



Fish Lake Township

2016

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Town Board

Diane Larkin
Corey Johnson
Bruce Fitzwater

Treasurer

Sharon McAndrew

Clerk

Andrea Nekowitsch

Employees

Gary Guse, Roads
Craig Debel, PT
Danny Sandstrom, PT

Township Address

2170 Brunswick Rd.
Harris, MN 55032
(651) 674-7709

Website

www.fishlaketownship.com

Gravel Road Enhancement Project

Anchor Ave. (formerly Cty. 62) that runs north/south between Brunswick (Cty. 63) and Rush Point Drive (Cty. 7) is currently being maintained by Chisago County. This road has been prepared by the County for a gravel road enhancement process called Otta seal. It is the first road in the county that will be tested for this type of enhancement and the cost is being covered by the County as well. Otta seals have been used in other counties and townships for over 15 years and have proven to be very successful. The road resembles and similarly acts like a blacktop road but it is a fraction of the cost. It is approximately \$65,000 per mile versus \$300,000 per mile of traditional blacktop. It is strong enough to accommodate heavy vehicles such as garbage trucks, propane trucks, school busses, etc.

Otta seal is an asphalt surface treatment constructed by placing a graded aggregate on top of a thick application of relatively soft bituminous binding agent. The binder works its way into aggregate with rolling and traffic. Otta seals are constructed over an aggregate base course. The bituminous binding agent is sprayed onto the prepared working surface; then, the graded aggregate is spread onto the surface. Immediately after placement, the Otta seal's appearance is similar to a gravel road and is influenced by the aggregate color. With time and traffic, the black bituminous binding agent works its way up through the aggregate, creating a surface appearance similar to cold mix asphalt concrete.

Otta seals have been used as an impermeable surface for moisture-susceptible gravel roads with low bearing capacity (i.e. roads during spring thaw period). The Otta seal shields the base material from moisture infiltration and is flexible enough to withstand the relatively large deflections associated with low bearing capacity roads without exhibiting significant distress.

Life expectancy for double Otta seals have been reported to range from 8-15 years. Otta seals can be re-applied or pulverized and reused as an unbound or stabilized material.

Cass County has been using Otta seals on their county roads since 2001. Several township roads in Cass County have Otta seals as well. In 2006, MNDOT

(Continued on page 2)

Township Road Right of Way

The Township has taken a proactive approach for the removal of objects within the road right-of-way of township roads. Residents will be notified by mail if the township has determined that objects in the right of way could potentially cause damage to equipment or pose a risk to safety; this includes but is not limited to, rocks, trees, fences, etc. Most of our Township roads have a right-of-way of 33 feet from the centerline of the road, it is in this area that Minnesota Statute 160.2715 Right-Of-Way Use; Misdemeanors applies. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Snow Plowing

Please **DO NOT** plow across public roads. Plowing snow from your property across the road is a Misdemeanor and could potentially cause a windrow that could be dangerous to passing motorists. It is unlawful to obstruct any highway or deposit snow thereon or to plow or perform any other detrimental operation within the road right-of-way. Please refer to Minnesota State Statute 160.2715 for more information.

Cambridge Lake Estates Public Use Lake Lots

There are two (2) unbuildable lake lots on South Goose Lake between 46649 and 46611 Cambridge Drive (Lots 12 and 13 of Block 1, Cambridge Lake Estates Unit 4) that were forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of property taxes. The lots have been deeded to the Township at no cost as long as the lots are designated public use.

The Township has until January 2017 to implement the authorized public use on the lots. If the Township fails to put the land to the intended public use it must either purchase the land or convey the land to the State of MN where it will be offered to the DNR before being made available for public auction.

The Township is considering designating these lots as a "picnic area" in order to retain the ownership rights and stay within the definition of the M.S. 282.01. Since there is limited parking in the area, the lots will most likely include a small mowed area and picnic table. Although this has not been approved or finalized at this time.

(Continued from page 1) Otta seal

evaluated the performance of several of the County roads in Cass County with Otta seal and found them to be in relatively good condition. Some roads had typical thermal cracks and repaired potholes, it was also noted that the Otta seal roads that had been treated with a chip seal gave a clean finish and held up well to traffic with sizeable loads and intersections with turning or crossing vehicles.

