



Fish Lake Township

2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032
(651) 674-7709
www.fishlaketownship.com

Town Board Meeting Minutes July 8, 2024

Board Members and Staff Present

Chair Bruce Fitzwater, Vice-Chair Jim Thill, Supervisor Donna Ferguson, Treasurer Corey Johnson, Clerk Andrea Nekowitsch, Gary Guse Road Superintendent

Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Fitzwater called the Regular Monthly Fish Lake Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Township Office at 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN. The pledge of allegiance was recited by all. Motion made Thill by and seconded by Ferguson to approve the agenda as presented. Approved unanimously.

Road Report

Gary Guse presented the road report and updated the Board on projects that have been completed and in process from the last month and projects planned for the upcoming month.

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to Approved unanimously to approve \$13,300 for road striping to Sir Lines A lot. Approved unanimously.

There was body damage to the Ford F-450 truck that will be repaired by Anderson-Koch Ford under an insurance claim.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: June 30, 2024

Checking	\$17,913.01	Broadband Debt. Service	\$35,424.63
Savings (Camb. State)	\$122,584.04	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$19,495.09

Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Thill to accept the Treasurer's report approve expenses of \$114,058.06, authorize outstanding bills presented to be paid and authorize the transfer of \$450,000.00 from Checking to Savings account. Approved unanimously.

Minutes

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to approve the minutes of the previous month's meetings (6/10/24 & 6/21/24). Approved unanimously.

Schedule Appointments

1. Beth Tatur, A resident of 46350 Beach Road, Harris, MN 55032, is requesting a variance to build a new year-round home after planning with Level Contracting, LLC. During the initial septic compliance inspection and property survey, it was found that the existing structure does not meet the required building setbacks, and a new structure also cannot meet these setbacks without a hardship variance.

They are requesting an additional variance of 1.5 feet from the front of the garage and 1.2 feet from the front of the stoop/porch compared to the existing structure. After construction, the setback from the road right of way would be 19 feet to the garage and 15 feet to the stoop/porch.

The hardship variance is needed to ensure proper grading and drainage, accommodate a new well, and use the current compliant septic system (which passed inspection on 4/30/2024). The project will cover 20.5% of the property, staying below the 25% allowable impervious surface limit. Neighboring property owners have provided letters of support, and these letters, along with the septic compliance and certificate of survey, are attached.

The new home will adhere to Building Code and 2015 Energy Code standards and is intended for year-round occupancy. Level Contracting, LLC will handle the construction and necessary permits if the variance is approved.

Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve the variance request for Beth Tatur Approved unanimously.

Clerk Report

1. New fridge purchased for hall (with donated funds)
2. Letter from Harris regarding Elmcrest Ave. - At the Harris City Council meeting, the council reviewed a letter from Fish Lake Township regarding Harris's share of the costs for trimming overgrown brush and trees on Elmcrest Avenue, south of CR-10. The council agreed that maintaining this area was the responsibility of Fish Lake Township. They decided to arrange a meeting with Fish Lake Township to discuss a formal maintenance agreement for the entire stretch of Elmcrest Avenue that borders both Fish Lake Township and Harris.

A meeting will be set up for Fish Lake Township and City of Harris to meet and discuss a road maintenance agreement.

3. MCIT Insurance Quote: At last month's meeting the board asked the clerk to inquire about a quote for the township's insurance needs. The clerk contacted MCIT and was told that they do not insure Townships.

Board Member Reports

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Citizen Comment

A township resident expressed concerns to the township board about the ongoing elevation of the dirt road in front of his cabin, which has made it increasingly difficult for him to access his lake shore property and use his pontoon. Having visited the area since 1969 and becoming a paraplegic in 1994, he has experienced worsening accessibility issues over the years. The road's height has increased to the point where he once tumbled out of his wheelchair, leading him to install a driveway path for safety. The latest addition of four inches of gravel has further complicated his ability to cross the road and use the path safely. Despite his request to the road crew to skip his property during the recent gravel addition, they proceeded, leaving the new gravel uncompressed, creating a barrier for him.

The resident noted that his cabin is already very close to the road, within the right of way, leaving little front yard space, which has been diminishing over the years. He is concerned about potential plans to add a ditch near his property. He emphasized the need for better accessibility and safety on his property, especially now that he is retired after a 44-year career in the dental lab industry. He invited the board to visit his property to see the situation firsthand and understand his concerns. He hopes to discuss the issue in more detail with the board if needed.

The Board went to the property to view the property owners issue and try to come up with a resolution.

Adjourn

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair	Date	Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk	Date
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