

August 13, 2018

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

Motions are tagged in bold. Meetings are recorded to facilitate preparation of minutes.

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 present: Chair Gary Harms, Supervisor Tom DeLovely, Treasurer Cheri DeMenge, and Clerk Lora Eames.

Members excused: Supervisor Steve Olson

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

**MOTION (DeLovely/Harms):** To approve the August 13, 2018, regular meeting agenda as presented, Motion carried.

3. **MINUTES.**

**MOTION (DeLovely/Harms):** To approve the July 9, 2018, regular meeting minutes as recorded. Motion carried.

4. **TREASURER/CLERK REPORTS.**

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

Treasurer Cheri DeMenge reported an ending cash balance of \$407,715.82 for July.

**MOTION (DeLovely/Harms):** To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with a cash balance of \$407,715.82 for the month ending July 31, 2018. Motion carried.

Board members also encouraged the Treasurer to establish a certain period of time (i.e., 60 days) after which she could credit uncashed checks back to the Town's account.

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

(1) Clerk Lora Eames reported a positive difference of \$106,596 between receipts and disbursements for July. In addition, she anticipated the following significant receipts later this year:

- \$2,000-\$3,000 in October from the CAFD for third quarter reimbursements.
- \$24,000 in December from the County for property tax settlements.

<b>DIFF IN RECEIPTS &amp; DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
	<b>JULY 2018</b>	<b>YTD 2018</b>	<b>YTD 2017</b>
Receipts	\$116,828	\$140,753	\$137,750
Disbursements	-10,232	-68,994	-57,360
Difference	\$106,596	\$71,759	\$80,390

- (2) Operating budget to date:

<b>SUMMARY OF 2018 OPERATING BUDGET TO DATE</b>	
Projected Revenues	\$170,556
Revenues Received YTD	-140,753
Not Yet Received	\$29,803
Projected Expenses	\$170,812
Disbursements Made YTD	-68,994
Not Yet Spent	\$101,818

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

**MOTION (DeLovely/Harms):** To approve the payment of the following claims. Motion carried.

\$ 454.15	Late Claims #3947 and #3948 for July
19,882.36	Claims #3949 through #3978 for August
1,731.47	Regular payroll for August
368.00	Election payroll for August
<u>\$22,435.98</u>	Total

6. **REPORTS.**

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

Chair Harms discussed the proposed 2019 Budget which will soon be considered for approval by the CAFD Board. He stated his opposition to the 14% increase. As a member of the Budget Committee, he has pressured the board to find additional savings to offset the increase.

Boldt Construction has submitted a quote of almost \$250,000 to repair the Station 1 building on Cloquet Avenue. Harms emphasized that this was not a formal bid, but rather an estimate of the probable cost of the renovation. Board members could solicit formal bids at a later time; or authorize Boldt to bid on some jobs and allow the CAFD to do basic repairs themselves.

In addition, the Cloquet City Administration has offered to sell the Station 1 building to the District for \$1.00 and the CAFD Board will probably vote to accept the offer. The Police Department will move out of the building in February.

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

Clerk Eames acknowledged receipt of several documents: A BLASD Board memo urging the Town Board to voluntarily connect to the proposed sewer system; the Chairman's Mid-Year Report for 2018; email comments between Chair Fredrickson and RBC (Reservation Business Committee) members; and approved minutes from the July 12, 2018, meeting.

Eames reported that she had attended the last meeting. FDL member Rennquist reported that the RBC was sorting out financial issues before voting on the JPA (Joint Powers Agreement). The BLASD Board has set a deadline of September 7, 2018.

Harms and DeLovely discussed the memo from the BLASD Board urging the Town Board to voluntarily connect to the proposed sewer system. (The Town Hall does not lie within the Big Lake Area Sanitary District and thus, is not required to connect.) DeLovely reported that the

Town has a 1,000 gallon holding tank which was installed in 1979. Harms noted that he had previously opposed the connection due to cost, minimal usage, and other considerations. However, now he would reconsider due to the possible future expansion of CAFD Station 2. Board members decided to delay a vote until September when Supervisor Olson will be present.

Harms repeated his prior claim that the proposed \$105 rate per month is unaffordable to many in the district and that the BLASD Board has not paid attention to that issue.

c. **Road and Bridge**

Supervisor DeLovely reported the following:

- The trapper has removed the beavers on Strand Road.
- He (DeLovely) will install the culverts on Ditchbank Road soon if conditions stay dry.
- Otherwise, things are relatively quiet.

