

May 9, 2022

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gary Harms opened the May 9, 2022, regular meeting at 7:00 p.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

Guest: William Jaskari

Contractor: Tom DeLovely (Foreman)

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the May 9, 2022, agenda as presented. Motion carried.

3. RECEIPT/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve the April 11, 2022, regular meeting minutes as recorded. Motion carried.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the May 5, 2022, Watkins Spur Omar preconstruction meeting minutes. Motion carried.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the April 25, 2022, Road Inspection Tour Survey with changes. Motion carried.

RECEIVED: May 2, 2022, ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee Meeting notes.

4. WILLIAM (BILL) JASKARI: RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSES

Jaskari was present, asking the Board to recommend approval of the renewal of the liquor licenses for the Lounge on Big Lake Shores and the Big Lake Golf Resort. The recommendation will go to the County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Chair Harms asked Jaskari if he had received a copy of the email from the Carlton County Auditor, dated May 9, 2022, stating the following:

“...it would not be okay for The Lounge and the Big Lake Golf Resort to each have an off-sale license because Bill is an officer in both, and a person may not have more than one off-sale license in the same township. Unfortunately, the statute (M.S. 340A.412) has not changed and the current statute says that the municipality may not issue more than one off-sale license to any one person or any one place.”

Jaskari acknowledged the email and noted that he will file an appeal; but for now, he asked the Town Board to approve one off-sale and one on-sale license for the Lounge and one on-sale license for the Big Lake Golf Resort.

After some discussion, the supervisors passed the following motions:

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To recommend approval to the Carlton County Board of Commissioners for the renewal of the liquor licenses for the Lounge on Big Lake Shores, one off-sale and one on-sale, for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Motion carried.

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To recommend approval to the Carlton County Board of Commissioners for the renewal of the liquor license for the Big Lake Golf Resort, one on-sale only, for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Motion carried.

5. TREASURER/CLERK REPORTS.

a. Review/Approve Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cheri DeMenge provided the Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2022.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with a cash balance of \$479,645.95 for the month ending April 30, 2022. Motion carried.

b. Informational Clerk's Budget Report.

(1) Clerk Eames reported that Perch Lake Township will receive the following funds in the near future:

- May-July– approx. \$61,000 in ARPA funds.
- June-July– approx. \$113,000 in property tax settlements.

(2) Monthly Operating Budget for April 2022

Projected Revenues	\$194,367
Projected ARPA \$	61,000
Revenues Received YTD	<u>-30,787</u>
Not Yet Received	\$224,580
Projected Expenses	\$396,712
Disbursements Made YTD	<u>-56,213</u>
Under Budget YTD	\$340,499

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

The supervisors approved the following claims for payment:

a. Regular Claims

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve payment of regular claims for May 2022. Motion carried.

\$592.29	Late claims list for April: Claim Nos. #4676-#4677
7,026.66	Regular claims list for May 1-31: Claim Nos. #4678-#4688
838.42	Employee payroll for May 2022
4,120.87	Regular payroll for May 2022.
<u>\$12,578.24</u>	Total

b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Claims.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve payment of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) claims:
Motion carried.

\$828.05 ARPA claims for May 9, 2022.

7. REPORTS.

a. Cloquet Area Fire District (CAFD).

Harms reported that he and Olson attended the CAFD Board retreat at the Cloquet Public Library on May 9, 2022. Attendees discussed four topics:

- Facilities
- Staffing
- Board roles and responsibilities
- 3-5-year organizational goals

Chief Buhs has indicated that he wants an Assistant Chief, not an Administrative Director. He will propose this to the CAFD Board next week.

In addition, attendees identified and established goals for the next 3-5 years, including the implementation of the service-delivery model, staff engagement (recruitment, retention, etc.), facilities planning, and collaboration with FDL Reservation Business Committee. Harms noted that attendees called facilities planning the number one priority.

b. Big Lake Area Sanitary District (BLASD)

Supervisor Depre had nothing new to report.

c. Road and Bridge.

- (1) Foreman Tom DeLovely

Olson reported that DeLovely had graded roads.

In addition, DeLovely recommended that Olson pursue Enbridge to obtain permits for the Old Line 3 Removal Project.

- (2) Supervisor Olson reported that:

- (a) Resident Bill Werner called in late April regarding the culvert on Bob's Drive. The culvert is not the proper size to handle runoff there. Consequently, water from the rainfall and snow melt flooded the road and Werner's cabin. The culvert uphill on Magney Drive is 30 inches; the culvert on Bob's Drive is 12 inches. So, County Transportation recommended that the Township install a 21 by 15 arch culvert to slow the volume down to the lake.
- (b) Beavers are active at Culvert 9 on Strand Road. Brett Collier is out there trapping, and Olson will follow up with him.

- (3) Report on follow-up from the May 5, 2022, Watkins Spur Rebuild preconstruction meeting with Omar.
 - (a) Olson has been out with Omar to inspect the jobsite. In addition, Omar needed clarification from Transportation on plan details and quantities.
 - (b) Olson must coordinate with:
 - the Andersons and Watkins regarding the removal of the shed.
 - the construction crew regarding the sewer across the road. (The underground pipe broke from frost during the past winter, and owner Chris Anderson will have the contractor fix it.)
 - (c) Olson drafted a letter to Watkins Spur residents to inform them of ingress and egress on the project and to obtain their contact information.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Old Housekeeping Items

None.

b. Revisit Town Hall Gutter Protection

Last month, at the regular meeting on April 11, 2022, Harms introduced a quote from Gutter Helmet as a long-term solution to the maintenance of the Town Hall gutters. The gutters are high over the fire hall side of the building. Previously, Al Soukkala cleaned the gutters, but he is no longer available. Now the culverts are plugged up and no one can easily clean them. Supervisors delayed making any decisions at the time.

