

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

MAY 19, 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 Erjavec, Supervisor Sather, Supervisor Zbosnik and Clerk Latvaaho. Supervisor Chad arrived at 7:02. Chairman Branville led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Marc Kwiatkowski, Jason Latvaaho and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of May 5th, 2026, made by Supervisor Zbosnik, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Appeal Meeting of May 6th, 2026, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- None at this time.

Supervisor Chad arrived at this time.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- Marc Kwiatkowski first thanked the Public Utilities for addressing the lift station in his yard. An agitator was placed in there last year which helped immensely with the odor. The Utility Department is looking at a charcoal filter to further assist. Mr. Kwiatkowski was present to discuss the condition of the property next door on Thunderbird Trail. There are cars and refrigerators being dumped in the back as well as people during the night going through the property. There is currently 22 vehicles on the property. He would like to check on the status of the property. Discussion that it was believed that St. Louis County was dealing with the issue due to the potential environmental hazard concerns. Clerk Latvaaho will contact St. Louis County and Supervisor Zbosnik as the blight officer will contact the property owner, Peter Bertucci, regarding the property's condition. Discussion regarding another blighted property at the other end of Thunderbird Trail. Discussion regarding the blight process.

Town Foreman Jason Latvaaho brought forward that he has had some resident requests for washed sand. Road and Bridge used to purchase it but stopped doing it last year due to the cost and having to go to Seppi's pit in Britt to get it. It was approximately \$100 per load and would take about half a day to get two loads. The pile would run out very quickly after delivery as residents are using it for their lake properties and putting it in the water to build up their beaches. Discussion that if residents need it, the Township can direct them who to contact to acquire it. The Township makes the black dirt so there is little monetary cost, but the washed sand cost really adds up. The pit has been sold to KGM and their prices have increased.

Motion to no longer purchase the washed sand, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Steve Shykes let the Board know that the Fire Department spent 12 hours on the fire on Highway 135 and will be receiving reimbursement from the DNR. Fire Chief Shykes also brought forward the expenses for the new firefighters for 2026. Each new firefighter cost approximately \$8,734.50. They had six new firefighters for a total cost of \$52,407.00. He is concerned for the impact to his budget as those costs are 38% of the Department's 2026 budget. Discussion regarding to continue to monitor and will need to look at funding if a deficit. Currently there are 20 firefighters and typically have 10-12 firefighters reporting to a fire.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

For the month of May to date, revenues are \$60,242.70 and expenditures are \$106,316.67. Current balances for May are:

Miners Checking- \$499,938.80

CD Savings- \$70.81

4M Fund- \$2,115,478.35

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Reports- None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE-

May 6th- Letter from CTC with 2026 official board of directors voting ballot and letter with annual meeting notice scheduled for June 3rd at 11:00 AM. Placed on file.

May 13th- Letter from St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Department with decision of the Board of Adjustment in regards to the Lake Country Power variance hearing. Forwarded to the Planning Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Branville-

Tennis Courts- Foreman Latvaaho received a quote for painting the courts for a total of \$36,031.00. Clerk Latvaaho has not heard back from USTA yet.

Road Funding- Received turn down letters from both Senator Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar’s office. Still waiting to hear if any additional funding for LRIP grants. Chairman Branville questioned if there were any critical road conditions that should be addressed. Foreman Latvaaho responded that the Road and Bridge Department continues to patch and repair roads as needed. Will need to discuss roads for the next road project coming up. Foreman Latvaaho did speak with Mesabi Bituminous and they could do some small projects that don’t need a reconstruct and save some costs on engineering. Nearly all the roads have been graded and next month should be working on placing calcium chloride on the roads that need it.

Police Department Budget- Have not received a response back from Eveleth yet.

Delinquent Utility Customer- Clerk Latvaaho has not received a notice of action from the City of Gilbert. The notification came from Council member Bob Pontinen that the City was taking over the account and that Fayal will have to send the resident to collections to collect the balance owing. The Clerk from Gilbert had stated that the Council had not approved what Councilman Pontinen relayed. Discussion to wait until receive a response.

Email Quotes- Clerk Latvaaho has not had an opportunity to fully look into the options and needs to discuss with TechBytes what their recommendation is.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Audit- Received the completed audit from Walker, Giroux & Hahne. The normal demerits regarding segregation of duties and lack of control due to limited staff was listed. There was a recommendation of a percentage write off for delinquent utilities due to uncertainty of collection. The second recommendation from the Auditor was the water and sewer enterprise funds are reporting operating losses and the purpose is to be self-sustaining, not needing the support of other government funds. When the other post employment benefits amounts are added in, the funds become negative. Clerk Latvaaho’s opinion is eventually those delinquent funds are collected. It may take some time, but eventually the funds are collected and several older delinquent utilities are actively being paid. Her recommendation is to leave as is.

Motion to accept the 2025 Audit from Walker, Giroux & Hahne, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Chad. Motion carried unanimously.

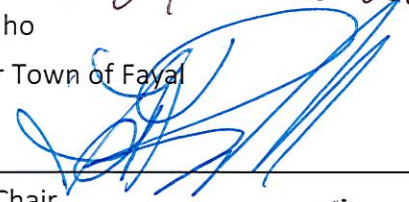
Next meeting is June 16th.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$36,467.81, made by Supervisor Chad, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Heidi M. Latvaaho
Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fayal

Approved: 
Chair

Date: 

Attest: 
Clerk