

May 17, 2021

**PERCH LAKE TOWNSHIP
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – NO PARKING SIGNS**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL

Chair Gary Harms opened the public meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a roll call.

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

Supervisor Depre hosted the meeting on Zoom.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the May 17, 2021, special meeting agenda as presented.
Motion carried.

3. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF NO PARKING SIGNS

a. Discussion

Chair Harms announced that the purpose of the meeting was to address the posting of “NO PARKING” signs on Township roads – where, length, duration, and notification of public.

Board members considered the sample signs below:

- The Magney Drive sign stated: NO PARKING ZONE
Violators will be ticketed and towed at owner’s expense if vehicle remains after 12 hours, Perch Lake Township Road Ordinance No. 2021-01.
- The Brower Drive sign stated: NO PARKING ON BROWER DRIVE
Violators will be ticketed and towed at owner’s expense if vehicle remains after 12 hours, Perch Lake Township Road Ordinance No. 2021-01.

In addition, they discussed two approaches to posting:

- Posting “NO PARKING” signs at the entry and exit of each township road.
- Posting “NO PARKING” signs only on Magney Drive and Brower Drive.

Supervisors made the following comments regarding the above posting options:

- Posting signs on each township road would help avoid the perception that the Township is targeting any one group or activity on a specific road.
- Posting signs only on Magney Drive and Brower Drive would focus where safety is currently an issue.
- It should not be necessary to post all Township roads. The new ordinance authorizes the Township to post NO PARKING signs where a safety hazard exists.

- The Township has a precedent for posting NO PARKING signs at the end of one road for a specific reason - Hardwood Lake Road - to prevent hunters from parking there and blocking access. This was done before the ordinance, and only one end is posted. (As a side note, the Town Board should officially designate the Hardwood Lake Road signs along with the others.)
- Ideally, NO PARKING signs should be posted close to “problem areas” on a specific road; or where the temporary overflow of parking for events such as graduation parties or the Fourth of July becomes a problem.
- The city of Cloquet and Carlton County do not post all their roads.
- Signs should be posted as authorized by a specific section of the ordinance.

Board members went on to discuss towing. Olson recalled that the Board must designate a towing company and implement towing forms before the Town can begin towing cars.

Also, the supervisors acknowledged that the County will not be able to provide a quick turnaround for signs, so they (the supervisors) should consider other contractors.

After reviewing the ordinance on towing, the supervisors settled on a sign which does not include “Violators will be ticketed and towed at owner’s expense,” but simply references the ordinance on the bottom face of the sign.

b. **Motions**

Olson requested, and supervisors agreed, to designate the Fond Du Lac Police Department as the agency of enforcement for the Township’s new ordinance.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To designate the Fond Du Lac Police Department as Perch Lake Township’s enforcement agency for issuing citations under the Ordinance No. 2021-01. Motion carried.

Harms offered to prepare a letter, informing the FDL Police Chief of the Board’s action. Olson offered to reach out to FDL regarding the need for a Memorandum of Understanding.

Other motions passed:

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the posting of “NO PARKING ANYTIME” signs on the following Township roads:

- all Magney Drive,
- all Brower Drive, and
- the west 900 feet of Hardwood Lake Road.

Motion carried.

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve signs which state: “NO PARKING ANYTIME” with “Perch Lake Township Ordinance No. 2021-01” referenced at the bottom of the sign.

Motion carried.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To authorize the purchase of “NO PARKING ANYTIME” signs and posts at the best price from the most expedient source. Motion carried.

4. **NEXT STEPS.**

No new discussion.

5. **COMMENTS.**

None.

6. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

Lora Eames, Clerk

Gary Harms, Chair