

January 7, 2020

**PERCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF WATKINS SPUR PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

Meetings are recorded to facilitate preparation of minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gary Harms opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a roll call.

Members: Chair Gary Harms, Supervisor Steve Olson, Supervisor Keith Depre, Treasurer Cheri DeMenge, and Clerk Lora Eames.

Watkins Spur Residents:	Chris Anderson 3235 Watkins Spur	Chris Lynch 944 Lakeview Drive	Grace Overend 3235 Watkins Spur
	Gail Hamre 3241 Watkins Spur	Constance MacRae 3253 Watkins Spur	
	Kevin Hamre 3251 Watkins Spur	Tom Martinson 3239 Watkins Spur	

2. PURPOSE.

Chair Harms announced that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the next phase of the Watkins Spur Road Improvement Project.

3. AGENDA.

MOTION (Depre/Harms): To approve the public information meeting agenda as presented.
Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION.

The following information was distributed. (Copies are available from the Clerk.)

- Watkins Spur Map, dated 12/28/18.
- Preliminary Engineering Plan, dated 12/09/19.

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION.

Neither the Assistant County Engineer nor a representative was in attendance.

Supervisors and residents reviewed the preliminary engineering plan together. They discussed the County's proposal to turn Watkins Spur into a one-way road coming out on Lakeview Drive. This would provide easier access for County snow plows and emergency vehicles.

Olson mentioned conversations he had with Assistant County Engineer Aaron Gunderson regarding the road width and the decision for a one-way road. Everything through Watkins Spur is tight. The road width will remain the same – except the area to the south of Lakeview Drive. If the road remains 16-foot wide, it is not legal to have two-way traffic.

Question: Which way is the one way?

Olson responded that it does not really matter. The plow may deposit more snow on one side than the other. Regardless, the emergency vehicles will have an easier access. (Right now, they can get in, but cannot turn around.)

Comment: C. Anderson, 3235 Watkins Spur, expressed concern about his mound system near the cul-de-sac. Olson will inform the County of that location.

Comment: C. Lynch, 944 Lakeview Drive, expressed concern about the loss of property and drainage from the road. He has plans to build a pole barn. Olson will speak to the engineer, and come visit with Lynch at his home.

Question: Will this proposed project have ditching?

Olson responded that the County cannot install ditching on the east side of the road.

Question: What happens to the cul-de-sac?

Olson responded that the two lots would return to the propertyowner to do as he wishes – to maintain it as a driveway or turn it into lawn.

Question from Martinson: Can the road grade be lowered since it is so much higher than the garages? He observed that the road become higher over time due to patching, and that he has trouble getting into his garage due to flooding after a heavy rain. Olson will bring this up with the engineer.

Comment: Someone pointed out that power poles near the road could be an issue.

Question: When will construction take place?

Olson responded that construction will take place in 2021. The Township and County will have wetland issues to deal with. Also, they hope to “piggyback” other County projects going on at the same time, particularly County 7, Big Lake Road, and Cary Road.

Depre asked residents to bring up questions and objections before construction. When Harms asked attendees if they were in favor of the project, the consensus was simply that something had to be done.

6. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.**

Chair Harms made two final comments:

- The Town supervisors will likely hold another meeting later in the year, especially if there is additional information to share with residents.
- This Town will pay for this project and not assess propertyowners.

Anyone with questions can contact the Town Board (see website for contact information) or Steve Olson at 218-591-1795, or steveolson@perchlaketownship.org.

7. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

Lora Eames, Clerk

Gary Harms, Chair