



# Fish Lake Township

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

## Town Board Meeting Minutes October 14, 2024

### 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 Fitzwater 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 2025 Western Star Plow truck should be delivered this week with the final products installed and ready for the first snowfall. There was discussion about possibly purchasing a skid steer in the future to be able to do some more work in house rather than contract it out. Another option is to rent the equipment to do the work in house to also save money.

### Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

#### Bank Balances as of: September 30, 2024

Checking	\$159,692.94	Broadband Debt. Service	\$95,223.78
Savings (Camb. State)	\$129,362.33	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$32,675.68

*Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to accept the Treasurer's report approve expenses of \$371,028.80, authorize outstanding bills presented to be paid and authorize the transfer of \$230,000.00 from Savings to Checking account. Approved unanimously.*

### Minutes

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

### Schedule Appointments

At the regular meeting of the Fish Lake Township Board, the board approved the Interim Use Permit (IUP) application for East Central Masonry LLC, owned by Behrant J. Miller. Mr. Miller attended the meeting to provide additional context regarding the nature of his business and operations.

Mr. Miller emphasized that East Central Masonry is a small masonry contracting business with no employees at this time. Most of the work occurs offsite, and customers do not visit the business location, except for occasional sales of excess materials listed on Facebook Marketplace to help offset site work costs. Mr. Miller clarified that the semi-truck traffic that raised concern was unrelated to his masonry business. These trucks were delivering materials for a retaining wall in preparation for potential future construction. He noted that East Central Masonry has never had a semi-truck delivery, though it remains a possibility in rare circumstances, depending on supplier changes. Most deliveries to his site have been made by box trucks or, in rare cases, single-unit flatbed trucks.

Mr. Miller further explained that there are no current plans for substantial growth on-site, as his focus is on his homestead and family. If significant growth does occur, he expressed a preference to purchase and develop a commercial lot in the future, but that plan is far off.

The limited work that occurs on-site includes:

1. Loading and unloading of trucks and trailers.
2. Small-scale concrete casting for chimney crowns and other applications.
3. Organizing tools, equipment, and materials.
4. Occasional material cutting.
5. Office work.

The business does not maintain set hours of operation since most work takes place offsite, and the business is a side occupation in addition to Mr. Miller's full-time job. He typically works offsite Monday through Friday and occasionally on Saturdays, with his departure and return times varying depending on the job. On-site work takes place as needed, often in the evenings or whenever his schedule allows.

Regarding materials stored on-site, Mr. Miller listed the following:

Exterior: Brick, block, stone, flue tiles, rebar, and other reinforcement materials.

Interior: Mortar, firebrick, chimney liners, chimney forms, concrete, and fasteners.

Pallets: Mr. Miller noted that he accumulates pallets until he has enough to return to the supplier for deposit refunds.

As for equipment stored on-site, it includes:

1. Trucks, typically parked inside barns.
2. An S250 skid steer, stored in the barn, used for both business and farm purposes.
3. Trailers, tools, and scaffolding.

Maintenance of equipment generally occurs off-site, and while there is potential for future equipment like an aerial manlift or mini excavator, these would primarily be for farm use or occasional business needs.

In terms of trash disposal, Mr. Miller hauls trash to dumpsters at job sites or uses small-scale garbage/recycling receptacles. He plans to obtain small dumpsters for personal, farm, and business use, which would be placed between buildings on the site. He also expressed interest in constructing a masonry trash enclosure in the future, though placement is dependent on future property developments.

After reviewing the application and hearing from Mr. Miller, the board unanimously approved the request. Motion made by Fitzwater to approve the IUP application 24-1991 with no conditions, seconded by Thill. Motion approved. All in favor.

### Clerk Report

Clerk Nekowitsch confirmed that everything is set and ready to go for the upcoming presidential election.

The clerk also reminded the board that the maintenance agreement with Harris is still in their hands and has not been sent back at the time of this meeting.

### Board Member Reports

None

### Old Business

None

### New Business

None

### Citizen Comment

None

### Adjourn

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

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Bruce Fitzwater, Chair	Date	Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk	Date
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