

April 8, 2019

**PERCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE.**

Chair Gary Harms opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the roll call and pledge.

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

2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the April 8, 2019, regular meeting agenda as presented.
Motion carried.

3. **MINUTES.**

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the March 11, 2019, regular minutes as recorded.
Motion carried.

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve the April 3, 2019, Board of Appeal and Equalization minutes as recorded. Motion carried.

4. **2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES.**

Chair Harms acknowledged receipt of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes to be approved by electors at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

4. **TREASURER/CLERK REPORTS.**

a. **Review/Approve Treasurer's Report.**

Treasurer DeMenge provided a report for the month of March.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with a cash balance of \$345,910.59 for the month ending March 31, 2019. Motion carried.

b. **Informational Clerk's Budget Report.**

Clerk Eames reported \$11,988 in receipts and \$8,347 in disbursements for March, resulting in a positive difference of \$3,640 for the first time this year. In addition, Eames reported that the Township had received the \$5,000 SCORE Recycling Grant from the County and expects to:

- Receive a \$2,018.15 check in April from the Cloquet Area Fire District.
- Receive approximately \$114,071 in July from the County for property tax settlements.

Eames also provided the following budget report:

2019 OPERATING BUDGET TO DATE	
Projected Revenues	\$170,168
Revenues Received YTD	-15,429
Not Yet Received	\$154,739

Projected Expenses	\$171,274
Disbursements Made YTD	-26,839
Not Yet Spent	\$144,435

5. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT.**

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve payment of the following claims with two changes:

a. Claims for Payment

\$960.89	Claims #4084 - \$4085
\$6,774.94	Claims #4086 - #4107
\$3,292.61	Regular payroll
\$11,028.44	Total

b. Changes

- Tom DeLovely's Claim #4101 should be \$35 less, since it included new contract rates for grading (\$110) which were not effective until April 1. (DeLovely offered to adjust his claim next month.)
- The Forum Communications' Claim #4097 should be \$120 more, since it did not include charges for the Annual Meeting Notice in the Cloquet SmartShopper. (The Clerk received an updated invoice Saturday and wanted the Board to approve paying the additional charges with a credit card to avoid a late fee.)

Motion carried.

6. **REPORTS.**

a. **Cloquet Area Fire District (CAFD).**

Chair Harms reported that, as of the date of this meeting, the CAFD's requests are still "alive" at the State Legislature.

- Clarification of ability to bond and secure debt.
- Increasing the EMS levy cap.
- Bonding money for a new facility.

Harms explained his own position on the matter of a new facility - he would oppose its construction if the District does not receive a significant amount of funding.

In addition, the CAFD Board plans to hold a retreat on May 7, 2019, at the Black Bear to discuss issues not so easily dealt with at regular board meetings.

b. **Big Lake Area Sanitary District (BLASD).**

Supervisor Depre reported that the BLASD Board met in March. They still do not have a signed agreement (new joint powers agreement) with the FDL. Depre explained further:

- The Affordability Task Force did not generate any changes.
- Rocky Rennquist will seek final clarification from FDL Chair Kevin DuPuis.
- The BLASD does have a previous JPA (joint powers agreement). However, the new one includes a stipulation for nonpayment which the Tribe does not support.
- The Tribe will also not support the BLASD moving ahead without the FDL.

The BLASD would have had to begin its project by now, in order to have expenses which can be reimbursed by the funding.

Harms inquired about a remaining liability from a previous loan. Depre responded that the District will continue to exist as a taxing entity with legal authority to levy for its obligations.

c. **Road and Bridge.**

Both Supervisor Olson and Road Foreman Tom DeLovely reported that Township roads were generally in good condition. DeLovely noted that Kotiranta Road is flooding, but that is normal for this time of year. DeLovely has been grading.

Board members discussed how the work from past crackpatching has held up. Supervisors had mixed reviews on the past work, but agreed to evaluate each road where it was done.

Olson plans to develop a spreadsheet to track maintenance tasks and costs for Township roads.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Old Housekeeping Items.**

(1) Tiling Floor, Chairs

Chair Harms announced that, based on quotes received, the cost for tiling the floor and purchasing new chairs will exceed \$10,000. Therefore, he no longer supported these improvements, pointing instead to issues on the horizon. The other supervisors agreed.

b. **Discussion/Action re Fallen Building Owned by Neil McPhail.**

Owner: Neil McPhail
Building Address: 3165 Maple Drive
Parcel ID: 92-170-0160

Previously, the Clerk and Chair sent McPhail a letter, dated January 31, 2019, asking his plans for the fallen building on his property. The letter required a response by February 28, 2019. McPhail did not respond by the deadline. Then, in March, the supervisors asked the Clerk to send a "Second Notice" letter by certified mail. The new letter set a deadline of April 15 for McPhail to respond. Eames explained that the Post Office attempted delivery twice, leaving notices in McPhail's mailbox; but he did not stop at the Post Office to claim his certified letter. Supervisors decided to wait until April 15, but asked the Clerk to prepare an appropriate "next step" letter for review at the May 13th Board meeting.

c. **Quotes for Mowing Roadsides**

Clerk Eames reported that the Board received quotes from two vendors:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| (1) Eric Carlson | \$30 per line mile to mow once; |
| 1008 Spring Lake Road, Cloquet | \$25 per line mile to mow a second time. |
| (2) Jerry Telker | \$1,294 once during the season |
| Jerry's Road Side Mowing, LLC | |
| 94102 Telker Road, Sturgeon Lake | |

After some discussion, Board members found that the quotes were comparable. For example, Carlson's \$30 per mile x 22.23 miles of township roads x 2 sides of the road = \$1,333.80. (One can reasonably reduce by 2 miles.) After some discussion, supervisors decided to hire Eric Carlson, because he is a local Cloquet vendor, and he offered a second mowing of roadsides during the season at a discount.

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To contract with Eric Carlson for mowing Township roadsides as specified by the Road Supervisor during the 2019 season - once at \$30.00 per line mile, and a second time at \$25 per line mile. Motion carried.

d. **Status of Individual Emails for Business Purposes.**

Last month, supervisors heard some options about business email providers. After they learned that Homestead, the Town's website provider, offers five free emails with the current plan, they asked Clerk Eames to check if Homestead's emails could be used on cell phones for sending and receiving email. Since then, Eames found that Homestead could be used for that purpose.

Eames offered to set everyone up with a Homestead email. Interested persons had to (i) provide a user name and password; and (ii) allow the Clerk to administer everything.

e. **Comments re Board of Appeal & Equalization (4/3) and MAT Spring Course (4/5).**

Harms commented that at least one resident benefitted by appealing to the local Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Attendees of the MAT Spring Course offered the following comments:

- The new executive director appears to be well-qualified.
- The MAT instructors should "mix it up" with mock township meetings, as in the past.
- The class for clerks and treasurers was comprehensive.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **New Housekeeping Items.**

None.

b. **Set Date for Inspection Tour**

Supervisors set a date for the 2019 Road Inspection Tour, and invited Tom DeLovely to accompany them: Saturday, April 20, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

c. **Public Hearing - April 3, 2019, 7:00 p.m., County Transportation re Iverson Inn, Inc.**

Those present had mixed reactions to the County Board's approval with stipulations. Interested persons can read the minutes on the County website.

9. **VISITOR COMMENTS.**

None.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

Lora Eames, Clerk

Gary Harms, Chair