

Crystal Falls Township Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2026

A regular monthly meeting was held on July 14, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. All board members were present. There were 5 public attendees. Supervisor Stebic expressed sympathy for the loss of Trustee Diane Kut and acknowledged the great loss to our Township and this Board and requested a moment of silence in her honor. Motion by Seppala, supported by Ketola to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Seppala, supported by Ketola to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes from June 9, 2026, the special meeting minutes from July 1, 2026, and the election commission meeting minutes from July 8, 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS: Reviewed report provided by the Crystal Falls District Community Library for June.

Reviewed ICECA report provided by Chamber Director, Zach Hautala. Zach Hautala was present from ICECA. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to accept the reports as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT/FOREMAN'S REPORT: Reviewed the Foreman's report for the month of June. Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Seppala to authorize Foreman Bucek to purchase SCADA Computer replacement with a purchase price up to \$21,000. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: Reviewed the Fire Chief's report for the month of June.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Reviewed the Zoning Administrator's report for the month of June.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Reviewed the Assessor's report for the month of June.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: No Compliance officer's report provided for the month of June.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Ketola to approve the Departmental reports as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

GEI: Robb Anderson was present to review report submitted regarding DNR Heritage Trail Extension Project, 2026 Water System Improvements, Gary Peters Appropriations Grant, and TMF Lead Service Grant. Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Seppala to approve MDOT Maintenance Resolution for permit. Roll call taken. All ayes. Resolution adopted. Motion to approve change order #3 for Ryan's Excavating with an increase of \$43,466.00. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to approve proposal from GEI to oversee the TMF Lead Service Line investigation project in the amount of \$5,000. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

RUNKLE LAKE INVASIVE SPECIES REQUEST: Reviewed treatment proposal from Cason Land & Water Management, LLC. Motion by Seppala, supported by Niemi to pay Cason Land & Water Management, LLC a total of \$1,354.16 as part of the Township of Crystal Falls Policy for Management of Invasive Species. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

ROAD CHLORIDE: Supervisor Stebic will provide an update when the road chloride has completed.

GIBSON LAKE PARK CHIPS: Installation occurred.

KWIK TRIP: Supervisor Stebic was informed by City of Crystal Falls Manager Valesano that the city council is moving forward with the 424 Agreement. Discussion held.

CITY ANNEXATION: Discussion held.

ON-CALL PUBLIC WORKS POSITION: Reviewed application received. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to approve the hiring of Mike Peterson as the On-Call Public Works employee. All ayes. Motion carried.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER POSITION: Position was advertised in house for required 10 day period and is published in the Reporter running until July 31.

CITY REQUEST TO EXTEND WATER AGREEMENT WITH TOWNSHIP: Discussion held. Meeting will be scheduled with Township Attorney Tinti, Financial Consultant Kenney, and the board.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR TRUCK PURCHASE: Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Seppala to adjust the budget with a total amount of \$44,540 for the purchase of the truck. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

FOIA COORDINATOR: Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to approve Alyson Ayers as the FOIA Coordinator with an increase in pay of \$1 per hour. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF CURRENT BILLS/INVOICES EFT'S/PREPAID/MONTHLY: Motion by Ketola, supported by Seppala to approve the prepaid's in the amount of \$93,017.44, the Monthly's for \$33,051.31, and the EFT's for \$1,526.70 with a total of \$127,595.45. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mary Dumitru expressed that Trustee Diane Kut will be missed.

BOARD MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE: Clerk Niemi expressed sadness for the loss of Trustee Diane Kut and the hope to channel Diane's passion for the Township projects and the people. Treasurer Ketola added trustee Diane Kut was a leader, a friend, and an advocate for the people in this Township and she will be missed.

ADJOURN: Motion by Ketola, supported by Seppala to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.