



# Fish Lake Township

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

## Town Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 2021

Board Members Present: Chair Bruce Fitzwater, Supervisor Jim Thill,  
Treasurer Sharon McAndrew, Clerk Andrea Nekowitsch

Board Members Absent: Vice-Chair Corey Johnson

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 Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes; motion passed.

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

**LRIP Grant:** Engineer Jackie Thompson was present at the meeting to answer any questions by the board about the LRIP grant process. Initially, Fish Lake was going to apply for grant funding for North Pine Lake Road, Andee Ave. and Anchor Ave (gravel portion). After speaking with Jackie, it was determined that the Township would be more likely to be chosen if applying for one road rather than three. It is also believed that since North Pine Lake Road is a joint collaborative project with two other towns, and it the heaviest traveled with the most safety concerns, it would have the best chance of the three roads to be chosen. Fish Lake is applying for funds from the Local Road Improvement Grant for North Pine Lake Road (together with North Branch Township and Cambridge Township as a joint project). The grant covers construction. Administrative, permitting, legal and engineering fees are not covered under the grant. This is the same as in 2017. Over the last 3 years we have seen unit pricing increase, which is reflected in the estimate. We have also been told by multiple contractors that concrete and paving related items can be expected to increase by 5% this year. For this application we have also added salvaging mailboxes and installing new mailbox supports with swing arms. Total project cost estimates for the joint border road North Pine Lake Road is \$1,248,100 (if grant funding is awarded the amount for Fish Lake would be approximately \$145,992).

**2021-3 Resolution Supporting Pursuit of 2020 Local Road Improvement Program Funding Grant.** Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve Resolution 2021-3. All in favor; motion passed.

The Board reviewed the current snowplow policy and determined that no changes were necessary. The current version reads:

### ***FISH LAKE TOWNSHIP SNOW REMOVAL POLICY***

*Fish Lake Township's goal is to have all roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after the snowfall has stopped.*

*The Township does not assure a completely bare road surface and drivers are urged to use caution and drive with care.*

*The legal speed limit may not be possible at all times.*

### **SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES DISPATCHING OF SNOWPLOWS**

*Snowplow equipment will usually not be dispatched until after the snowfall has stopped and 3 inches of snow have accumulated except for when it has been determined by the Chairperson that conditions would be detrimental to road surface. During extended periods of snowfall, exceptions may be made. The snowplows will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility.*

**OPERATIONS**

*Clearing of roads will generally happen in three phases: 1) making the road passable; 2) widening; 3) cleaning up. Depending on the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time.*

**PERSONAL PROPERTIES**

- A) Mailboxes and fences damaged during snow removal will be evaluated case by case. Only those mailboxes properly located and installed and damaged by actual contact with Township equipment will be considered for repairs or replacement at Township expense. All replacements will be with a swing-arm post and standard mailbox.*
- B) Township residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across public roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles left in or on the side of the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Snow piles left on the side of a roadway increase the chances of drifting snow onto the road.*
- C) Vehicles left or parked on the side of the road will be towed at the owner's expense after 48 hours. Residents are reminded to remove all obstructions from the Township road right-of-ways.*
- D) Township vehicles will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.*
- E) When requested by the County Sheriff's department the Township will provide emergency snowplowing.*
- F) Garbage cans and recycling containers need to be kept off the roadway during the snow season so as to not interfere with snow removal. Remove cans as soon as possible. Garbage cans and recycling containers should not be along roadway except on days of scheduled pick up.*

*Approved by the Town Board December 2003*

*Amended by the Town Board: April 13, 2009; April 8, 2013; April 14, 2014; February 12, 2018*

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

**Bank Balances as of: January 31, 2021**

<b>Checking</b>	\$9,421.95	<b>Broadband Debt. Service</b>	\$13,512.88
<b>Savings (Camb. State)</b>	\$302,034.28	<b>Anchor Ave. Debt Service</b>	\$53,942.65

*Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to accept the Treasurer's Report, approve payment of check #13642 to #13658, for the amount of \$36,325.25, authorize up to \$4000.00 in operating disbursements for the upcoming month, approve the claims list as presented and transfer \$2000.00 from savings to checking and the transfer of \$25,000 from Anchor Ave. account to Checking fund. All ayes; motion passed*

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

**Appointments:** None

**Clerk Report:**

1. Chisago County Abandoned Waste Recycling Program Information & Pricing
2. Resolution 2021-2 Certifying 2021 Levy. Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve Resolution 2021-2 certifying the 2021 tax levy. All ayes; motion passed.
3. Resolution 2021-3 Supporting Pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program Funding. Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve Resolution 2021-3 Supporting Pursuit of Local Road Improvement Grant. All ayes; motion passed.
4. Board of Appeal scheduled with County Auditor for April 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Clerk Nekowitsch notified board members of the date and time for the 2021 Board of Appeal meeting.
5. Appoint Election Judges. Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to approve Resolution 2021-4 appointing election judges for the annual town election on March 9, 2021. All ayes; motion passed.

**Board Member Reports:**

None.

**Old Business:**

1. Set date for 2022 Budget Meeting

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to reconvene at 6:00 pm on February 22, 2021 to work on 2022 budget and other agenda items. All ayes; motion passed.

**February 22, 2021**

Board Members Present: Chair Bruce Fitzwater, Vice-Chair Corey Johnson, Supervisor Jim Thill, Treasurer Sharon McAndrew, Clerk Andrea Nekowitsch

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Gary Guse, Road Maintenance,

The Board reviewed the 2020 Income and Expenses during the Board of Audit. The 2022 preliminary budget was drafted that resulted in a 15.2% increase from the 2021 budget. The Board is particularly concerned with staying on top of maintenance of roads, specifically blacktop roads, as 71% of the budget is for the Road and Bridge Fund.

**New Business:**

None.

**Citizen Comment:**

None.

Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. All ayes; motion passed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date