

September 12, 2022

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gary Harms opened the September 12, 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 (delayed), Supervisor Keith DePre, Treasurer Cheri DeMenge, Clerk Lora Eames

Contractor: Tom DeLovely (Foreman)

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION (DePre/Harms): To approve the September 12, 2022, agenda with one change – the removal of Item 4. Motion carried.

3. RECEIPT/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION (DePre/Harms): To approve the August 8, 2022, regular meeting minutes as recorded. Motion carried.

RECEIVED: September 6, 2022, ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee meeting notes.

4. GUEST: HANNAH ALSTEAD, SENATOR TINA SMITH'S OFFICE

This item was deleted.

5. TREASURER/CLERK REPORTS.

a. Review/Approve Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cheri DeMenge provided the Treasurer's Report for August 2022.

MOTION (DePre/Harms): To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with a cash balance of \$610,003.77 for the period ending August 31, 2022. Motion carried.

b. Informational Clerk's Budget Report.

Clerk Eames reported that the Township could receive a property tax settlement of \$32,000 in December (based on last year). Also, she discussed the monthly budget.

Monthly Operating Budget for August 2022

Projected Revenues, incl. ARPA \$	\$255,367
Revenues Received YTD, incl. ARPA \$	-219,659
Not Yet Received	<u>\$35,708</u>
Projected Expenses	\$396,712
Disbursements Made YTD	-114,728
Under Budget YTD	<u>\$281,984</u>

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

The supervisors approved the following claims for payment:

a. Regular Claims

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

\$753.40	Late claims list for July: Claim Nos. #4746-#4747
118,879.82	Regular claims list for September 1-September 30: Claim Nos. #4748-#4756
964.13	Employee payroll for September 2022
1,081.55	Regular payroll for August 2022.
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\$121,678.90	Total

b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Claims.

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

\$35,420.92 Total

7. REPORTS.

a. Cloquet Area Fire District (CAFD).

Chair Harms reported on two items:

- The proposed levy increase for both ambulance and fire is 9.1%. The proposed levy increase for ambulance only is slightly over 100%. Once approved, these levy increases will be submitted to the County.
- The CAFD will staff Station 2 (Perch Lake) with two persons starting October 1.

b. Big Lake Area Sanitary District (BLASD)

Supervisor Depre reported nothing new; only that the BLASD Board is still trying to connect with the FDL Reservation Business Committee regarding the RBC's future plans for a sewer project. The BLASD will remain dormant for now.

c. Road and Bridge.

(1) Foreman Tom DeLovely reported that he:

- Worked on Watkins Spur, removing asphalt and laying class 5.
- Replaced the culvert on Bob's Drive; Olson will have the County do patching.
- Observed that Enbridge is improving T535, widening the road to eighteen feet.

(2) Supervisor Steve Olson reported that he:

- (a) Received a call from Todd Golley, Permit Agent, Enbridge, regarding troublesome beavers on Reponen Road; DeLovely was aware of the problem. Someone is trapping.
- (b) Received an email from Dale Dawson 3216 Maple Drive, who reported that the shoulder keeps washing out around his mailbox. DeLovely will lay gravel there to hold everything.

- (c) Reviewed/reduced Omar’s invoice for the Watkins Spur Rebuild. Final agreed-upon invoice:

Original bid	\$69,456.00
Shouldering (Ulland Bros.)	-3,180.00
Rebuild – Additional items - County	9,840.00
Select Granular Borrow	-1,681.94
Aggregate Base Class 5	293.76
Rebuild -Swale per Quote	<u>5,960.06</u>
Total	<u>\$80,687.88</u>

- (d) Received a call from Art Larson, 852 Brower Drive regarding the vacation of a platted road. See NB 9-d for discussion.

- (e) Heard from Ulland Bros. - they will pave Watkins Spur in early October.

(3) Miscellaneous:

- (a) Olson will report pavement holes on Salmi and Pine Grove Roads to County Transportation, who will make repairs per the contract with Perch Lake.
- (b) The supervisory consensus was that they should resume crackpatching next season to stay current with maintenance.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Old Housekeeping Items.

None.

b. Report on Elections and Candidate Filing.

Clerk Eames reported that the State Primary Election was held on August 9, 2022, with no issues, and with a 12.7% turnout rate (85 persons who showed up to vote/ 670 persons who were registered). In addition, three candidates filed affidavits for local offices – one each for Treasurer, Supervisor A, and Supervisor C.

c. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee.

Clerk Eames reported no recent updates from federal/state agencies.

The ARPA Committee met September 6, 2022, and made the following changes in the “Getting to Know Your Neighbor” Wednesday events:

- From weekly to twice a month, the first and third Wednesday.
- From 8:30 - 12:30 to 10:00 – 2:00.
- Two classes taught by artists and one community session by Sheriff Kelly Lake

The committee will reevaluate these changes in four months.

Eames confirmed that the committee has a \$10,000 budget, which the Board authorized for the purpose of “opening the Town Hall to the community.” The remaining balance is \$7,679.40.

