FISH LAKE TOWNSHIP
EST. 1868

2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032
(651) 674-7709
www.fishlaketownshipmn.gov

Town Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2026

Board and Staff Members 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.

The Board discussed the proposed paving projects for 430th and North Pine Lake Road, including potential bonding options to finance both projects. Todd Hagen of Ehlers Public Finance participated in the discussion to review available bonding options and potential interest rates. Bid language and project specifications will be developed over the next month and finalized at the November meeting. Bid notices are expected to be issued immediately following the November meeting, with bid opening anticipated in December.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: 9/30/2026

Checking	$27,951.80	Broadband	$170,331.46
Savings	$219,897.94	Anchor Ave	$41,177.81

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to accept the Treasurer's report approve bills for $161,350.72, and the current month's payroll of $17,230.52 and transfer funds between the following bank accounts: $179,000 from Savings to Checking. Approved unanimously.

Minutes

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Approved unanimously.

Approved

Schedule Appointments

Anna & Brennan Herzog Property, 735 460th St. – Rural Retail Tourism CUP Pre-Application Review.

The Board reviewed the preliminary application for a proposed Class 2 Rural Retail Tourism Conditional Use Permit (CUP), including existing driveway access and anticipated event-related traffic. As part of Chisago County's pre-application requirements under Zoning Ordinance Section 4.17, the Township was asked to provide comments and recommendations regarding road access and potential traffic impacts. The Board approved the preliminary application review with the condition that the property owners apply dust-control chloride to 460th Street from Anchor Avenue to the property entrance to help preserve the road and minimize impacts from increased traffic.

Goose Lake Association – Weir Dam Project Sponsorship Request

Spencer Richards, Robby Thum, and Tom Sahlmen met with the Board to discuss a request for the Township to serve as the grant sponsor and fiscal administrator for a proposed weir dam project on the Goose Lake Chain of Lakes. Representatives explained that the Goose Lake Association would coordinate all aspects of the project and cover all associated expenses. The Township's role would be limited to administering grant funds and disbursing payments to project vendors.

The Board expressed its willingness to work with the Goose Lake Association as needed, provided the Township assumes no responsibility for long-term maintenance or any costs associated with the project. The Goose Lake Association will proceed with the next steps in the grant application and project planning process.

Todd Hagan, Ehlers Public Finance Advisors – Road Improvement Bonding Options

Todd Hagan of Ehlers Public Finance Advisors participated in discussions with the Board regarding potential bonding options and interest rates to finance upcoming Township road improvement projects. Further details are documented in the Road Report.

Clerk Report

MPCA Notification – Petroleum Storage Tank Release at 46563 Brunswick Road

The Clerk included a notification from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding a petroleum storage tank release at 46563 Brunswick Road in the Board packet for informational purposes. No action is required by the Township at this time.

Rush City Fire Department – Proposed Fire Protection Contract (2027–2031)

The Board reviewed the proposed 2027–2031 fire protection contract with the Rush City Fire Department for the northeast quarter of the Township. ***Motion made by Thill, seconded by Fitzwater, to approve the 2027–2031 fire protection contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.***

Board Member Reports

None.

Approved

Old Business
None.

New Business
None.

Citizen Comment
None.

Adjourn
Motion made by Ferguson and seconded by Fitzwater to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair	Date	Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk	Date

Approved