

October 10, 2022

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Gary Harms opened the October 10, 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

Contractor: Tom DeLovely (Foreman)

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the October 10, 2022, agenda as presented. Motion carried.

3. RECEIPT/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve the September 12, 2022, regular meeting minutes as amended by the Clerk in an email to supervisors, dated October 10, 2022, clarifying the Board's motion regarding a change to the Enbridge Road Use Agreement. Motion carried.

RECEIVED: October 3, 2022, ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Committee meeting notes.

4. TREASURER/CLERK REPORTS.

a. Review/Approve Treasurer's Report

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

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with a cash balance of \$459,396.99 for the period ending September 30, 2022. Motion carried.

b. Informational Clerk's Budget Report.

Clerk Eames projected, based on last year's record, that the Township could receive approximately \$32,200 in December from property tax settlements.

Monthly Operating Budget for September 2022

Projected Revenues, incl. ARPA \$	\$255,367
Revenues Received YTD, incl. ARPA \$	-220,795
Not Yet Received	<u>\$34,572</u>
Projected Expenses	\$396,712
Disbursements Made YTD	-266,470
Under Budget YTD	<u>\$130,242</u>

5. 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 September 2022.
Motion carried.

\$27,982.11	Late claims list for September 2022: #4757-#4761
8,297.29	Regular claims list for October 1-October 31: Claim Nos. #4762-#4782
942.30	Employee payroll for October 2022
67.50	Election payroll for October 2022
2,731.98	Regular payroll for October 2022.
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\$40,021.18	Total

b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Claims.

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

\$25,089.17 Total

6. REPORTS.

a. Cloquet Area Fire District (CAFD).

Chair Harms had nothing to report.

b. Big Lake Area Sanitary District (BLASD)

Supervisor Depre had nothing to report.

c. Road and Bridge.

(1) Foreman Tom DeLovely:

- Beavers have plugged the culverts on Reponen and Strand, flooding the roads.
- An unknown vehicle is tearing up ditches on Strand Road, making ruts.
- Enbridge's repair work on T535 on Ditchbank Road should be done in a week.

(2) Supervisor Olson reported on Enbridge, beaver issues, and Watkins Spur.

(a) Enbridge

- (1) Township Road 535 – Olson received a call from Todd Golley, Enbridge in May/June regarding Enbridge's plan to replace culverts there. Since then, the project has become a total rebuild of T535, including the laying of fabric and replacement of culverts with larger-size culverts. Olson has a copy of the plans.
- (2) Gates at T535 and T536 – Olson received a call from Golley, who asked to leave the two gates intact until Enbridge has finished

decommissioning the lines: Olson okayed Golley's request. In addition, Olson wondered if the Town supervisors should leave the gates there permanently so they could block off the area in the spring breakup. If they keep the gates there, he will contact the Tribe (since it is mostly their land). He will speak with Golley about having locks on the gates.

(The Board originally approved the semi-permanent gate to limit access only to T535 and T536 on March 8, 2021.)

(b) Beaver Issues

- (1) Olson found the Reponen Road culvert was plugged; so, he got barrels from the County to mark water on the road. (When he returned the barrels, one was missing, so the County might bill the Township.)
- (2) Olson heard that the County used trapezoid-shaped fencing to contain beavers on Cary Road, north of Highway 210. He called Robert Dahl, the Road Maintenance Superintendent, who will send Olson information about this new setup for beavers.
- (3) Olson contacted Trapper Brett Collier, who has not returned his call.

(c) Watkins Spur Extension

- (1) Olson reported that he will order a stop sign for the Watkins Spur extension. He will not likely do a one-way since (i) the post office will want to have mailboxes moved to the other side; and (ii) the road does not have sufficient traffic for a one-way.
- (2) Olson reported that Ulland will start paving on Thursday. Olson will inform the residents for which he has emails/phone numbers.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Old Housekeeping Items.

None.

b. General Election

- (1) Approval of substitute judge(s) if any.

Clerk Eames had no additional judges for approval.

- (2) Approval of mileage for all judges (including the commute to the Town Hall)

Eames reference her October 7, 2022, memo to the Board requesting approval to reimburse election judges for commuting to the Town Hall for the General Election. (Reimbursing for commuting miles is not desirable in standard policy; however, in this case, it is allowable per Minnesota Association of Townships.)

