

Town of Crystal Bay

Annual Meeting

Clair Nelson Community Center

6866 Cramer Road Finland, MN 55603

Minutes

March 10th, 2026

- I. **Attendance:** 23 residents, 4 non-residents
 - A. Clerk Breden called the Annual Meeting for the Town of Crystal Bay to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Announcements
 - i. Reminder only residents of Crystal Bay Township are allowed to vote on motions @ this meeting.
 - ii. The Selected Moderator must see Clerk Breden after the meeting.
 - iii. Presenters or anyone who would like to speak please come up front to help everyone hear a little better.
- II. **Selection of Moderator: Electors**
 - A. Dave Abazs was selected to moderate the 2026 Crystal Bay Township Annual Meeting by unanimous consent.
 - B. 2027 Annual Meeting will be on March 9th, 2027 @ 6pm at the Clair Nelson Community Center
Motioned by Amy Nikula, Seconded by Randy Josephson, passed by voice vote.
- III. **The moderator announces the agenda for the remainder of the meeting**

Motion to accept Annual Meeting Agenda by Douglas Perfetto, Seconded by Arlene Conzelman passed by voice vote.
- IV. **Reading of the 2025 Minutes:** Copies provided to those in attendance and 2025 minutes were filed in the Clerk's office on 9/17/2026 MOTION Paul Hartshorn to waive the reading of the 2025 Annual Minutes, Seconds Shannon Walz, passed by voice vote.
- V. **Board of Audit : Clerk**
 - A. On February 20th the Town held their Annual Board of Audit. The Supervisors picked a total of three deposit receipts and a total of three disbursement receipts for FY25. The Town Board then verified the clerk and treasurer books match.
 - B. Bank Statements and Clerk and Treasurer balances were verified by the Supervisors.
 - C. Indebtedness was verified with statements.
 - D. The following levy recommendations were made by the Town Board:
 1. #100 General Fund \$130,000.00
 2. #110 Town Hall Building \$32,000.00
 3. #120 Community Projects \$2,000.00
 4. #201 Road & Bridge \$75,000.00
 5. #225 Emergency Services \$36,000.00
 6. #226 Cemetery \$4,500.00
 7. #401 Capital Buildings \$10,000.00
 8. #406 Capital Equipment \$30,000.00

David Abazs 3/11/2026

9. Total Recommended Levy Amount for FY27 \$319,500.00

VI. Yearly Reports:

A. 2025 Clerk's Highlights

1. In March the Town finalized the following contract
2. Friends of Finland Clair Nelson Community Center
3. Finland Fire Department for Fire Protection
4. In March the Town was also awarded the IRRRB Grant for 100,000.00 for our Septic Project at the Clair Nelson Center.
5. In April the Town collaborated with Jeff Weiss and the MN DNR to provide a Flood Map of the Township- this was at no cost to the Township and was finished in July.
6. In June the Town appointed a Planning Commission that spent the summer months amending the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
7. In July our Septic project began with Eric Warnecke as contractor.
8. In November our final FEMA Administration reimbursement (CAT-Z) was received in the amount of \$4164.76
9. In December the 1st Housing Commission Term expired. Talks about reorganization are taking place for 2026.

B. Ongoing Highlights in the Clerk's Office –(2026)

1. Actively working with Lise to align the Township workloads and the budget.
2. Septic Project – to be finished in the Spring
 - a) Currently we are operating as a holding tank
3. Fire Department – ongoing talks re: land and buildings
4. Supporting role to Friends of Finland re: Town Hall (Clair Nelson Center)
5. Supporting role to Road and Bridge and Cemetery Foreman
6. Supporting role to Housing Commission if it is reorganized in 2026
7. Serving on the Planning Commission Board as we perform a cost analysis on our Roads Department – Per Townships Comprehensive Plan pg. 12 / B.3 #5
8. Our Website got a facelift in 2025 crystalbaytownship.org

C. Treasurer's Report: Lise

1. 2025 Profit & Loss Statement Income
 - a) We received 89% of our General Property Taxes for 2025: \$194,308, which is the same percentage as the previous year but higher due to the levy increase.
 - b) We also received \$85,284 Intergovernmental Revenues, which vary from year to year but we typically expect around 30% of the levy.
 - c) Service revenue totalled \$4,307, including fees and donations to Roads, Community Center, and Cemetery now tracked separately from other revenue.
 - d) Interest income total of \$797 from bank accounts and the rotating loan fund.
 - e) Miscellaneous revenue total of \$52,746 including:
 - (1) Grants for the housing project = \$22,500.
 - (2) FEMA reimbursement for administrative costs = \$4,165
 - (3) IRRRB reimbursement for septic costs = \$26,500.
 - f) Total Income for 2025 = \$337,442.00
2. 2025 Profit & Loss Statement Expense
 - a) General Government
 - (1) Town Officers= Total Payroll \$81,276 & Travel \$752
 - (a) Compared to the previous year:

