

**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**

**OCTOBER 7, 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, Supervisor Sather and Clerk Latvaaho. Interim Chair Branville led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Jason Latvaaho, Becky Squibbs, Steve Shykes, Dan Zbosnik, two minor children and three parents.

***Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Supervisor Sather abstained as he was absent at the last meeting. Motion carried.***

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

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS**- Minor child one addressed the Town Board and read an apology regarding the damage that occurred to the playground and requested that the Town Board not proceed with formal charges that would affect her record, but that she have an opportunity to make up for the situation. Interim Chair Branville appreciated her apology and added that the Town prides itself on keeping things in nice condition. The Township expects the law to be upheld and its not right when damage is done. Minor child one's father addressed the Town Board and apologized for what happened. They are doing all they can at home for punishments and would appreciate some mercy on the kids involved and would be willing to help offset some of the damages. Minor child two addressed the Town Board and read an apology regarding the damage that occurred to the playground and gave solutions to how he could be a better citizen to the Town. Interim Chair Branville commended him for his apology and appreciated his comments. The issue will be addressed during New Business. Minor child two's mother addressed the Board apologizing for the children's actions and how nice the Township complex is for the community.

**REPORTS**-

**Clerk/Treasurer's Report**-

Bank statements for the month of September have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$71,615.59 and expenditures were \$159,798.95. Ending balances for the month of September were:

Miners Checking- \$688,776.00

Assessment Savings- \$115.77

CD Savings- \$70.77

4M Fund- \$1,938,627.42

For the month of October to date, revenues are \$8,617.00 and expenditures are \$70,173.49.

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

**Other Reports**-

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

***Motion to accept the Planning Commission meeting minutes from July 16<sup>th</sup>, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.***

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**-

September 19<sup>th</sup>- Email from Rush LaShawn that the St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species RFP opened on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The 2026 RFP is scheduled to close on November 21<sup>st</sup>. In the past have drafted a letter of support for the North St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District to apply on our behalf. Interim Branville approved of proceeding with a letter.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>- Letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield with notice of upcoming annual renewal. More detailed renewal information will be sent in the near future. Placed on file.

September 30<sup>th</sup>- Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with notice of nominations for RAMS Board of Directors. Nominations are due by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Placed on file.

October 1<sup>st</sup>- Email from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools with notice of annual dinner and meeting on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Placed on file.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>- Email from Ashley Rannikar with Iron Range Events (a follow up from the last meeting's correspondence). An opportunity has come up that has led to them to close Iron Range Events. Placed on file.

October 6<sup>th</sup>- Letter and flyer from Carr's Tree Service. They perform roadside brushing, tree trimming, tree removal and spraying. Forwarded to the Road and Bridge Department.

October 6<sup>th</sup>- Email from Northeast Service Cooperative with dental rate increases effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Single premiums will increase from \$54.00 to \$62.00 per month and Family will increase from \$125.00 to \$148.00. Will communicate with the two retirees and the employees.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Interim Chair Branville-**

**Supervisor Opening-** Letters of interest were received from Dan Zbosnik, Becky Squibbs and Denny Bone. The individual would fill the position for the remainder of this year and next year and the position would be up for election next fall. Interim Chair Branville opened the discussion regarding the candidates and was in support of lifelong Fayal resident Dan Zbosnik.

**Motion to appoint Dan Zbosnik as a Supervisor to fill the vacant seat, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec.** Supervisor Erjavec addressed Becky Squibbs and encouraged her to run for a Town Board position next year as he believes she would be a great addition to the Board. There will be four positions up for election next year. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Will hold the reorganization meeting at 7:00 PM on October 21<sup>st</sup> with the regular meeting to follow. Will only fill the positions that are vacant and the blight officer.

**Fire Department Rechassis Project-** Fire Chief Steve Shykes updated the Board that the vendor needed the chassis down there in order to prepare a quote. It was supposed to be delivered to the vendor last week, but has been delayed.

**Class 5 Production in the Road and Bridge Pit-** Foreman Jason Latvaaho added there is no change since the last meeting. Class 5 inventory is adequate and can be purchased if needed.

**Solar Panel Repair-** Hometown Electric could potentially salvage panels from another entity that is removing their system that could be compatible, but the decision from that entity hasn't been made yet.

**St. Mary's Lake Development Grant- Resolution 2025-09-** Clerk Latvaaho had a meeting scheduled for the end of the month with the Developer, Brad Scott, and the IRRRB. Received notice today that the housing grant applications are due by October 24<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Latvaaho would like a resolution approved in order to submit a grant. The Township had previously approved a resolution back in 2022 and 2023 for the Developer in order to submit a grant, but have yet to actually submit the full application.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-09 A Resolution Authorizing the Town of Fayal to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the IRRRB, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Fire Department Shared Services-** Chief Shykes provided the Town Board an update that the next meeting is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>. Chief Shykes was assigned to speak with PERA and it was confirmed that the other two entities have to match Fayal's retirement benefit.

