was formed. Discussion that the Fire Department has had a significant increase in staff and financially appears to be in good shape.

Fire Department PERA Funding Report- Resolution 2025-03- Supervisor Chad read resolution 2025-03.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-03 A Resolution Opting to Increase the Benefit Level For Firefighters Who Are Vested in the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Interim Chair Branville. Supervisor Erjavec brought forward for discussion that he will be in favor of the resolution but questioned that PERA projected a 6% interest return and interest rates now are approximately 4.5%. He also gave an example of a future retiree change versus projected. Discussion that the projections included those increases. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Supervisor Tammaro- Supervisor Tammaro has provided a letter of resignation from the Town Board.

Motion to accept Tony Tammaro's resignation from the Fayal Town Board, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding replacement. The Town Board can advertise for letters of interest for the position. The candidate would hold office through the end of 2026 and then the position would be on the ballot for the next election as a two-year term. Will request letters of interest by October 7th and advertise in the Mesabi Daily News and Hometown Focus.

Motion to put one ad in the Mesabi Daily News, check into the cost at Hometown Focus and place on the posting boards, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

The case will be sent over to St. Louis County for their decision.

LRIP Grant- Clerk Latvaaho spoke with Alan Johnson from Benchmark Engineering and he will be working with her and Foreman Latvaaho.

NEW BUSINESS

Quote for Oil Pump for Used Oil- Foreman Latvaaho informed the Board that the pump for the used oil is not working properly and is approximately 30 years old. The quote for a replacement is \$980.00.

Motion to authorize the \$980.00, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Chad brought forward that the Fire Department is recommending the hiring of Bryan Hoag and Andrea Ersbo for the positions of Firefighter, dependant up physical and background check.

Motion to hire them, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Interim Chair Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Latvaaho brought forward a question regarding the Yard Waste site chipping. The bill is \$7,000.00 and she recommends that Mining Effects pays for the chipping and not Road and Bridge's budget. She wasn't quite sure

in the past if chipping was charged to Road and Bridge or Building and Grounds. There should be approximately \$8,500.00 remaining of 2025 Mining Effects after paying the airpack payment and transferring \$10,000.00 to the Fire Department.

Motion to pay the bill out of Mining Effects, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Erjavec brought forward for discussion an article from the Minnesota Association of Townships magazine regarding supervisor compensation. Legally, the Town Board has the right to set their own compensation. In the past, the Township has allowed the citizens to set compensation at the Annual Meeting. Supervisor Erjavec feels that Board members should not get their full pay if they are unable to make meetings. Discussion that there are more duties for supervisors besides attending meetings. Supervisor Erjavec didn't intend to make any motions, but would like the Board to think about the subject. Discussion regarding citizens that contact the Supervisors outside of meetings and other meetings the Supervisors attend beyond the Town Board meetings. Discussion regarding meeting attendance.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$94,630.98, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Chair Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Heidi M. Latvaaho
Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: 
Chair

Date: 9/16/2025

Attest: 
Clerk