



# Fish Lake Township

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

## Town Board Meeting Minutes March 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.

**2025 Gravel Quotes.** The township initiated a formal bidding process for the procurement of gravel and hauling services. A public notice detailing the specifications and requirements for the project, was published in the legal notices section of "*The County Star*" the township's designated newspaper. This advertisement specifically solicited sealed quotes for the delivery and placement of 8,000 cubic yards of gravel.

The sealed quotes received in response to the advertisement were opened and the submitted prices were read aloud. Two bids were received: Bjorkland Trucking: Submitted a bid of \$18.07 per cubic yard. Dressel Contracting: Submitted a bid of \$42.95 per cubic yard. *Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to approve the quote from Bjorkland Trucking for \$18.07 per yard. All in favor, motion carried.*

### 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.

**Road Improvements/Todd Hagen, Ehlers & Associates:** The town board is considering making road improvements and wanted to understand how to best pay for those projects. To get expert advice, they invited Todd Hagen, a financial specialist from Ehlers & Associates, to this meeting.

Todd explained that the town could borrow money by issuing bonds. He then discussed the ideal timing for selling these bonds to get the best interest rates. He also outlined the different types of bonds the town could use, each with its own set of rules and benefits.

To ensure the town can use the bond money to pay for any roadwork expenses they might pay before the bond is actually issued, the board will approve a special document called a 'reimbursement resolution' at their next meeting. This resolution will essentially allow the town to pay itself back from the bond proceeds for any eligible expenses they have already paid out of pocket.

**Border Road Improvement Meeting.** A meeting has been scheduled between Fish Lake Township, North Branch, and Cambridge Township to discuss improvements to North Pine Lake Road/Zodiac. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 29, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the Fish Lake Township Offices.

### Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer’s report.

**Bank Balances as of: February 28, 2025**

Checking	\$77,647.07	Broadband Debt. Service	\$6,859.42
Savings (Camb. State)	\$598,565.89	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$6,574.43

*Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented, approve bills for check numbers 14764-14784 for \$47,773.04; EFT’s of \$2,239.87 and the current month’s payroll of \$12,228. 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

**Property, Auto, and General Liability Insurance.** The town board sought to find the best insurance coverage and cost. They obtained quotes from Carney Insurance and MATIT (Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust) to compare with their current provider, Country Insurance. After careful review and discussions with other townships, the board found that MATIT offered the most suitable coverage. *Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Ferguson to switch from Country Insurance to MATIT for property, auto, and liability insurance effective immediately. All in favor, motion carries.*

### Board Member Reports

None

### Old Business

**2026 Budget Approval.** After a thorough review of the proposed 2026 budget, the board finalized the document, confirming the specific expenditure amounts that will be presented to the residents at the annual town meeting. This process included discussions and adjustments to ensure the budget accurately reflects the town's anticipated needs and priorities for 2026.

**Road Abandonment.** The board addressed the possible abandonment of two road sections: a part of Cedarcrest Lane in the Evelyn Addition, and the section of 457th Street that extends beyond public right-of-way onto private property. After considering potential impacts on local access and maintenance costs, the board decided to place this issue on the annual meeting agenda where, they will seek resident approval to begin the formal road abandonment procedure.

**New Business**

**2024 Board of Audit.** To fulfill its oversight responsibility and ensure fiscal accountability, the board completed its annual Board of Audit, which involved a detailed review of all 2024 financial transactions. This included a verification of disbursement and receipt records against bank statements. The purpose of this audit was to confirm the accuracy and legitimacy of all financial activities throughout the year. Upon completing the review and finding all records to be accurate the following motion was made. *Motion made by Fitzwater and seconded by Thill to formally approve all disbursements and receipts for the 2024 Board of Audit as accurate. All in favor, motion carried.*

**Citizen Comment**

None

**Adjourn**

*Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Approved unanimously.*

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair	Date	Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk	Date
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