

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

JUNE 16, 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 was absent. Chairman Branville led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members in attendance were Jason Latvaaho, Tim Mattson, Kelly Sather and Steve Shykes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of May 19th, 2026, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED GUESTS- None at this time.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS- Town Foreman Jason Latvaaho provided the Board with a quote from Hometown Electric for a generator for lift station A1 at a cost of \$105,265.00. Approximately 75% of the cost is for the generator. There are grant opportunities available that could potentially assist with the cost. Discussion regarding the other lift stations' generators potential costs range from \$15,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Lift station A1 is 480 volts and is the largest and most important lift station. The generator would run off propane.

Kelly Sather was present to discuss the Iron Range Kindness Campaign through the St. Louis County Suicide Coalition. The campaign focuses on the need for people to feel connected, a sense of belonging, a sense of community and bringing more awareness to mental health. The Iron Range has significantly higher rates of suicide than the rest of the state. The program is promoting a sense of inclusivity and Mrs. Sather has 20 signs available to be placed in yards around the Township to raise awareness. The signs have a QR code that can be scanned for a list of available resources.

Fire Chief Steve Shykes informed the Board that the Fire Department needs to schedule their annual SCBA mask testing with Macqueen. The cost is estimated at \$2,000.00 and would come from their budget.

Tim Mattson was present to announce that he is running for County Commissioner for District 6. Mr. Mattson introduced himself and discussed that he is a United States Navy veteran, serving in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He and his wife Nicole live in Fayal Township. He has held several leadership positions in the VFW since 1991. He currently is a manager at Minntac and understands first hand the challenges facing working families, our veterans and seniors. The military has taught him numerous values that will aid in public service. As a Commissioner he would focus to strengthen local infrastructure through small businesses, support law enforcement and emergency services, expand resources for our veterans and seniors, assist rural townships and help rural EMS and EMT departments secure the funding they need to serve our communities effectively.

Discussion regarding high suicide rates among veterans and firefighters.

REPORTS-

Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Bank statements for the month of May have been received and all accounts reconciled. Revenues were \$84,714.88 and expenditures were \$125,365.63. Ending balances for May are:

Miners Checking- \$505,362.02

CD Savings- \$70.81

4M Fund- \$2,121,932.58

For the month of June to date, revenues are \$46,602.26 and expenditures are \$119,927.68.

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

Other Reports-

Motion to accept the Road and Bridge report for May, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman

Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Public Utility Commission meeting minutes from April 14th, the Wastewater Operator monthly report from April and May and the Delinquency reports, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Supervisor Sather. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Planning Commission meeting minutes from April 15th, made by Supervisor Erjavec, support from Chairman Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the May Fire Department report, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Chairman Branville. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE-

June 1st- Email from Range Association of Municipalities & Schools with board meeting minutes from April 23rd. Placed on file.

June 8th- Letter from Minnesota State Demographic Center with annual population and household estimates for April 1st, 2025. Population estimate is 1,757 and household estimate is 789. Note that this is a decrease from the prior year by 12 individuals. Placed on file.

June 15th- Email and flyer from Mediacom with notice of BEAD project overview on Tuesday, June 24th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Pier B Resort Hotel in Duluth. Mediacom received a grant for fiber to unserved and underserved areas. Areas of Fayal are included in the grant. Placed on file.

June 15th- Email from CTC with notice of Taste of Technology community event on Thursday, June 18th from 4:00-5:30 PM at the Hibbing Memorial Building. Placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Branville-

Tennis Courts- Clerk Latvaaho spoke with the USTA project manager and they stated that there is a high likelihood of being awarded the grant as long as Fayal meets court standards and offers community programming. The courts would need to be increased from 103' X 119' to 108' X 120' and the grant does not allow any other sports lines on the court for 5 years. The portable pickleball net system could still be used, but no permanent pickleball lines could be painted. The pickleball group that was meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays are no longer using the courts. Youth tennis lessons are held Mondays and Wednesdays with Fridays serving as the rain make up day. The grant offers up to \$35,000.00 per court up to 50% of the costs plus an additional \$20,000.00 from USTA Northern. The current estimate received was \$143,331.00. Another stipulation with the grant is an engineer is required to prepare construction documents as they cannot just use a contractor's estimate. Clerk Latvaaho recommended using SEH as they have previously done site sketches for the ballfield and the skate shack project in order to submit those grant applications.

Motion to contact SEH to provide USTA's criteria for the tennis court grant up to a \$3,500.00 cost, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Sather. Discussion regarding pickleball lines and discussion on SEH engineering costs. Can increase the amount if needed at another meeting. There is a 6-8 week application review for the tennis grant so there is a chance that if awarded work could still begin this year. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Road Funding- No update.

Police Department Budget- Have not received a response back from Eveleth yet. Clerk Latvaaho will reach out to the Eveleth City Clerk to follow up.

Delinquent Utility Customer- Clerk Latvaaho informed the Board that the City of Gilbert made a motion to allow Fayal to place the balance owing on the taxes and they would like to assume Mr. Fruetel as their customer. Clerk Latvaaho recommended to send the customer a letter that effective July 1st he will be transferred to Gilbert. His final bill for June usage would be received in July and anyone with outstanding July balances is certified to the taxes for any outstanding balances not paid by the end of August. Discussion that Gilbert would need to certify it to the taxes, they would receive the funds and would need to transfer those funds to us.

Motion to give Jesse Fruetel to Gilbert and have them certify the delinquent balance to the taxes, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

Email Quotes- Clerk Latvaaho spoke with TechBytes to discuss email options and the lowest cost was \$5.50 per email that offers spam protection. There are at least a dozen plus employees currently using Township emails. In discussion with Dustin Miller, it was decided to try for now with a no cost email and if those emails are being inundated with spam, then look into another host email that has the monthly fees. Discussion regarding the

necessity of a Township assigned emailed versus using a personal email.

NEW BUSINESS

Election Judges- Resolution 2026-03- Clerk Latvaaho read Resolution 2026-03 A Resolution to Appoint Election Judges.

Motion to adopt the Resolution, made by Chairman Branville, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Discussion regarding wages. Election judges are paid \$16.00 per hour, an increase of \$1.00 and head judges are \$20.00 per hour, an increase of \$2.00. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

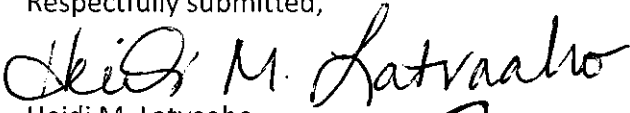
Property Insurance Renewal- The property renewal reduced from \$27,222.00 to \$26,328.00, or a 3.28% reduction. The deductible did increase from \$250.00 to \$500.00.

Motion to accept the insurance quote, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Zbosnik. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to pay the claims in the amount of \$141,873.87, made by Supervisor Sather, support from Supervisor Erjavec. Motion carried unanimously.

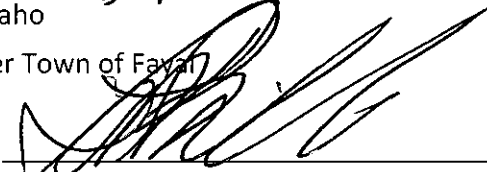
Chairman Branville adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Heidi M. Latvaaho

Clerk/Treasurer Town of Fawn

Approved: _____


Chair

Date: _____



Attest: _____


Clerk Deputy