Harms reintroduced the Gutter Helmet quote, suggesting that the supervisors should do something now, and take the cost from ARPA funds.

Supervisors discussed using a ladder from the fire hall (which takes two people); but they found this was not a satisfactory solution.

Olson expressed reluctance to move ahead with the purchase. First, the supervisors lacked a quote from Leaf Filter, a competitor. Second, they are waiting for estimates on two items which will also be purchased with ARPA funds - the installation of a new septic system and the removal of the fuel oil tank. Olson recommended that supervisors wait for the estimates before purchasing gutter guards.

MOTION DIED (Harms/No second): To contract with Gutter Helmet for installation of gutter protection in the amount of \$7,762.00.

c. American Rescue Plan Act Update and Committee

Clerk Eames reported that she had:

- received no new state or federal updates regarding ARPA funds.
- finalized the Township's registration with the Federal Government's System for Award Management (SAM).
- submitted an annual expenditure report to the US Treasury.

Eames reported that the ARPA Committee has been planning for the community outreach event at the Town Hall, called "Getting to Know Your Neighbor." The event will be held Wednesday, June 1, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thereafter, it will be held weekly each Wednesday through June.

Eames also reported that next month, the committee will consider holding a combined Farmer’s Market/Craft Fair in August and evaluate the success of June’s “Getting to Know Your Neighbor” event.

d. **Report on MAT Zoom meeting: US Department of Transportation Briefing on Bipartisan Infrastructure Program.**

Olson reported that he attended the meeting; but found it to be disappointing. The person covering the roads only topic had to leave early and did not provide a very complete presentation. The meeting topics included the promotion of pedestrian traffic, alternative transportation programs, safe streets, electric vehicle charging stations, and railroads.

On another note, Harms reported that he has not heard back from Senator Tina’s Smith’s office regarding infrastructure funds. He will follow up with her office next week.

e. **Report from the CCATO (Carlton County Association of Township Officers) Meeting of May 26, 2022.**

Harms, Olson, DePre, DeMenge, and Eames attended the meeting. Olson provided the following information on road projects in and near Perch Lake Township. (The schedule is subject to change, of course.)

Construction Schedule		
Year	Roads	Action
2023	Brookston Road (CR 113) from County 114 to County Line	Grade/Drain
2023	Lund Road (CR 114) from CSAH 9 to CR 113	Grade/Bituminous
2025	Brookston Road (CR 113) from CSAH 7 to County Line	Surface
2025	Mission Road (CSAH 25) from TH 210 to Magney Drive	No comments

Everyone discussed Sheriff Lake’s presentation on the jail. Nothing has changed. The County is still promoting the use of a one-half percent sales tax to fund the jail. In fact, it will be on the ballot in November. DePre pointed out that relying on the sales tax has drawbacks – for example, some big construction projects may not be done here because of the sales tax.

f. **Sewer Evaluation and Removal of Fuel Tank**

Olson reported that the Town Hall was on fuel oil before it changed over to propane. So now, it has an underground fuel oil tank which must be removed before it starts leaking (it might even be leaking now), and only a certified person can remove the tank.

In addition, Olson recently had Matt DeCaigny here to evaluate the site. DeCaigny’s initial assessment was that there was enough room for a new system – mostly where the trees are. The draining field would go against the north and east boundaries of the Town Hall property. The well is deep enough so there would be sufficient separation.

The Township will need a zoning permit; County Zoning will inspect the new system.

Olson asked if he could hand this project off to someone else; Harms offered to take on the project. He will call the County for a list of contractors to remove the fuel oil tank.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Housekeeping Items

None.

b. Approve Calcium Chloride and Application on Township Roads

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the application of calcium chloride, based on an estimate not to exceed 8,000 gallons at \$1.70 per gallon, or \$13,600. Motion carried.

The County's contractor will do the work by June 30, 2022, and Foreman DeLovely will accompany the contractor while he is working on township roads.

c. New Voting Equipment in 2022

Harms explained that the County has asked for a resolution. (The County, by statute, may provide for the use of an electronic voting system in its precincts at all elections, but each municipality shall give approval before a system may be adopted or used.)

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve Resolution No. 2022-010, approving the use of new voting equipment in the 2022 Perch Lake Township elections. Motion carried.

d. Utility Permit: Minnesota Power, 808 Brower Drive

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the permit application from Minnesota Power for work to be done on 808 Brower Drive, subject to payment of \$100.00. Motion carried.

e. TERO (Tribal Enforcement Rights Officer) Fee of 3% for Watkins Spur Project.

Harms explained that TERO is an agency of the FDL Reservation. The FDL assesses a 3% fee for each contract. The first fee is for the contract with Omar.

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve the TERO fee of 3% for \$1,988.28 for the Watkins Spur Rebuild project. Motion carried.

10. VISITOR COMMENTS

Those present discussed a variety of topics. Tim Hafvenstein, resident, mentioned the new voting equipment. He expressed concern about security issues raised during the 2020 election. The supervisors assured him that (i) this equipment has already been used by Cloquet and Carlton County and the County is simply updating its use in outlying areas; (ii) the new machines are not connected to the internet; and (iii) the election has its paper ballots as backup.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

Lora Eames, Clerk

Gary Harms, Chair