



# Fish Lake Township

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

## Town Board Meeting Minutes July 13, 2020

Board Members Present: Chair Bruce Fitzwater, Vice-Chair Corey Johnson, Supervisor Diane Larkin, 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 called the Regular Monthly Fish Lake Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Town Hall at 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN. The pledge of allegiance was recited by all. Motion made by Johnson and seconded by Fitzwater to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

**Road Report:** Gary Guse presented the road report. In the month of June, most of the time was spent on

**Treasurers Report:** The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

### Bank Balances as of: June 30, 2020

<b>Savings (1<sup>st</sup> Bank)</b>	\$109,317.65	<b>Broadband Debt. Service</b>	\$11,672.86	<b>Checking</b>	\$10,556.86
<b>Savings (Camb. State)</b>	\$131,220.68	<b>Anchor Ave. Debt Service</b>	\$26,731.73		

*Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Johnson to accept the Treasurer's Report, approve payment of check #13448 to #13468, for the amount of \$154,373.76, authorize up to \$4,000.00 in operating disbursements for the upcoming month, approve the claims list as presented and transfer \$145,000 from Savings to Checking and the transfer of \$2,843.75 from Anchor Ave. Debt Service to Checking and \$109,317.65 from 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank and Trust to Cambridge State Bank, closing the bank account at 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank and Trust. All ayes; motion passed*

**Minutes:** *Motion made by Johnson and seconded by Larkin to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. All ayes; motion passed.*

### Appointments:

Trevor and Jessica Scanlon, 45138 Acacia Dr. – Requesting a variance to add an additional mound septic system to property for temporary residence for medical hardship. Current septic system does not allow for addition. The Board reviewed the plans and approved the variance. *Motion made by Johnson and seconded by Larkin to approve the addition of an additional mound septic system. All ayes; motion passed.*

Susan and George Schrunck, 45000 Deerwood Tr. – Preliminary Plat for 2 Lot Subdivision. The Board reviewed the plans and would prefer the placement of the driveway to be in a different location. The Schrunck's will meet with Jeff Furtig from Chisago County and Gary Guse of Fish Lake Township to look at different locations for the driveway. *Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Johnson to approve the addition of an additional mound septic system. All ayes; motion passed.*

Chris Sauro – Country Insurance, annual insurance review. Chris Sauro was present with Josh McDuffie who will be talking Chris' place upon his retirement this fall. The current insurance limits were reviewed and revised, as necessary.

**Clerk Report:**

**Transportation Bill.** The State Senate recently announced full floor vote on the Senate's "Capital Investment" bonding bill on Tuesday, June 16. One of the provisions currently existing in the bill is \$8 million for additional transportation funding for a road grant program *specifically for townships*. I sent the following letter through Minnesota Association of Township's Advocacy Website: "Fish Lake Township in northern Chisago County, maintains 62 miles of road and roads are our #1 priority. 75% of our annual budget is spent on maintaining our roads. Fish Lake Township received an additional 8 miles of county roads recently, a 13% increase in road mileage and the highest amount reverted to a Township in Chisago County. Our Township's #1 bonding priority for the legislature right now is the creation of an \$8 million grant program for townships to increase the weight carrying capacity of selected township roads to 10 tons. The language of Senate File 4320 (Jasinski, Johnson, Ingebrigtsen, Tomassoni, Rosen) has been included in the special session bonding bill, Senate File 4 (Senjem), so I'm emailing to ask for your support on the bill. Townships maintain approximately 39% of Minnesota's roads (over 55,000 miles), and road/bridge maintenance is our largest budget expense. We have not received increased funding for several years from the State, and townships spend over \$170 million per year of taxpayer dollars on roads, although current spending is insufficient to meet the increasing demand placed on township infrastructure".

Again, this is the Township's top priority: transportation funding for townships in the State's capital investment/bonding bill. Thank you for your consideration - and service to our community.

**CARES Act Funding:** On June 25, 2020 Governor Walz announced a plan to distribute \$853 million in federal funding to Minnesota communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was authorized by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Local governments can use the funding to support services and grants to businesses, hospitals, and individuals impacted by the pandemic. The funding will be based on a per capita formula developed by lawmakers during the special session last week. Fish Lake Township has a population less than 4,999 and would be eligible to \$25 per person, for a total amount of \$51,400, based on the 2018 census. Before receiving the funding, local governments will have to certify how they intend to use the money, as the CARES Act requires payments only to be used to cover necessary costs related to the pandemic that weren't account for in budgets. Fish Lake Township has not incurred any additional expenses at this time related to the pandemic. However, the funding does allow for reimbursement of Unemployment Insurance Invoices that the Township may receive, should anyone file for unemployment that had income from Fish Lake Township in the look back period when filing their application. As a government unit, Fish Lake Township is not required to pay traditional unemployment insurance premiums, rather a local government is charged the percentage of unemployment that an individual received based on the percentage of their income from the Township reported when filing their unemployment application. In addition, there is separate funding for personal protection supplies for the primary and general elections that is applied for through Chisago County.

**Resolution 2020-05** Appointing Election Judges for the 2020 Primary Election. *Motion made by Johnson and seconded by Larkin to approve Resolution 2020-05. All ayes; motion passed.*

**Board Member Reports:**

None.

**Old Business:**

**North Pine Lake Road Border Road Feasibility Study Update.** The Township's Engineer is still working on the plan. Once complete a meeting will be called with Fish Lake, North Branch and Cambridge Townships.

**Blue Heron Trail SPRA Grant Update.** The following letter was sent via email to Clerk Iskerka and Supervisor Meis at Nessel Township on June 25, 2020. "Fish Lake Township would like to apply for the State Park Road Aid Grant for the re-paving of 482<sup>nd</sup>/Blue Heron Trail. The requirements for the application are to have a preliminary feasibility study from an engineer accompany the application. If awarded the funding, the Townships would also be responsible for all of the engineering fees for the project and a small amount of the project fees beyond the lake access, these are not covered under the grant award. Fish Lake has been successful in the past in being awarded over \$650,000 from the SPRA grant

for road improvements on roads that lead to a public lake access. The North Goose Lake access is on Blue Heron Trail near the end of the road which means nearly all the paving project costs could be paid for with grant money. In order to submit the application, the Engineering Firm of Bolton and Menk would conduct a feasibility study to accompany the grant application, we would also need a letter of support from Joe Triplette, Chisago County Engineer, and the DNR—I will reach out to them for their letters of support. The cost of this application will be approximately \$2500. Please inform your Board of our intentions and let me know if they are in favor of sharing the cost for this?” I have not yet received a reply.

**New Business:**

None.

**Citizen Comment:**

None.

Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Johnson to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. All ayes; motion passed.

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Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

Date

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Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

Date

APPROVED