

Crystal Falls Township Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026

A regular monthly meeting was held immediately following the Public Budget Hearing on March 10, 2026 at 2:06 p.m. Board member Joanne Seppala was absent. All other board members were present. There were 5 public attendees. Motion by Kut, supported by Ketola to approve the agenda with a change addition under New Business 11 J.) Approval of Operating Millage Rate and Fire Station Debt Service. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Ketola, supported by Kut to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes from February 10, 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: Tom Bucek requests a later start time for the regular monthly meeting. Fern Tuchowski commented on grants available for water project funding.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS: No report provided for the Crystal Falls District Community Library. Reviewed ICECA report provided by Chamber Director, Zach Hautala. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to accept the report as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT/FOREMAN'S REPORT: Reviewed the Foreman's report for the month of February. Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to authorize Foreman Bucek to purchase a cab work truck, not to exceed \$45,000, from Stateline. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Ketola, supported by Kut to authorize the purchase of additional equipment for Public Works not to exceed \$20,000 in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: Reviewed the Fire Chief's report for the month of February. Tom Bucek and Alex Bossenberger were present from the Fire Department.

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

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

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: No Code Compliance report provided for the month of February.

Motion by Kut, 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, TMF Lead Service Grant, and Potential 2026 Water System Improvements. Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to approve the Proposal for Design Engineering and Permitting 2026 Watermain Improvements Project. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

GUIDESTAR: Supervisor Stebic has been granted access to the security system and continues to work with GuideStar to finalize installation. Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Kut to approve payment to GuideStar for the remaining bill in the amount of \$10,457.84. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

AUDITOR SELECTION: Discussion held. Motion by Kut, supported by Ketola to hire AHP for a 3 year contract to complete annual audits. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RENEWAL MILLAGE FOR GENERAL TOWNSHIP OPERATIONS LANGUAGE: Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Kut to approve the ballot renewal language for general township operations. All ayes. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADOPTION FOR 2026-2027 YEAR: Discussion held. Motion by Kut, supported by Ketola to adopt the budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

SALARIES AND WAGES: Reviewed report. Motion by Ketola, supported by Kut to approve the salaries and wages (excluding elected officials), deferred comp and HSA as presented with the effective start date of April 5, 2026. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

SECTION 457 (B) PLAN CONTRIBUTION RESOLUTION: Reviewed Resolution. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to approve the discretionary amount each year for the Crystal Falls Township 457(B) plan. The employer contribution to be allocated by the Township to the participants will be \$46.15 per payroll period. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF INVESTMENT DEPOSITORIES FOR 2026-2027 YEAR: Reviewed Resolution. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to approve the Crystal Falls Township Investment and Depository Designation Resolution as presented. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Kut to approve amendments to the 2025-2026 Operating Budget to the amount of all legal expenditures in each Township fund. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE: Reviewed Meeting Resolution. Discussion held. Motion by Kut, supported by Niemi to adopt the Meeting Resolution for the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

IRON COUNTY BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES: Iron County Board vacancies provided to the public.

WEBSITE DESIGN: Discussion held.

APPROVAL OF OPERATING MILLAGE RATE AND FIRE STATION DEBT SERVICE: Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to approve the millage rate of 4.75 mills and debt services for the Fire Station up to .95 mills. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF CURRENT BILLS/INVOICES EFT'S/PREPAID/MONTHLY: Motion by Kut, supported by Ketola to approve the prepaid's in the amount of \$82,397.00, the Monthly's for \$26,290.90, and the EFT's for \$1,017.80 with a total of \$109,705.70. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments.

BOARD MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE: Treasurer Ketola discussed the 2025 Property Tax summary.

ADJOURN: Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.