- (i) Supervisor Payroll \$6,708 (+\$92)
 - (ii) Clerk Payroll \$65,994.00 (-\$6,849)
 - (iii) Treasurer payroll \$8,574 (-\$934)
 - (2) Legal Services= \$10,180, slightly higher than previous year (+\$609)
 - (3) Other General Government = \$25,405, similar to previous year
 - (a) Notable differences from previous year
 - (i) Dues & Subscriptions \$4,137 (+\$1486)
 - (ii) Publicity \$757 (-\$2075)
 - (iii) Printer Expense \$2812 (+\$2329)
 - (iv) Donations \$2,000.00 (\$-2100.00)
 - (v) Insurance \$12958 (+\$727)
 - b) Public Safety
 - (1) Finland Fire Department= \$35,279
 - (a) Notable differences from previous year:
 - (i) Annual Contract \$24,000.00 (+4,000)
 - (ii) Insurance \$11,279 (+1,913)
 - c) Public Works
 - (1) Road and Bridge = \$71,896, including grader loan interest \$11,236
 - (a) Notable difference from previous year:
 - (i) Payroll = \$36,227 (-\$24,136)
 - (ii) Contract Services= \$2,950 (+\$1,575)
 - (iii) Garage Materials,Equipment,Fuel = \$21,486 (+\$6551)
 - d) Culture Recreation
 - (1) Community Center= \$88,649, including capital septic expenses \$56,500
 - (a) Notable difference from previous year:
 - (i) Friends of Finland Contract \$11,375 (-\$8625)
 - (ii) Payroll \$1,615 (-\$867)
 - (iii) Maintenance & Contract Services \$3,488 (-\$7,709)
 - (iv) Electricity/Propane \$6,071 (new expense)
 - (v) Septic operational costs \$9,601 (-\$2,885)
 - (2) Triangle = \$773 for Lighting
 - (3) Events = \$1,235 for St Urho's Day biffies
 - e) Redevelopment & Housing
 - (1) Housing Project = \$16,380
 - (a) Grant funds from MN Age-Friendly Program and University of MN covered all expenses in this category
 - f) Miscellaneous
 - (1) Cemetery= \$5,528, including \$3,330 capital expenses
 - (a) Notable difference from previous year
 - (i) Payroll & Equipment Rental \$1,920 (-\$928)
 - g) Total expense this year \$337,459
3. 2025 Balance Sheet
 - a) Checking Total = \$182,596
 - (1) Fund Balances:

- (a) At the end of the year, 50% of the balances in Town Hall, Road & Bridge, Emergency Services Funds were reallocated to the General Fund to correct the \$93,000 negative balance there.
 - (b) The General Fund ended the year with \$5,915. This will quickly dip into the negative again but should bounce back when the 2026 levy payment arrives in July.
 - (c) Town Hall Building Fund = \$31,073.
 - (d) Road & Bridge Fund = \$52,381.
 - (e) Emergency Services Fund = \$15,465.
 - (f) Cemetery Fund = \$6,076.
 - (g) Community Projects Funds balance is \$45,510. This includes \$7,347 unspent grant funds dedicated to the housing project.
 - (h) Capital Buildings & Grounds Fund balance is \$9,217. This fund covers the town hall septic repair costs. There is a \$30,000 reimbursement for expenditures pending from IRRRB.
 - (i) Capital Equipment Fund balance is \$16,958. This fund covers the monthly Grader Loan payment.
 - (j) Investment Total=\$37,662
- (2) Savings
- (a) Visa, Regular, and Patronage Savings = \$11,332
 - (b) Rotating Loan Fund = \$26,330 This account contains funds designated for community capacity building and is replenished as existing loans are repaid.
- (3) Assets
- (a) The Nature Childcare Loan was paid off in 2025.
- (4) Liabilities
- (a) Grader Loan 2023 remaining balance due = \$133,954
 - (b) Interest paid in 2025 = \$11,236. Principal paid in 2025 = \$12,190

