Crystal Falls Township Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2026

A regular monthly meeting was held on October 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. All board members were present. There were 5 public attendees. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Ketola, supported by Gustafson to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes from September 8, 2026, the special meeting minutes from September 21, 2026, and the Election Committee meeting minutes from October 7, 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 September.

Reviewed ICECA report provided by Chamber Director, Zach Hautala. Brett Smithson was present from the ICECA. Motion by Lesandrini, 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 September.

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

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

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Reviewed the Assessor's report for the month of September. Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to authorize Supervisor Stebic to create a job description and advertise for an Assessor position. All ayes. Motion carried.

CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: No Compliance Officer's report provided for the month of September. Motion by Ketola, supported by Niemi to approve the Departmental reports as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

GEI: Robb Anderson was not 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: Discussion held regarding the 425 Agreement.

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: Attorney Tinti is reviewing the agreement.

FALL CLEANUP REPORT: Fall Cleanup was a success and many residents expressed their gratitude that the Township is verifying residency for this service. Thank you to John Bendick for his assistance with additional recycling services.

CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS MASTER PLAN DRAFT AVAILABLE: Township received a copy of the Master Plan draft from the City of Crystal Falls which is also available on their website.

EMPLOYEE MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE: Discussion held. Motion by Ketola, supported by Lesandrini to approve the Gold Plan from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for coverage offered to full-time employees. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: The Library Board appointment is set to expire at the end of this year and Elizabeth Van Sickle has expressed her desire to continue her position. Motion by Lesandrini, supported by Ketola to reappoint Elizabeth Van Sickle to the Crystal Falls Library Board of Directors.

NON-STATUTORY DUTY FOR LANDFILL INSPECTION: Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to approve the Crystal Falls Township Landfill Closure Inspection Non-Statutory Duty job description. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Lesandrini, supported by Ketola to appoint Cary Gustafson as the Landfill Closure Inspector. All ayes. Motion Carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION / ZONING BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT: Discussion held on an open position for a Crystal Falls Township Board Member.

UTILITY BILLING PREPAYMENT POLICY: Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Gustafson to approve the Pre-Payment Policy for Utility Billing. All ayes. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT AUDIT: Discussion held. Motion by Niemi, supported by Ketola to credit account 206-336-740.000 in the amount of $1440.00 and debit account 206-336-801.000 in the amount of $1440.00. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF CURRENT BILLS/INVOICES EFT'S/PREPAID/MONTHLY: Motion by Lesandrini, supported by Ketola to approve the prepaid's in the amount of $148,887.06, the Monthly's for $49,378.55, and the EFT's for $1,017.80 with a total of $199,283.41. Roll call taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bruce Beilfuss questioned where the public can find copies of the departmental reports reviewed in board meetings. Mary Dumitru stated at one point all reports were read at the board meetings to the public and welcomed Trustees Gustafson and Lesandrini to the board. Treasurer Ketola confirmed the board will consider where to post reports for the public to review.

BOARD MEMBER'S PRIVILEGE: Clerk Niemi welcomes Trustee Lesandrini to the board and stated that he has a good vision for our Township. Trustee Lesandrini commented thank you for having the trust in me to complete the job ahead of us.

ADJOURN: Motion by Ketola, supported by Lesandrini to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Alyson Ayers/Deputy Clerk