



Fish Lake Township

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

Town Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2024

Board Members and Staff Present

Chair Bruce Fitzwater, Vice-Chair Jim Thill, Supervisor Donna Ferguson, 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 December 2023, most of the time was spent on road maintenance and brushing could be performed since the weather had been so mild.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: December 31, 2023

Checking	\$12,646.96	Broadband Debt. Service	\$124,873.76
Savings (Camb. State)	\$758,458.65	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$46,053.80

Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Thill to accept the Treasurer's Report, approve payment of check #14537 to #14567, for the amount of \$145,1230.37, authorize up to \$4000.00 in operating disbursements for the upcoming month, approve the claims list as presented and transfer \$44,000 from Savings to Checking and the transfer of \$89,588.75 from Broadband to Checking and the transfer of \$26,625 from Anchor Ave. Savings to Checking; and additional check #14487 for \$24,050. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer McAndrew stepped down from her role as treasurer. She informed each board member of her decision via email earlier today. The board acknowledged and approved her resignation. Former Supervisor Corey Johnson, who was in attendance at the meeting, expressed interest in taking over the position. Given his previous experience as a supervisor for Fish Lake Township, Corey possesses a deep understanding of how the township functions and its budgetary processes, making him a logical candidate for the role. A motion was put forward by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to appoint Corey Johnson as the new treasurer for Fish Lake Township. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion made by *Ferguson* and seconded by *Thill* to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 and December 19, 2023 meetings. Approved unanimously.

Schedule Appointments

1. Steve Strandland from DirtWorks attended the meeting to talk about paving options and their associated costs with the Board.
2. Christopher Perry, a property owner, is seeking retroactive approval for a variance to Zoning Ordinance Section 5.15. This variance would permit a detached accessory structure to be situated closer to the centerline of a County State Aid Highway than what is typically required in the Rural Residential I (RRI) District. The subject site, spanning approximately 0.97 acres, is situated at 44019 Cedarcrest Trail / CSAH 8 in Fish Lake Township, within Section 22, Township 36, Range 22 (PID 03.00302.01). Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve the after-the-fact variance for Christopher Perry with no conditions. Approved unanimously.

Clerk Report

The clerk informed the board about the following updates:

1. The Chisago County Collaborative Initiative is hosting a networking event on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM.
2. An update from Chisago County Public Works was provided regarding the Country Road 10 Reconstruction project. The project's design has been completed and will soon enter the bidding phase. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-May, with three out of the four miles to be constructed in 2024. A separate project for tree and brush clearing in advance of the reconstruction will commence in January, weather permitting. Castle Rock Contracting has been awarded the contract for this work. The right-of-way has been marked, and tree stumps will be removed during the road construction. The tree clearing work will be conducted under traffic with flaggers, and a postcard will be mailed to provide specific construction and schedule information once the bidding phase is completed.
3. The annual board of appeal meeting with the Chisago County assessor is scheduled for 6:00 PM on April 17, 2024.

Board Member Reports -None

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Citizen Comment - None

Adjourn

Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Thill to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

Date

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

Date