

Crystal Falls Township Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2026

A regular monthly meeting was held on September 8, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. All board members were present. There were 6 public attendees. Motion by Ketola, supported by Gustafson to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes from August 11, 2026 and the special meeting minutes from August 20, 2026. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: No public comments.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS: Reviewed report provided by the Crystal Falls District Community Library for August. Shirley Frank and Teresa Tibbs-Tacke were present from the Library to introduce themselves as the new Library Director and Program Coordinator.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion by Ketola, supported by Gustafson 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.

KWIK TRIP/CITY ANNEXATION: The Township has not received the 425 agreement at this time.

RUNKLE LAKE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: Supervisor Stebic confirmed there are no updates on the Runkle Lake Special Assessment District at this time.

EXTENSION OF WATER AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS: Supervisor Stebic stated there are no updates at this time.

SETTING MILLAGE RATE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT DEBT: Reviewed 2026 Tax Rate Request. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to set the Millage Rate at .6 Mills for Fire Department debt. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION: Supervisor Stebic and Zoning Administrator have concluded interviews for Code Compliance Officer and recommend Ron Monteith-Anderson for the position. Motion by Gustafson, supported by Ketola to approve the hiring of Ron Monteith-Anderson as the Code Compliance Officer. All ayes. Motion carried.

UTILITY BILLING PREPAYMENT/CREDIT POLICY: Attorney Tinti has recommended the board implement a prepayment policy for Utility Billing Payments. Motion by Ketola, supported by Stebic to move ahead with the creation of a Utility Billing Prepayment and Credit Policy. All ayes. Motion carried.

FALL CLEANUP – OCTOBER 3, 2026 8-11:30AM: Discussion held. Notice of Proof of Residency or Property Ownership in the Township will be required. No wood pallets will be accepted.

REVIEW OF CURRENT BILLS/INVOICES EFT'S/PREPAID/MONTHLY: Motion by Ketola, supported by Gustafson to approve the prepaid's in the amount of \$22,515.19, the Monthly's for \$29,435.39, and the EFT's for \$1,017.80 with a total of \$52,968.38. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kent Premo expressed appreciation for water improvement occurring on Pakala Road and had questions regarding the leak detection work and zoning variance postings.

BOARD MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE: Clerk Niemi welcomes Trustee Gustafson to the board and stated that he will be a great asset to the Township. Treasurer Ketola extends her welcome to Trustee Gustafson. Supervisor Stebic stated he received a letter from the City of Crystal Falls regarding a 5% sewer rate increase.

ADJOURN: Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.