



Fish Lake Township

2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032
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Town Board Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023

Board Members Present

Chair Bruce Fitzwater, Vice-Chair Jim Thill, Supervisor Donna Ferguson, Treasurer Sharon McAndrew, Clerk Andrea Nekowitsch

Board Members Absent

None

Others Present:

Gary Guse, Road Maintenance

Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Fitzwater convened the Regular Monthly Fish Lake Town Board meeting at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall at 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN. The attendees recited the pledge of allegiance. Thill proposed a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Ferguson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Road Report

Gary Guse presented the road report.

Gary informed the Board that it would cost around \$1.2 Million to pave the heavily used roads, namely North Pine and 430th Street. Chairman Fitzwater emphasized the importance of comparing the expenses of maintaining these roads as gravel versus the cost of blacktop. The Board agreed to examine the details and contemplate a budget increase of \$300,000 to \$500,000 over the coming years, avoiding the need for bonding.

2735 433rd Street Culvert. During the meeting, resident Jason Meron was in attendance. A verbal agreement was reached regarding the Township's plans to remove trees and perform ditching work. Additionally, the Township expressed a desire to replace the culvert at Meron's property. As a result, it was agreed that the Township would replace the culvert at 2735 433rd, with Mr. Meron agreeing to pay half of the cost for the replacement.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: May 31, 2023

Checking	\$5,398.03	Broadband Debt. Service	\$18,954.22
Savings (Camb. State)	\$715,625.52	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$25,145.38

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to accept the Treasurer's Report, approve payment of check #14328 to #14352, for the amount of \$63,087.97, authorize up to \$4000.00 in operating disbursements for the upcoming month, approve the claims list as presented and transfer \$57,000 from savings to checking. Approved unanimously.

Minutes

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. All ayes; motion passed.

Schedule Appointments

1. Country Insurance Rep Josh McDuffy – Rescheduled to August meeting
2. Anne Tessneer – Chloride Application. Mike and Anne Tessneer were present to discuss chloride applications how the Township determines the roads that are budgeted for chloride by road counts.

Clerk Report

Resolution 2023-09 Purchasing Upfitting a Dump Truck body. Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to approve Resolution 2023-09. All ayes; motion passed.

Resolution 2023-10 Resolution to Spend ARPA Funds on Lost Revenue Replacement Category. Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to approve Resolution 2023-10. All ayes; motion passed.

The clerk reminded the Board of the following: Chisago Countywide Economic Growth Collaborative Meeting 6/29 at 6:30 pm; Chisago County 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; St. Croix Water District (SCWD) Meeting from 5-9 pm on 6/27 in Taylors Falls and 7/29 in Stillwater

Board Member Reports

None

Old Business

Mattson Road Sign Update. Chisago County denied the township's request for a memorial road sign for County Road 63 citing that this type of sign does not fall within their guidelines.

New Business

Parking and other Road Signs. During a recent communication between Gary Guse and Marcus Johnson, Bolton & Menk Engineer, a couple of topics were discussed. Firstly, Gary inquired about addressing parking on cul-de-sacs and whether an ordinance or preventive measures were necessary. Marcus mentioned that although no specific ordinance was found, there are existing ordinances that generally prohibit parking in cul-de-sacs. However, the intent behind those regulations may not be explicit. Considering the severity of the problem, Marcus suggested implementing signage in areas where parking should be discouraged.

The second matter raised by Gary was a resident's request to install a sign for a child with a disability. Marcus clarified that the Council has the authority to install such signs if they deem it necessary, and there seems to be valid justification for it. However, it was emphasized that the sign's purpose is to serve as a warning only and may not be effective without proper enforcement.

BDPI (Greater MN Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program) Info. Marcus Johnson, civil engineer, Bolton & Menk, provided the board with a flyer with information about the BDPI grant from Minnesota Employments and Economic Development (DEED). Discussion commenced on the eligibility criteria for the program. It was noted that eligible applicants for the program are cities and counties located outside of the seven-county metropolitan area. Additionally, the program focuses on supporting publicly owned infrastructure that aids in economic development projects. Examples of eligible project types include wastewater collection and treatment, drinking water systems, storm sewers, utility extensions, and streets.

Moreover, it was emphasized that the program covers construction and construction engineering as eligible capital costs. Prerequisites for participation in the program were confirmed to be none, providing an accessible opportunity for interested applicants.

The purpose of the program was reiterated as maintaining or expanding job opportunities within the area, increasing the tax base, or fostering new economic development. Eligible economic development projects encompass a range of sectors, such as manufacturing, technology, warehousing and distribution, research and development, agricultural processing, and even speculative industrial park developments that may house eligible projects in the future.

However, it was clarified that applicants may receive no more than \$2,000,000 in two years for one or more projects and that infrastructure requirements under the grant are often more expensive to a municipality with grant funding than without.

LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program) The Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) is a financial assistance program that supports local road construction or reconstruction projects of local, regional, or statewide importance. It provides funding for projects that cannot be reasonably funded through other revenue sources. These projects contribute to economic development, enhance business districts, improve freight movement, connect to tourist destinations, or benefit trunk highways or county roads. The program has approximately \$103 million available for competitive solicitation.

Eligible applicants include counties, state aid cities, small cities, and townships. Non-state aid cities and townships require a county sponsor. The program covers construction costs, including stormwater infrastructure and ponding. The anticipated timeline for construction is between 2024 and 2027. There is no specific local match required for eligible applicants.

In the 2020 solicitation, projects that received state legislatively selected appropriations or previous LRIP grants were not eligible for funding. Unfunded project requests from previous solicitations need to be resubmitted under the current solicitation.

The program follows a distribution goal within each MnDOT district, where counties compete against counties, state-aid cities against state-aid cities, and small cities/townships against small cities/townships. The aim is to fund at least one project from each category within each district.

The anticipated timeline for the upcoming solicitation is as follows: it will open in early fall 2023, the project application deadline is in December 2023, the LRIP Advisory Committee will convene in early

[Title]

2024, and awards will be announced in late spring 2024. Before starting any project work, a funding agreement must be finalized with State Aid.

The program aims to distribute funds according to the following percentages: 30% for state-aid cities, 35% for counties, 30% for small cities and townships, and 5% discretionary.

Citizen Comment

None.

Adjourn

Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Thill to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

Date

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

Date

APPROVED