

April 7, 2022

**PERCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gary Harms opened the special meeting at 9:15 a.m. with a roll call. Supervisor Keith Depre hosted the meeting on Zoom.

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

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

Harms announced that the purpose of the meeting was to respond to Senator Tina Smith's office by providing a specific list of projects for infrastructure funding.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the April 7, 2022, agenda as presented. Motion carried.

3. DISCUSSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

Recent History:

Chair Harms sent a letter to Senator Tina Smith, dated February 23, 2022, in which he sought help in obtaining funds for the township's roads, bridges, and sewer systems. On March 28, 2022, Hannah Alstead from the senator's office responded by email and requested a list of specific projects. She even agreed to attend the regular Town Board meeting virtually on Monday, April 11, 2022. (This has since changed due to her schedule.)

Special Meeting

Chair Harms distributed a draft list of infrastructure projects. Board members discussed each project and revised and prioritized the list as needed.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS FOR POTENTIAL FUNDING			
Project	Description/ Discussion Points	Estimated Cost	Priority
Bridge repair on Ditchbank Road, replacing wing walls on first bridge	<u>Description:</u> Change to concrete box culvert. Change unstable base by putting fabric down, adding gravel on top of fabric. Real rebuild. Go all the way up to the second bridge. <u>Why this project?</u> No residents in that area; no direct tax base to draw from for funding. Primary access to the FDL State Forest, tribal lands, tribe-managed wild rice lakes. The road is used by hunters, ATV riders, cross-country skiers, ricers, and loggers.	\$2.0 mil.	1

Lakeview Drive	<p><u>Description</u> Road has issues related to drainage. The hilly terrain and steep slopes contribute to erosion problems with gulying. One part of the road is in danger of slumping towards Big Lake. New drainage needs to redirect water to west away from Big Lake.</p> <p><u>Why this project?</u> Access to many properties including year-round homes. Contributes to Big Lake’s water quality issues.</p>	\$1.5 mil. (Changed to \$2.0 mil. in Olson’s narrative)	2
Hardwood Lake Road	<p><u>Description:</u> Three-fourths mile. Major restructuring needed. The pavement is cracking up. Does not have a good base. Has problems with frost boils. Dead-end road.</p>	.	Not assigned a priority.
Pine Grove Drive	Supervisors did not discuss details.	\$100,000	Not assigned a priority.
Watkins Spur	The Town Board has approved two contracts for rebuilding and paving. This project will deplete much of the Township’s capital improvements fund.	\$138,000	Not assigned a priority.
Perch Lake Town Hall	<p>The supervisors discussed the various challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adding on to the building for the Cloquet Area Fire District Station 2 ambulance. ▪ Upgrading septic system. <p>(The septic system can be funded by the American Rescue Act Plan funds.)</p>		Not assigned a priority.
Big Lake Area Sanitary District (BLASD)	<p><u>Description:</u> To fund, construct, and operate a sanitary sewer system to protect the quality of Big Lake.</p> <p><u>Why this project?</u> Would benefit the whole community – both Perch Lake Township and Fond Du Lac residents. It is “shovel ready” in that it needs only \$100,000 of re-engineering to update the plan. The project had Joint Powers Agreements with several entities and a route down Big Lake Road to Cloquet to the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District. Persons living along Big Lake Road to Cloquet could hook up if this project went through. The FDL has people trained to maintain the system.</p>	\$20.0 mil.	3

4. **ACTIONS.**

After discussion, Harms asked Olson to prepare a narrative for the Ditchbank Road and Lakeview Drive Road, and Depre, a narrative for the BLASD sewer project. Harms planned to prepare a letter to include these narratives to mail/email to Hanna Alstead before the meeting. The supervisory consensus was that priorities discussed during the meeting need not be included in the letter; it would be sufficient just to list the three projects – Ditchbank Road, Lakeview Drive, and the BLASD sewer project.

5. **OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE APPROVAL.**

None.

6. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

Lora Eames, Clerk

Gary Harms, Chair