



Fish Lake Township

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

Town Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2023

Board Members and Staff Present

Chair Bruce Fitzwater, Vice-Chair Jim Thill, Supervisor Donna Ferguson, Treasurer Sharon McAndrew, 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. In the month of November, most of the time was spent on grading, road maintenance, and equipment maintenance. Since the weather is nice brush cutting in the ditches will be done.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: November 30, 2023

Checking	\$455,916.89	Broadband Debt. Service	\$77,505.28
Savings (Camb. State)	\$443,070.31	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$38,769.16

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to accept the Treasurer's Report, approve payment of check #14515 to #14535, for the amount of \$76,225.69, authorize up to \$4000.00 in operating disbursements for the upcoming month, approve the claims list as presented and transfer \$47,357.41 from Checking to Broadband and the transfer of \$7,280.95 from Checking to Anchor Ave. fund and transfer \$315,278.53 from Checking to Savings. Approved unanimously.

Minutes

Motion made by *Thill* and seconded by *Ferguson* to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 monthly meeting. Approved unanimously.

Motion made by *Thill* and seconded by *Ferguson* to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2023 closed employee review meeting. Approved unanimously.

Schedule Appointments

None.

Clerk Report

The board chose 12/19/23 as the date for a closed meeting for employee wage reviews. The meeting was posted by the clerk.

Clerk Nekowitsch confirmed that the 2022 LRIP Grant application was submitted on 12/5/23.

The Board approved the election fund allocation agreement with Chisago County.

State Funding for voter account. The state of Minnesota has allocated funds to support municipalities in covering the expenses related to elections. These funds are distributed based on the population of each area, starting at the county level. In this case, Chisago County received \$13,480.17t, and 25% of that amount is allocated to townships within the county based on their respective populations.

Fish Lake Township, in particular, is entitled to \$139.25 from these funds. However, Chisago County has proposed that Fish Lake Township allow the county to retain this amount. The county intends to use the funds to help cover the costs associated with tasks performed by the county auditor for the township. These tasks include managing absentee voting, early in-person voting, and other related responsibilities.

The Fish Lake Township Board has accepted this proposal. The decision is motivated by the understanding that it is more cost-effective to have the county handle absentee and early in-person voting, relieving the township of the financial burden associated with these election-related duties.

Resolution 2023-13, Polling Place Designation. Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve Resolution 2023-13 which designates the polling place for all elections as Fish Lake Township, 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN 55032 until changed. Motion approved unanimously.

Board Member Reports

None.

Old Business

Employee Handbook Updates. Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Ferguson to approve the updated employee handbook. Motion approved unanimously.

Cooperative Road Paving Policy. The cooperative road paving policy is still under review by the township attorney.

Dog Kennel IUP 450 Badger Blvd. At the 12/7/2023 Chisago County Planning Commission Meeting approved the request by Sheryl Bearhard and Jordan Waggoner to operate a dog kennel facility at 450 Badger Blvd. The applicants amended their application to reduce the maxim number of dogs and remove the commercial kennel aspect. The IUP request will go before the County Board for final approval.

New Business

None

Citizen Comment

Sean Oakerlund from S&J Properties was present to speak to the board about past and future tree trimming and mulching projects.

Adjourn

Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

Date

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

Date

Approved