MOTION @ 6:22pm to accept Treasurer's report as shared in written form and explained
 Motioned by Mike Nikula , Seconded by Kaare Melby , Passed by Voice Vote

D. Supervisors Yearly Report

1. Supervisor

- a) Paul Hartshorn Board Chair: Been on the board 20 years and isn't running for re-election. When we get 30inches of snow we can't get all roads plowed at once, it takes time. The Town has hired a helper for Doug who started with the last snow storm. Paul thanks everyone for voting for him for the last 20 years.
- b) Michael Nikula Vice Chair- wanted to share the City of Silver Bay donated dirt for our ball field this past year. Mentioned that we may get a free score board for the ball field. Working with Friends of Finland on the outside of the building to upkeep the wood siding. Thanks to the Clerk for the Treasurer for all their hard work, and thanks to the Friends of Finland for obtaining grants.
- c) Colby asks about any officer seats up for election. Clerk states Paul Hartshorn and Mike Nikula's Seats as well as the Treasurer are up on the

November 26 ballot.

E. Road and Bridge- Doug

1. Paul has been working for 14 years by himself- it took only 2 days after the last storm to clear out due to the Town hiring Jon Goette at the February Meeting.
2. Doug Thanks the Board and the Clerk and Treasurer for all the help.
3. Doug states Road Bans on Township Roads go on in 2 weeks.

F. Cemetery Yearly Report: Lise

1. A new Veteran's Memorial Kiosk was completed in 2025. We were fortunate to have many Volunteers contribute time and materials to make this happen.
A big "Thank you" to Vaughn Hoff, Vane Hoff, Gary Olson, Doug Shaffer, Ric Lindberg, Randy Josephson, Paul Hartshorn, Steve Josephson, Brad Anderson, Mike Nikula, Darlene Hoff, Barron Hoff and Breckon Hoff.
The new Kiosk has a list of Veterans interned at our Crystal Bay Cemetery and a Directory of Internments with a location map.
A total of 6 diseased spruce trees were removed and stumps ground.
A total of 8 Blocks have been sold in 2025.
A total of 6 Internments happened in 2025.
The Cemetery Block cost increased from \$100 to \$250, for residence of Crystal Bay Township. Non-residence's cost was increased from \$250 to \$500 per Cemetery Block.

G. Community Center:

1. We served over 14,000 people with activities at the Center in 2025.
2. We brought in \$281,767 in grants from private foundations and government funding in 2025 for programs and specific projects. The majority of wages are paid with these funds.
3. Supported community events, such as the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, St Urho's Celebration, Spring Runoff Variety Show, Whitetails Unlimited Banquet, Finland Fireman's Softball Tournament, Town Annual Meeting, Harvest Booya, Halloween Festival, the Finland Co-op Annual Meeting, FMHS Pikka Joulu and other classes and community events.
4. Hosted many successful community activities and programs, including Youth Night, Bonebuilders, Monthly Community Potlucks, Monday evening AA, summer softball, Monday and Wednesday yoga, meditation, pickleball, conscious movement and Tuesday crafts.
5. Hosted people who use the internet regularly and/or use the public computer. We have a Zoom account that is used not only by our staff, but also by multiple other community groups for meetings. We have also trained a number of community groups on the teleconferencing equipment. We are available to do training and tech help with computer problems, Google Drive/Documents, Slack and Zoom for any person or group that would like technical help.

6. Provided services and information for all types of trail users, especially hikers, ATVers, and snowmobilers. We also monitor the RV Dump as a service for campers in the area.
7. Our kitchen is currently available for small business kitchen rentals. The Center is available for rentals for things such as weddings, birthday parties, retirement parties, meetings and more. We do not charge a rental fee for Celebrations of Life or Funerals for our local community.
8. Our Youth Program received funding from North Shore Collaborative, Northland Foundation, Boreal Waters Foundation, Tracy Family Foundation and Finland Cooperative Community Fund- as well as private donations. Participation has stayed steady. The Youth Program served between 120-140 kids in 2025, with an average of 25-30 participants each week in the winter months and an average of 35-40 in the summer months during Youth Nights.
9. Summer programming in 2025 did not take place. In 2026 we will be having summer activities but not a full summer camp for kids and teens.
10. Our grant funded food systems project, the Finland Food Chain, were the recipients of the LFPA Grant (Local Food Program Assistance). With these funds we were able to purchase locally (within 400 miles) raised and grown food from farmers to then distribute to the community. This not only helped families and others access healthy local food but it helped farmers in our area as well. After the Wild Rice House was not able to process last season, we were happy to reopen this season. At the end of the 2025 season the shop processed 11,843 lbs of green rice yielding 6,470 lbs of processed rice!
11. We received funding from CLP through their Operations Round Up Grant to keep our food pantry stocked with shelf stable pantry food for people in need.
12. The Center also supplies opioid over-dose kits, provides contraception supplies and emergency care kits to people in the community.
13. This summer the plan is to work with the Fire Department to replace the ball field fence as well as the playground and the grounds.

