

Crystal Falls Township Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026

A regular monthly meeting was held on August 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. All board members were present. There were 7 public attendees. Motion by Seppala, supported by Ketola to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Ketola, supported by Seppala to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes from July 14, 2026 and the special meeting minutes from August 10, 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: Charles Fish commented on the state of Pakkala Road. Toni Fish commented on billing for Pakkala Road water availability.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS: Reviewed report provided by the Crystal Falls District Community Library for July. Reviewed ICECA report provided by Chamber Director, Zach Hautala. Motion by Ketola, supported by Seppala to accept the reports as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT/FOREMAN'S REPORT: Reviewed the Foreman's report for the month of July. Discussion held.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: No Fire Chief's report provided for the month of July.

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

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

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

Motion by Seppala, supported by Niemi 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, FEMA Firefighter Grant, Fire Equipment Grant Program, Gary Peters Appropriations Grant, and TMF Lead Service Grant. Discussion held. Robb is working with the Fire Department on 2 grants with no updates at this time. Maintenance agreement from MDOT was received for DNR Heritage Trail Extension project. Reviewed 6 bids received for 2026 Watermain Improvement Project. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to accept the bid from Jake's Excavating for \$276,119.50. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

WATER DEPARTMENT LAPTOP: A laptop was purchased for Public Works department.

KWIK TRIP/CITY ANNEXATION: Waiting for attorney review.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER: Township received 2 applications for Code Compliance officer. Supervisor Stebic stated that interviews will begin soon.

RUNKLE LAKE INVASIVE SPECIES REQUEST: Discussion held.

TRUSTEE POSITION RECOMMENDATION: Interviews were held with the Crystal Falls Township Interview Committee for appointing a Trustee for the Township Board. The committee has recommended Cary Gustafson. Motion by Niemi, supported by Seppala to appoint Cary Gustafson as trustee to Crystal Falls Township Board. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

JOANNE SEPPALA RESIGNATION: Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to regretfully accept the resignation from Joanne Seppala as Township Board Trustee effective August 12, 2026. Roll call taken. Ayes: Stebic, Ketola, Niemi. Nays: none. Abstain: Seppala. Motion carried.

FIRE GRANT-GEI: Discussed under GEI.

AQUA-LINE LEAK DETECTION SERVICE: Reviewed Proposal for Water Distribution System Leak Detection Survey provided by Aqua-Line Detection Services. Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to approve proposal from Aqua-Line Detection Services to complete work up to 2 days, not to exceed \$6,000. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

FALL CLEANUP: Fall cleanup is scheduled for October 3, 2026 from 8:00-11:30 am.

REVIEW OF CURRENT BILLS/INVOICES EFT'S/PREPAID/MONTHLY: Motion by Seppala, supported by Ketola to approve the prepaid's in the amount of \$7,990.05, the Monthly's for \$34,264.42, and the EFT's for \$1,017.80 with a total of \$43,272.27. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Charles Fish asked about work being conducted for leak detection on Pakkala Road.

BOARD MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE: Treasurer Ketola expressed her appreciation for Joanne Seppala and her dedication to Crystal Falls Township. Joanne Seppala stated it has been a pleasure to serve the Township for 22 years.

ADJOURN: Motion by Seppala, supported by Ketola to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.