



Fish Lake Township

2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032
(651) 674-7709
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Town Board Meeting Minutes February 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.

Engineer Marcus Johnson presented the board with a preliminary cost estimate of approximately \$1,175,000 for the proposed improvements on 430th. The board also discussed a two-year project for improvements to North Pine Lake Road. They plan to meet with representatives from North Branch and Cambridge Townships in April, as both townships have border roads connected to North Pine Lake Road. The board requested that Marcus provide a construction estimate for the North Pine Lake Road project.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Bank Balances as of: 1/31/2025

Checking	\$12,379.64	Broadband Debt. Service	\$95,463.80
Savings (Camb. State)	\$122,092.36	Anchor Ave. Debt Service	\$32,785.92

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to accept the Treasurer's report approve expenses of \$22,557.63, and February payroll for 10,162.25 and authorize the transfer of \$10,000 from Savings to Checking account. Approved unanimously.

Minutes

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

Schedule Appointments

1. North Branch Fire Chief Pat Heinen was present to answer any questions that the board may have.
2. Nancy Jamieson, the property owner of 3780 Stark Road, presented a preliminary plat to subdivide her 10.42-acre property into three parcels. One parcel will retain the original homestead, which has been in her family for 110 years. Another parcel will remain vacant for now, while Nancy plans to build a new home on the third lot. After reviewing the proposal and plat, the board found no issues and approved the request.
3. Joshua McDuffie, Insurance Agent. The board met with insurance agent Joshua McDuffie to review the township's current insurance coverage. They carefully examined each line of the policy, including coverage for equipment and buildings, to ensure the township is adequately protected. They increased some of the coverage for contents to be more in line with current contents on premises.

Clerk Report

None

Board Member Reports

None

Old Business

Harris Fire Department Fire Coverage. The board reviewed a proposal from the Harris Fire Department to provide fire services to the southeast corner of the township. Currently, the North Branch Fire Department has been serving that area for over 20 years. After considering the proposal over the past month, the board decided not to make any changes to the existing service arrangement with North Branch. They noted that there would be no direct financial benefit for residents by switching providers. Additionally, the Harris Fire Department did not present a detailed cost estimate or a formula outlining costs for the first year or future service, leaving the board uncertain about long-term expenses.

New Business

Employee Manual Update: An administrative correction was needed for Section 5.1 of the employee manual due to a clerical error. The maximum PTO time is 208 hours, not 200 hours as previously stated. Motion made by Thill and seconded by Fitzwater to change the maximum PTO hours from 200 to 208 hours. Approved unanimously.

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to reconvene for a budget review on February 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

February 12, 2025 – Reconvened Meeting

Board Members and Staff Present

Chair Bruce Fitzwater (remote), Vice-Chair Jim Thill, Supervisor Donna Ferguson, Treasurer Corey Johnson, Clerk Andrea Nekowitsch, Gary Guse Road Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

The board reconvened to review the 2024 income and expenditures. They also examined the budgets for both 2024 and 2025 to ensure alignment with financial goals. In addition, they developed a comprehensive budget for 2026, carefully analyzing each item line by line to ensure accuracy and fiscal responsibility. The 2026 budget will be reviewed again at the March 10, 2025, meeting. The board will have a chance to make changes prior to finalizing it for the annual meeting on March 11, 2025.

Citizen Comment

None.

Adjourn

Motion made by Thill and seconded by Ferguson to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Approved unanimously.

Bruce Fitzwater, Chair

Date

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

Date