VII. New Business

A. Annual Donation Recommendations:

Crystal Bay Town Board would like to state that due to budget constraints your requested donation may be approved at half the amount by the board at our next regular town meeting.

1. Finland Fire Department: Carrie Walters 2025 Year End Report that Chief Marxer wrote: This past year the Fire Department was dispatched to 12 calls, FFD averages 16 calls per calendar year. In 2025 9 fire calls, 2 medical Assisted Calls, 1 Vehicle Accident. 3 calls within Beaver Bay Township, 1 call within the City of Silver Bay, 4 calls within Crystal Bay Township, 2 calls within Stony River Township, 2 calls within Lake County U.T.
2. Finland Fire Department ended the year with 14 active members. We are actively looking to recruit additional members with the goal of 18-20 active members on

the roster. As many know Richard Carriveau retired, as Fire Chief, after 38 years of service. We Thank him for his many years of service.

3. FFD has scheduled training on the 1st Thursday of each month, starting at 6pm
In 2025 the volunteer members of the fire department put in a combined total of 573 hours of training.
4. In 2025 we added Engine 3 to our fleet, a 2000 Sterling pumper/ Tender carrying 2,500 gallons of water. This is intended to replace our Tender 2.
5. Current Command Officers:
 - a. Chief: Jim Marxer
 - b. Assist Fire Chief Travis Ahlbeck
 - c. Captain Shawn Nowotcynski
 - d. Lieutenant: Cory Wilde
6. Jim has 23 years of Fire Service and has ranked as a Fire Fighter, Emergency Medical Responder, Captain, Training Instructor, Training Officer, Assistant Chief and Fire Chief throughout his career. He looks forward to working in our Community.
7. Lake County Rescue: Jesse Walters/ Lake County Rescue is part of the Sheriff's Office Jesse is Captain of Silver Bay and the Finland's section. The number of Responders on call in 2025 were 16 with a total of 164 (911 runs), Total Volunteer Hours are 1,393. 911 responses by type 65% medical illness, 10% trauma (injury), 9% Vehicle crashes, 5% fire response, 13% off road (ATV, snowmobile, hike, climb, water, search and rescue.) Locations: 41% City of Silver Bay, 18% Beaver Bay (city and Township) 16% Finland/ Crystal Bay Township, 10% UT-1 , 13% Other (Stony River, Fall Lake, Silver Creek Township, Two Harbors, Cook County, St Louis County)
8. Finland Historical Society: Kaare Melby
 - a. Board Member Kaare talks about the activities, Tori, Pancake Breakfasts, Pikkulu. The Historical Society would like our continued support of \$1,000.00 for FY26
 - b. Michael Nikula stated that he is a new board member and praises the Board Chair Bonnie Tikkanen. He mentioned The Society maybe adding onto the Blacksmith shop this Summer and Eric Lindberg is making some stairs. And asks for more board members.
 - c. Added that Elli King is having some play time for young kids to learn in Nature.
9. Silver Bay Public Library: In 2025, we had over 1700 patrons. Of those patrons, just over 1/3 live outside the city limits of Silver Bay – county residents. And 198 card holders are from Crystal Bay Township. We continue to get new patrons on a regular basis. Our rate of circulation continues to increase as well. Had over 24,250 items checked out between physical items and electronic resources. In 2025, we provided 250 programs – in person, virtual and self-directed take and makes. These programs served 5147 people. Our programming continues to be a cornerstone of our services. We put a call for artists out in late spring and had over 13 artists apply for this year. Each artist's work is up for two months and we have a little meet and greet at the beginning of their show. This year the library updated our strategic plan for the next four years. With input from the community, the library

board and staff we have identified three main goals: 1. Build awareness of artificial intelligence and technology in our library so that we can educate the community and create policies for their use. 2. Ensure that the library has sustainable funding for operations into the future. 3. Build community awareness of library spaces, services and resources to engage all generations of our community.