Also, Eames reported her plans to withdraw from the committee in December.

d. Update on Town Hall Septic System – Supervisor Harms

Chair Harms expressed satisfaction with the work done by Matt DeCaigny in updating the Town Hall septic system. All that remains is for the County to certify the system’s compliance.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Housekeeping Items

None.

b. Approval of Additional Election Judges for November 8, 2022, General Election

Eames requested the approval of two additional judges for the General Election:

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve compensation for the following election judges: (Mileage is authorized for training.):

- Lucy Larson, 648 Enger Road, Cloquet
- Barbara Bassa, 2971 County Road 5, Barnum

Motion carried.

c. Approval of Enbridge Permit Change

(1) Recent History:

On August 9, 2022, the Board reviewed Enbridge’s request to construct a temporary access driveway for use during Line 3 and Line 4 removal. The mileage required along Magney Drive has increased. The request included a driveway access/entrance permit application (not Perch Lake’s form) and updated Exhibit A. The original Road Use Agreement with Perch Lake was signed October 2, 2018, and amended July 8, 2019.

Supervisors voted to submit the entire road use agreement and documents to Town Attorney Troy Gilchrist to review.

(2) Gilchrist Comments:

On September 12, 2022, Gilchrist emailed the following comment: “I reviewed the materials you sent and did not see anything of particular concern in the temporary drive permit except that it does not address drainage.”

(3) Town Board Actions

(a) Driveway Access

Supervisor Olson noted that the Enbridge site will need to be evaluated for a culvert just like any other driveway permit. Olson will send Enbridge the Township’s driveway access form, and require a culvert.

(b) Change to Road Use Permit

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve a change to the existing Enbridge Road Use Agreement to include the entire Magney Drive in the road use permit (previously, the document had just specified Cary Road to Brower Drive) Motion carried.

d. Petition – Arthur Larson, 852 Brower Drive – Vacation of Platted Road (Never Built)

Town supervisors visited with Larson who requested a vacation of the platted road north of his property. (The platted road was never built.) Larson reported that he needs additional room for a new sewer; he currently has a holding tank.

Supervisors wondered if the road belongs to the Township; they would have to research the original plat. This would take time; in addition, the vacation process itself is lengthy. After some discussion, they referred Larson to Chris Berg, Zoning and Environmental Services.

e. Consideration of Quote for Electric Message Board – Sign Pro (Lehet)

Chair Harms and the supervisors reviewed the following quotes for an electric message board.

Summary of Quotes for Electronic Message Board				
Contractor	Date	Item/Task	Quote 1	Quote 2
Mike Lehet SignPro		Freestanding message center		
▪ Option 1	09/11/22	4-foot height x 8-foot wide	\$46,000	
▪ Option 2	09/11/22	3-foot height x 8-foot wide		\$40,300
Mike DeCaigny DeCaigny Excavating	09/11/22	Power trench for new sign.	\$3,150	
Nathan Sapic Benson Electric	09/09/22	20-amp circuit to message board (Excavation not included)	\$2,990	

Both Harms and Eames advocated for the board, stating that the board could be used for promoting the Annual Meeting, regular and special meetings, elections, and other events. After some discussion, the supervisors voted to purchase the largest size.

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve the purchase and installation of a 4-foot by 8-foot, freestanding electric message board to include a power trench and electrical circuit, for a total amount of \$52,140, based on the following quotes:

- SignPro (Mike Lehet) \$46,000
- DeCaigny Excavating (Mike DeCaigny) 3,150
- Benson Electric (Nathan Sapic) 2,990

Motion carried.

f. Report on MAT District 10 Meeting, held August 25, 2022

Harms, Eames, and DeMenge listened to the Zoom meeting at the Town Hall. Harms recalled that Mary Murphy, House Representative (District 03b), is advocating for a special session this fall to consider infrastructure funds for township roads.

g. County Board of Appeal (CBA):

(1) David Buskala

The Clerk reported that the CBA will hold a public hearing on September 20, 2022, 7:00 p.m., at County Transportation to consider the following variance permit request:

David Buskala, 3177 Heritage Road (PIN 92-034-5425): “Allow a line adjustment that will result in the subject parcel becoming more nonconforming in lot width and lot area. As a result of the lot line adjustment, a nonconforming shed, privy and deck will need to be relocated to the subject parcel. The structures are nonconforming as they do not meet the required setback to the ordinary high-water level and/or road right-of-way.”

Supervisor Depre said he planned to attend the meeting.

(2) **Iverson Inn, Inc.**

Depre reported that the CBA denied the variance request.

10. VISITOR COMMENTS

Resident Kurt Besser asked about future schedule for road improvements. Olson responded that the Board has no set schedule for future road improvements. Watkins Spur project is depleting much of the Capital Improvements Fund; so, the Township would have to “build up” funds over the next few years. Also, Harms noted that future projects may require assessments.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

Lora Eames, Clerk

Gary Harms, Chair