A resident asked about leaves and branches obscuring road signs. DeLovely responded that brushing in the fall should solve this problem.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Old Housekeeping Items.**

(1)/ (2) Events Board, Room Capacity Sign, Outside Lights over Building Front Letters:

Harms reported that the Township has purchased a large erasable wall calendar for recording events; and a room capacity sign (100 persons). DeLovely reported that Chris from Black Diamond Electric will contact him when he is available to install lights over the letters on the Town Hall building front.

b. **Status of Demolition of Big Lake Store Building.**

Building Address: 796 Cary Road  
Parcel ID: 92-010-4272  
Owner: James W. Johnson  
Additional contact: Jason Johnson (son)  
Owner Address Attn: Jody Larson  
PO Box 1747, Bemidji, MN 56619

Chair Harms reported that the owners called him a couple of weeks ago to inform him that they had sold the property to another party; and that they would contact Harms when they knew the closing date. In the meantime, the Town Board has sent the Johnsons a letter, advising them that they must begin demolition by September 1, or face legal action.

c. **Status of Nuisance Ordinance**

Supervisor Olson had previously committed to setting up a meeting between FDL officials and the Perch Lake Town Board regarding the possibility of the Township contracting with the FDL for animal control enforcement if the Township passed its own ordinance. Olson has not had the opportunity to set up this meeting.

d. **SealTech Schedule for Crackpatching Township Roads**

Harms reported that SealTech, Inc., will crackpatch specific Township roads at the end of August or early in September.

e. **Follow-up from August Meeting: Complaint about Loggers Blocking Reponen Road.**

The discussion, previously initiated by a concern from Bob Lund, has been about whether Berthiaume Logging has (i) stored its logs in the right-of-way along Reponen Road; and/or (ii) blocked the road with its trucks. Last month, the Town Board determined that they were not storing logs in the road right-of-way. So that part of the discussion is over.

This meeting's discussion dealt with blocking the road. DeLovely reported that the Berthiaumes appear to be following the same rules as other contractors:

- If the contractor has his flashers on and is not blocking the entire road, he may park on the side of the road as needed.
- If he has two trucks blocking the road, then he is in violation of the law.

Lund continued to express concerns about how the trucks with their overhead buckets are a safety issue for passing buses. Resident Kurt Besser asked why the loggers must park on the side of the road instead of on their own land along the road. After some additional discussion, Board members agreed to investigate these concerns further.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **New Housekeeping Items**

- (1) New posting site for Township notices.  
Clerk Eames reported that Bill Jaskari, the owner of the Lounge on Big Lake Shores, has installed a bulletin board at his place of business for Township notices.

b. **Request to Rent Town Hall for Weekly Meetings with Fee Based on Contributions**

Harms reported that they had received a request from Jason Goward to hold weekly sobriety/wellness meetings at the Town Hall and pay a fee based on group member contributions. Board members opposed the idea and determined to enforce the current fees of \$50/event for residents and \$75/event, for non-residents, paid in advance. Goward was not present.

c. **Memo from Clerk re 2017 Error in Billing Cloquet Area Fire District.**

Clerk Eames reported that she had erroneously overbilled the CAFD by \$1,231.50. The Town Board approved a refund check for the CAFD when it approved the payment of claims earlier in the meeting. Eames' report was informational and required no further action.

d. **Review of Potential Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land in Perch Lake Township.**

Board members discussed the County's report of available tax-forfeited property within Perch Lake Township. Land Commissioner Gregory Bernu's accompanying letter asked the Town Board to indicate its approval or disapproval of the sale of the parcels by October 1, 2018.

**MOTION (DeLovely/Harms):** To approve the sale of tax-forfeited land included in the County Land Commissioner's letter, dated August 2, 2018. (The Clerk will notify the County of the Town Board's decision.) Motion carried.

e. **Draft Letter to R & J Fuchs re Permit for Second Driveway at 3191 Maple Drive.**

DeLovely reported that he received a call from the neighbor, who claimed that Fuchs has installed a circular driveway which overlaps the neighbor's driveway. DeLovely pointed out that each parcel is entitled to one access. Fuch's circular driveway is noncompliant. If he wants a

second driveway, he must apply for a permit from Perch Lake Township. Board members asked the Clerk to send the letter notifying Fuchs of the Board's concern.

f. **Review and Comment re CAFD Draft 2019 Budget.**

Board members reviewed and discussed the proposed 2019 Budget.

**MOTION (Harms/DeLovely):** To object to the CAFD's 2019 Budget as proposed, finding that the 14% increase is excessive; and that the District should make an additional effort to find savings to offset a levy increase. Motion carried.

g. **Mid-Year Reminder of BLASD Board Term Expiration: C Rousseau, December 31, 2018.**

Clerk Eames reminded Board members that Chris Rousseau's term on the BLASD Board expires on December 31, 2018. Board members asked Eames to put this on the November agenda, and invite Chair Fredrickson to that board meeting for a report update.

9. **VISITOR COMMENTS.**

Kurt Besser reported that the Big Lake Area Improvement Association held their meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2018. Mike Murray from FDL spoke regarding their fiber optic operation. Their service should be available in November. In addition, the 2019 calendars are ready.

10. **ADJOURNMENT.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

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Lora Eames, Clerk

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Gary Harms, Chair