Asks for a donation in the Amount of \$1,000.00 for FY26

10. North Shore Area Partners: Mary Planten- Krell is a volunteer board chair with NSAP and gave the update, Thank you to everyone in Crystal Bay Township for the ongoing support. Lake County is one of the state's fastest-aging regions: geographically vast, sparsely populated, and profoundly isolated along the North Shore. With no public transportation, limited home care providers, and nearly one-third of residents over 65, older adults and their families here deal with some difficult choices. Without NSAP, many older adults would face premature institutional placement. Besides that, nearly one in three Lake County adults are unpaid caregivers, double the statewide rate. When they burn out, they leave the workforce, creating negative effects on families and a local economy that is hurt. All of NSAP's programming is aimed at one thing: to keep aging adults healthy, happy and in their own living environments. NSAP has continued to serve more aging folks and their families—now 650— a 30% increase each year. In the past year we've added more programming to promote socialization and helped countless clients navigate things like health insurance, social security, taxes, etc. Many clients have taken advantage of our licensed home care and respite care for those who are taking care of them. Staff often helps folks apply for SNAP benefits, connect with Ruby's Pantry, the local food shelf, and apply for the supplemental food program through Second Harvest. NSAP also assists individuals in connecting with AEOA to sign up for Meals on Wheels (which we coordinate for our area with the Vet's Home and the delivery drivers) and help coordinate the monthly Senior Meal in Finland, MN. We also frequently assist individuals with contacting Lake County Health and Human Services to determine available resources, eligibility for programs and completing the applications for these programs. Meanwhile, resources to make all of this possible have declined by approximately \$100,000 this past year due to government funding cuts. Our board and staff have made a number of changes to reduce expenses and to find other sources of funds. Our skilled and committed staff have all assumed extra responsibilities to ensure everyone who calls or walks through our door gets the service they need. Requesting a donation of \$1,000.00 in FY26

11. MOTION @7:00pm: by Colby Abazs to recommend to the Town Board to fully fund the \$1,000.00 request to Silver Bay Library, Finland Historical Society, and North Shore Area Partners, Secondary Arlene Conzelman, Passed by Voice Vote

B. Set Tax Levy: Discussion

Randy Josephson would like to see the Levy reduced for FY27, Benjamin Klemmer agrees with Randy Josephson. Randy Josephson suggests maybe postponing the meeting until September. Lise Abazs says she feels like reducing the Levy in FY27 is premature, and asks Randy if he has any ideas of where to cut funding? Lise isn't sure right now the areas she would recommend cutting.

Brock LeBlanc asked what Beaver Bay Township pays for their roads. Clerk Breden looked up their Winter Costs / 2023-2024 was 10K, 2022-2023 was 80K, 2021-2022 40K. Kaare Melby would like to see a goal set to eventually lower the Levy in the Future. David Abazs would like to see a reduction in debt so we aren't paying interest to a bank on equipment, and agrees with Kaare and Randy on reducing the Levy for FY27. Shannon Walz liked the postponement of the Annual Meeting Levy portion. Colby Abzs would like to postpone the Levy talk until the fall as well as see a plan for a buffer so we can eventually lower the Levy. Lori Walewski proposes the levy stays the same for FY27.

MOTION@7:20pm Motion to approve levy for FY27 as presented by Board of Audit Colby Abazs, Seconded Douglas Perfetto

Dave Geist would like to commend the Town for considering alternatives for our Roads and for comparing with other Townships in the Area. There is a lot to consider with equipment and so forth. @ 7:22pm B.J. Kohlstedt asks the Moderator to call the vote: All in Favor 15, Opposed 7, Motion Passes

1. #100 General Fund = \$130,000.00
2. #110 Town Hall Building = \$32,000.00
3. #120 Community Projects = \$2,000.00
4. #201 Road & Bridge = \$75,000.00
5. #225 Emergency Services = \$3,600.00
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8. #406 Capital Equipment = \$30,000.00

TOTAL LEVY FY27= \$319,500.00

VIII. CLOSE MEETING: MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm Motioned by Michael Nikula , Seconded by Randy Josephson , Passed by voice vote.

Signature front pg. date: _____
David Abazs- Moderator

Attested to this 11th day of 2026

Stacy Breden
Stacy Breden- Town Clerk

ORIGINAL