



Fish Lake Township

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

Town Board Meeting Minutes November 10, 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 Thill by 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.

Beach Road Easement. The Board reviewed the drainage easement on Beach Road. While the Township holds the right to perform work under the easement, there are currently no drainage issues impacting the road's condition, and therefore, no action will be taken at this time. Wayne Drietz, who was present at the meeting, noted that water from the roadside ditch flows onto his property, causing erosion near his mound system. He and Jim Kubichek will revisit the matter in the spring of 2026 if significant drainage concerns arise.

2025 LRIP Grant Application. The Board considered submitting an application for the 2025 Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) grant. In 2023, the program awarded \$102 million, with \$18 million allocated to townships. For 2025, the total funding has been reduced to \$40 million, with only \$5 million designated for township projects. Given the \$5,000 application cost, the fact that the Township has applied twice previously without success, and the significantly smaller funding pool this year, the Board decided not to apply.

2026 Road Salt Pricing was received from Chisago County. Treated salt remains the same as last year and White salt had a minimal increase.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: October 31, 2025

Checking	\$17,233.92	Broadband Debt. Service	\$53,878.14
Savings (Camb. State)	\$620,656.45	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$18,885.56

Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Thill to accept the Treasurer's report approve bills for \$205,778.38, and the current month's payroll of \$ 11,307.70 and transfer funds between the following bank accounts: \$135,000 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

None.

Clerk Report

Election Division Grant. Clerk Nekowitsch reported that a grant application has been submitted to the Minnesota Election Division. The grant would fund the installation of an automatic entry door and a concrete handicapped-accessible ramp at the Town Hall, which also serves as the polling place.

MN Paid Leave Income Tax. The Minnesota Paid Leave Program will take effect on January 1, 2026. This program introduces an additional income tax shared between employees and employers. The total tax rate for the Township is 0.66%. As a small employer, Fish Lake Township is required to contribute a minimum of 0.22%, which represents half of the employee portion.

After discussion, the Board agreed that the Township will pay 0.22%, and employees will contribute the remaining 0.44%. Employees will be notified of this change by December 1, 2025, in accordance with state law.

Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Thill to establish a new income tax rate of 0.22% for Fish Lake Township and 0.44% for employees, effective January 1, 2026, under the MN Paid Leave Program. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

The supervisors will be touring the Rush City Fire Department on Wednesday, November 12th at 6:00 PM.

Citizen Comment

None.

Adjourn

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

Date

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

Date