True-North Training using Town Hall for Service Dog, Therapy Dog and Companion Dog Training

Patriot Assistance Dogs (PAD) trains service dogs with skills to assist veterans who return from military combat service with PTSD and other psychological disorders. Since 2013, PAD has been providing military veterans with psych service dogs at no cost to the individual veteran. They have successfully paired more than 60 veterans with service dogs since that time. The need for psych service dogs is increasing, and PAD's director wants to expand their program to meet that increased need. However, PAD is staffed almost entirely by volunteers, and the program is currently at capacity.

True North Training proposed to help by finding additional foster situations, where new dogs can be trained through the public access (Advanced CGC/Urban Dog) level, and then returned to the PAD center in Detroit Lakes, MN, for final skills training. This would permit PAD to increase the number of veterans who can be matched with psych service dogs by shortening the amount of time PAD staff need to finish incoming dogs' training.

Classes from Level 1 Basic Obedience through Level 3 Advanced CGC will be taught once per week at the Fish Lake Township Hall. Foster families commit to living with the dogs and teaching them basic house manners in addition to bringing them to classes. This would be a fantastic 4-H dog project, community service project for high school Juniors and Seniors, or Eagle Scouts/Gold Award project. PAD has a number of dogs that are in need of foster situations immediately.

We are looking for foster homes for dogs that have been pre-checked as good psych service dog candidates by PAD representatives. These dogs need to go through about six months of training to complete their Advanced Canine Good Citizen/Urban Dog Certification, and will then be returned to PAD for service dog skills training. They are then paired with a veteran and the teams are required to pass the Public Access Test.

The Level 1 Class will start on Thursday, March 24th. contact Beth Hatch at animaltrainer777@gmail.com or phone: 651.277.WOOF (9663) for more information.

Emergency Address Marker Signs

This summer each home will have a uniform address sign installed at the property. In most cases, the sign will be installed near the current mailbox. These signs are for the purpose of easier property location for emergency services. The estimated total cost for this project is approximately \$29,000 and will provide for the material and installation of 959 signs. The Township has applied for a grant from the DNR that will cover 50% of the cost. North Branch Fire Dept. has agreed to donate \$5000 towards the project from their charitable gambling contributions. Leaving an estimated net cost to the Township of \$9500.



2007 Dump Truck

In December of 2014, the Township purchased a 2007 International Dump Truck for \$67,000 to replace the 1994 Dump Truck. We did our best to keep the 1994 going as long as possible, but it would not pass D.O.T. inspection and would not be licensed for public road use because of cracks in the frame. We were able to sell the 1994 Dump Truck for \$17,000 making the net purchase of the 2007 truck \$50,000 in which we were able to pay for in cash. The newer 2007 truck has a larger heavy duty wing and wheels on the plow to help keep it up off the road a bit.



Mark your calendars on **Saturday, June 25th** for the Stark Summer Stroll. The SSS volunteer committee has already begun meeting to plan this exciting event. Last year's celebration was such a success they are planning for a larger event this summer. To stay informed of the festivities check out their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/StarkSummerStroll.

Volunteer opportunities available! Please consider joining a committee or helping out at an event!

Township Hall Rental

The next time you are having a special occasion or family get together consider renting the town hall. The hall is available to rent daily for residents at \$125 and non-residents at \$250.

Tables and chairs are available for use during the rental day. There is also a full kitchen with appliances and basic dishware, utensils, men and women's rest-rooms and air conditioning/heat; a covered pavilion with outside electricity, charcoal grill, park and playground equipment. Please note that the Township no longer allows alcohol on the premises.

Pictures available at: www.fishlaketownship.com.

Call Andrea Nekowitsch at 320-358-3924 for availability.

Appointed Interim Supervisor

Please welcome interim Supervisor Bruce Fitzwater. Bruce filled the vacancy left by former Supervisor Elvin Norling since he moved out of the Township.

Bruce has been filling in as an appointed Supervisor since July 2015. He will formally run for the seat and will be on the ballot for the election of Supervisor for a three (3) year term on March 8, 2016.

Bruce has been a resident of the Township since 1997. He is married and has three adult children, and has worked for 3M since 1995.

He has served Fish Lake Township in the past as a member of the Fish Lake Township Park Committee where he was involved in the process of acquiring the funding from Chisago County for the development of the park playground equipment and pavilion. He also helped install the "Fish Lake Township Hall and Park" sign at the entrance of the parking lot, as well as the concrete slab adjacent to the pavilion for the grill.

Chisago County 0.5 % Transit Sales and Use Tax

Starting April 1, 2016, Chisago County will have a 0.5 percent transit sales and use tax. The Minnesota Department of Revenue will administer this tax. Revenues will fund the projects identified in the 2016 – 2020 Chisago County Transportation Improvement Plan identified in Resolution 15/1118-3. For more information visit: www.co.chisago.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/7039

Chisago County Road Reversion Schedule

Over the last few years several roads in Chisago County were reverted to the Townships in Chisago County under Minnesota State Statute 163.11.

Fish Lake was reverted 8.2 miles of county roads, the most of any township. The Statute also requires that the County is responsible for the maintenance of said roads for a period of two (2) years from the date of revocation (1/1/2015). Maintenance consists of gravel road blading, traffic sign repair and replacement, snow and ice control and miscellaneous road maintenance activities. Fish Lake Township worked with Chisago County Engineer, Joe Triplett and the County Board to come to a formal agreement to extend the time period in which the County will maintain the reverted roads.

The signed agreement in place provides for the maintenance of the following roads to be performed by Chisago County until the dates listed, at which time the maintenance will be transferred to Fish Lake Township:

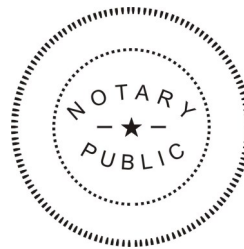
County 61/Crestview Rd - July 1, 2017
(from Cty. 60 to Cty. 8)

County 61/Deerwood Tr - July 1, 2020
(Cty. 60 to Township Line)

County 63/Brunswick Rd - July 1, 2020
(Cty. 4 to Cty. 7)

County 62/Anchor Ave. - July 1, 2016
(Cty. 63 to Township Line)

The Township agreed to begin maintenance of Anchor Ave. early upon the agreement of the County applying Otta seal gravel road enhancement scheduled for spring/summer 2016.



Notary Services

Fish Lake Township Clerk, Andrea Nekowitsch, is a licensed notary public and is available to notarize personal documents **FREE** for Township residents during regular office hours.

Office hours: Thursdays from 10:30 am.-12:30 pm.

Fish Lake Township Meeting Schedule

All regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Fish Lake Town Hall Office unless otherwise noted. Agenda appointments begin at 7:00 pm.

Chisago County Assn. of Twps. Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Senior Center in North Branch.

Special meetings will be posted on the Township Office door.

Contact the town clerk one week prior to a meeting to be placed on the agenda.

Driveway permits are obtained at the Fish Lake Town Office during normal office hours or from www.fishlaketownship.com

Township Office Hours: Thursday 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

If you need immediate assistance you may call the town clerk at home at 320-358-3924

Township Office & Garage Phone: 651-674-7709 • Gary Guse, Road Maintenance Cell: 651-775-9122

Website: www.fishlaketownship.com

Email:

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk: clerk@fishlaketownship.com

Gary Guse, Road Maintenance: garyguse@fishlaketownship.com

Diane Larkin, Board Chair: dianelarkin@fishlaketownship.com

Corey Johnson, Board Supervisor: coreyjohnson@fishlaketownship.com

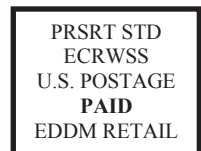
Bruce Fitzwater, Board Supervisor: brucefitzwater@fishlaketownship.com



Election Notice

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Fish Lake Township, County of Chisago, State of Minnesota, that the **Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Township Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March. The Election poll hours will be open from 10am to 8pm, at which time the voters will elect: One Supervisor – 3 year term. The annual meeting will commence at 8:05pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The annual meeting and election will be held at the Fish Lake Town Hall, 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN 55032. The Board of Canvass will meet directly after the annual meeting on March 8, 2016 to certify the official election results.

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk
Fish Lake Township



Local Postal
Customer