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To approve mileage for all election judges working the General Election, including the commuting miles to the Town Hall. Motion carried.

c. American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Committee – Clerk Eames/Treasurer Cheri DeMenge.

Clerk Eames reported that the remaining budget for opening the Town Hall on Wednesdays is \$6,231.00. The committee offers coffee twice a month, the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Few residents have attended the coffee time. So, the committee is moving ahead with classes. Jeanette Olson reported that the first class taught by Connie Eckholm had eight attendees. They observed that attendees had a good time and generated ideas for additional classes. The committee plans two more classes on November 2 and December 7. They cancelled the talk with Sheriff Kelly Lake on November 16.

In addition, Eames reported the following:

- She will be leaving the committee in December.
- The committee is still interested in doing a farmer’s market/craft fair.

d. Enbridge

Enbridge Request for Temporary Access (Driveway) Permit to Magney Drive.

After some discussion, the supervisors approved the following motion.

MOTION (Olson/Depre): To approve Enbridge’s permit application for temporary access to Magney Drive, dated September 26, 22, pending review by Supervisor Olson. A culvert, though not needed at this time, may be required upon greater inspection. Motion carried.

e. Electric Message Sign – SignPro Request for Additional Compensation

(1) History:

On September 12, 2022, the Town Board approved the following motion:

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. Motion carried.

▪ SignPro (Mike Lehet)	\$46,000
▪ DeCaigny Excavating (Mike DeCaigny)	3,150
▪ Benson Electric (Nathan Sapic)	2,990
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Total	\$52,140

(2) SignPro Request for Additional Compensation:

On September 29, 2022, Mike Lehet (SignPro) sent an email, asking if he and DeCaigny could invoice the township for additional costs for:

- installing the board at ten feet above ground height.
- work done when encountering the water table at 36 inches – having to widen the hole, add rock to base of hole, and supplying a water pump to keep bottom of hole dry while a box was formed for concrete base.

On October 3, 2022, Lehet followed up with another email, asking for an additional \$1,700 for base and pole structure over and above original bid (panels shown much

lower to ground); price includes seeding/raking of area, and temporary metal posts to mark sign base corners. The Clerk received no request directly from DeCaigny.

(3) Township Response to Request

Harms asked Board members to review a draft letter of response, which denied Lehet's request as follows: "We accepted your quote of \$46,000 as a firm amount to complete the project. Any increased costs that were not anticipated by you are still your responsibility." After some discussion, the supervisors approved the following motion:

MOTION (Depre/Olson): To send a letter to Mike Lehet, SignPro, denying his request for an additional \$1,700. Motion carried.

Depre recalled that Lehet had promised to come out with his lift to hold up the 4-foot by 8-foot sheet. Harms will remind Lehet of this issue.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Housekeeping.

None.

b. Set Date for Special Meeting to Develop 2023 Operating Budget

The supervisors set the special meeting for Monday, November 28, 2022, 9:00 a.m., for the Special Budget Meeting.

c. US Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs: Notice of Decision-Intent to Take Land into Trust

The supervisors acknowledged receipt of the BIA correspondence. They took no action.

d. County Board of Appeal (CBA):

(1) Carla Werner: Public hearing on October 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., County Transportation to consider the following:

Carla Werner, 3202 Bobs Drive (PIN 92-050-0660 & 92-010-4068): "Construct a deck on a nonconforming dwelling on a nonconforming lot. The dwelling is considered nonconforming as it does not meet the required setback from the road right-of-way of Magney Drive or Bobs Drive. The lot is considered nonconforming as it does not meet the required lot width or lot area requirements."

Supervisors discussed this permit request. Depre will request a development review from Zoning, but he was sure that the County would honor the request.

(2) David Buskala: Notice of Decision from CBA hearing on September 20, 2022.

Buskala's variance was granted with conditions. Depre said that he did not go the meeting. (The matter was handled appropriately with conditions.)

10. VISITOR COMMENTS

Resident Tim Hafvenstein raised the issue of logging trucks on Cary Road: Are they avoiding the weight stations? Will their long-term use of the road cause damage? Supervisors noted that they are not necessarily avoiding the scale. Olson mentioned that the road is technically built to a ten-ton standard. In addition, Depre suggested that someone send an email to Sheriff Lake.

Resident Kurt Besser discussed the eroded driveway on a nearby launch area and asked for ideas on how to resolve the matter. Supervisors discussed various options.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

Lora Eames, Clerk

Gary Harms, Chair