**Town Hall Rental Rates Resolution 2025-06-** Rental rates increased from \$30.00 to \$50.00 for residents, from \$100.00 to \$125.00 for nonresidents and groups changed from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Rates have not changed since 2016.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-06 A Resolution to Establish Policy for the Rental and Use of the Fayal Town**

**Hall, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.**

**LRIP Grant Resolution 2025-08**- Alan Johnson from Bolton & Menk provided an agreement for the LRIP grant proposal for an estimated cost of \$3,000.00. They provided information to apply for a grant in order to be reimbursed for the \$3,000.00 cost. There is also a resolution to provide to the County for approval in order to submit the LRIP grant application. It was recommended by Mr. Johnson to proceed with an application for Thunderbird Trail as that was a project more likely to receive approval. Clerk Latvaaho has not yet received an estimate for the cost of the project. The Township can receive up to \$1.5 million per project. Discussion regarding the grant applications.

**Motion to proceed with the estimated fee of \$3,000.00 from Bolton & Menk, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.**

Clerk Latvaaho read Resolution 2025-08.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-08 A Resolution Authorizing the Pursuit of 2025 Local Road Improvement Program Funding for the Township Road 6712 Project, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Conflict of Interest Resolution 2025-05**- This resolution is to allow Supervisor Chad to carry the pager for the Township.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-05 A Resolution to Authorize Contract with Interested Officer Under Minn. Stat. §471.88, subd. 5, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Supervisor Chad abstained as he is the interested officer. Motion carried.**

**Minnesota Paid Leave**- The State of Minnesota passed a new law for paid leave. The premium is to be shared between the employer and employee effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, equivalent to .88% of the employee's wage. Using last year's total wages of \$426,005.61 at .44% of the employer's required contribution, the amount was \$1,874.42 and that covered all employees including supervisors, rink attendants and the Fire Department. Clerk Latvaaho needs to notify all employees by December 1<sup>st</sup> what their responsibility is.

**Motion to pay the minimum of .44% of the paid leave premium, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PUC Truck Depreciation**- The PUC meets next Tuesday and will discuss. Clerk Latvaaho was recommending setting aside more than the \$5,300.00 that was depreciated in the past. She also recommended setting aside Depreciation again as well if the funds are available. Discussion regarding past Depreciation amounts.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Town Hall Complex Vandalism**- Clerk Latvaaho provided a damage estimate of \$1,745.06 and also provided a copy of the timeline that was provided to police for the camera footage as there was over nine hours of camera footage over a two day period. As of yet, charges have not been filed until the Board makes a decision. Supervisor Chad recommended in the future to go a different route and not wait until a Board meeting to make a decision. The youth involved have admitted to the damages. Interim Chair Branville was happy that the two individuals that were present owned up to what they had done. It is a serious offense and in his own opinion would like to not file charges, but receive restitution. Discussion regarding how to proceed. Supervisor Chad emphasized that due to the amount of the damages, the kids would be facing felony charges and the repercussions. Discussion regarding volunteering to pay restitution with supervision of the parents. Supervisor Chad will have the Eveleth Police Department contact the parents regarding the amount. There was approximately 5-6 youths involved. Charges will be left pending until restitution is received.

**Motion to not press formal charges pending payment of restitution of \$1,745.06 divided by the number of participants and as each participant pays their portion of the restitution that they are dropped from any pending charge, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2027 Levy**- Preliminary numbers have been prepared by Clerk Latvaaho. Proposed levy included increases to the Fire Department, Police and Road and Bridge budgets for a total of \$45,000.00, or a 4.63% proposed increase. Will continue to review and can make changes. Discussion regarding other community's levies. Supervisor Erjavec questioned if Clerk Latvaaho was aware of how many buildings have been constructed this past year in Fayal and how that added to the Town's value? Clerk Latvaaho had figures from St. Louis County of year over year growth in the Town's value in general, but did not have the data for specifically new structures. There has been two new homes constructed that she was aware of, but the Township isn't always directly notified of new construction.

**October Airpack Payment**- Funds need to be transferred from Mining Effects to the 4M Sewer Assessment Savings.

**Motion to transfer \$17,547.99 from Mining Effects to the 4M Fund, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.**

**October Fire Department Chassis Payment**- The first payment for the chassis is due for \$7,948.60 and needs to be transferred from the Fire Department fund to 4M General Fund.

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

**Water Service Fees Resolution 2025-07**- The water test fee increased from \$9.72 to \$15.22 and the fee only affects water customers and they are charged that fee once per year in May.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07 A Resolution to Amend Water Service Fees in Accordance with Town of Fayal Water Ordinance #97-3, made by Interim Chair Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Chief's Conference**- The Chief's Conference is in Duluth. The conference registration is free, but there is lodging and per diem. There are four individuals that plan to go and the cost will come from the Fire Department budget.

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

**Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$88,421.67, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Interim Chair Branville. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion to adjourn, made by Interim Chair Branville.**

Interim Chair Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi M. Latvaaho

Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

10-21-2025

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk

