



Fish Lake Township

2170 Brunswick Road
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Town Board Meeting Minutes April 14, 2025

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 by Thill 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.

430th Road Project: Gary and Marcus Johnson from Bolton & Menk discussed the 430th project, which is starting this year with potential paving next year after County Road 10 construction. Marcus noted that the current pricing is as low as pre-COVID levels, making it a good time to begin, and suggested using a single contractor for the entire project. Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson for Marcus to proceed with the survey, design, and plan. All in favor.

North Pine Gravel: Gary proposed moving up the North Pine gravel project, currently scheduled for next year, to this year due to immediate need. The Board agreed a road tour is necessary to assess the extent of gravel required. This acceleration would be funded from next year's budget. Consequently, the Diamond project might be able to be deferred for another year. Bruce suggested the county should reimburse the township for gravel and chloride costs on high-traffic roads impacted by Highway 10 construction.

Blue Heron Trail/482nd St: Knife River submitted the low bid at \$182,770.50, with the cost to be split with Nessel Township. The higher cost compared to the previous estimate is due to the addition of a leveling course. Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson approving the overlay project and sharing the cost with Nessel Township. All in favor.

Crack sealing: A bid from Seal Tech for crack sealing on blacktop roads for \$31,122.50 was discussed. Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to accept Seal Tech's bid of \$31,122.50. All in favor.

Culverts: Gary is ordering culverts for \$20,834.86, which will come from road savings.

The board has decided to plan a road tour on Tuesday, April 22nd at 5:00 PM to look at various road conditions, including Skogman Lake Rd. for a potential patch job.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: March 31, 2025

Checking	\$18,865.58	Broadband Debt. Service	\$6,959.75
Savings (Camb. State)	\$207,164.48	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$6,579.18

Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to accept the Treasurer's report approve bills for check numbers 14785-14813 for \$20,934.74; EFT's of \$3042.56 and the current month's payroll of \$14,151.63 and transfer \$24,000 from Savings to Checking Approved unanimously.

Minutes

Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Thill to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Approved unanimously.

Schedule Appointments

Full Moon Bar & Restaurant and North Folk Winery for annual Liquor License approval. Representatives from each establishment stated there have been no major infractions at the winery in their 20 years in the community, though they occasionally deal with overly drunk patrons.

The conversation then focuses on an incident where a visibly intoxicated patron, initially believed to have a sober ride, was later found passed out in his car with a young child in the backseat, necessitating police intervention. This leads to a broader discussion about the challenges of managing alcohol service and the importance of prioritizing children's safety.

On a more positive note, The Full Moon has partnered with Goose Lake Association for pull tabs and gambling, which is a positive change.

Both liquor licenses are approved

Clerk Report

The Clerk report reminded the board of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting on April 16th and that there was a meeting with North branch and Cambridge Townships on April 29th to discuss paving border roads to North Pine Lake Road.

The board was provided with information on the cost of the township election and that it could be moved to coincide with the general elections in November.

The report also mentioned there will be resolutions presented at the May meeting and that the township's liability and property insurance has been assigned to MATIT saving the township \$10k in premiums over Country Insurance for the same coverage limits.

Board Member Reports

None.

Old Business

Evelyn Addition & 457th Road Abandonment: Legal consultation suggests vacating these roads will landlock parcels. Letters will be sent to all property owners on both roads to discuss vacating the roads.

New Business

Creation of a township flag. A resident emailed a suggestion to create a town flag for Fish Lake Township. Supervisor Thill thought it was a nice idea, mentioning kids might like it. Chair Fitzwater pointed out that the township already has a logo was hesitant about the cost of designing and purchasing a flag, especially since the logo has recently been put on township vehicles and prefers to keep the existing logo. However, he agreed they could give the residents an opportunity to come up with a design. Chair Fitzwater will have Clerk Nekowitsch send an email to the resident to potentially form a committee to drive the initiative, emphasizing no taxpayer funds should be used.

Recipients of annual \$2000 donation. The board reviewed the requests for donations, and it was decided that there would be \$750 each donated to Let's Go Fishing and New Pathways and \$500 to the Chisago County Historical Society.

Citizen Comment

A local resident attended to re-engage with township matters, specifically expressing interest in the upcoming road project on 430th Street, where his family owns property. He raised concerns about access points and drainage issues, including a long-blocked driveway to a field that he hopes to reopen. He also questioned whether residents are responsible for paying for culvert replacements, especially in cases where existing ones may be deteriorating due to age. The board clarified that culverts being replaced as part of a larger road reconstruction project would typically be covered by the township. However, in cases of new construction or improvements requested by property owners, the cost is usually the owner's responsibility. The board acknowledged his concerns and agreed to review the access points and drainage during an upcoming road tour.

The discussion revealed that the original plan for a simple road overlay has evolved into a full engineering redesign, including surveying, ditching, and potential culvert replacement. The board encouraged the resident to stay involved and offer input as the project advances. They assured him that existing access points would not be removed without cause, referencing a prior situation where access was limited only because the property had multiple existing entries.

The resident also voiced concerns about the Diamond Avenue turn and whether field access for farm equipment would be impacted by road improvements. The board acknowledged this issue and stated it would be evaluated during the road tour, along with other field access points, especially where multiple farmers rely on entryways for large machinery.

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to reconvene for a road tour on the 22nd at 5:00 PM.

April 22, 2025 – Road Tour

Chair Fitzwater reconvened the meeting at 5:00 pm. The Board visited and reviewed the following roads: 430th St., Diamond Ave, Cedarcrest Ln. (aka Evelyn Addition), Crescent Rd., Crestview Rd., 457th St., 455th St., Elmcrest Ave., 420th St. 325th St., Little Pine Lake Rd., N. Pine Lake Rd., Andee Ave.

Adjourn

Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

Date

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

Date