

Road Report 2023 Annual Meeting

Twice this spring we had water running over the road on Bob's Drive flooding the crawl space of two cabins and causing significant erosion on a driveway. The situation was investigated with the help of the Carlton County Transportation Department (CCTD). The culvert on Bob's Drive is 12 inches while upstream; where the drainage crosses Magney Drive, that culvert is 30 inches. There is not enough room for a 30-inch culvert at the Bob's Drive. This is where CCTD helped. They recommended a 21" X 15" arch pipe culvert. This culvert will be 21 inches wide and the base yet only 15 inches tall. The extra width on the bottom will allow more flow. Tom DeLovely installed the culvert on Bob's Drive last fall. The spring snowmelt will provide a good test for the new culvert.

Culverts on Reponen Road and Strand Road had the ends crushed during the Enbridge Line 3 construction. Tom DeLovely replaced both these culverts. The township billed Enbridge for the replacement of the two culverts.

A culvert on Ditchbank Road collapsed and plugged. After a heavy rain event, water ran over the road. This was the same rain event that caused one of the Bob's Drive events. Tom replaced the culvert.

June 28 dust control was applied on the township gravel roads. The dust control not only reduces dust around the residents it also reduces wash boarding on the roads. Then the roads do not have to be graded as often.

Due to a parking problem on Maple Drive, the town board approved placing no parking signs on portions of Maple Drive. The signs were installed after the 4th of July.

June 25th there was water over Kotiranta Road. A beaver dam downstream probably caused the problem. Tom DeLovely took out the dam with an excavator. Strand Road west of the Enbridge pipeline continues to have beaver problems. We have been working on trapping and tearing out dams on Strand Road.

Different this summer was the rebuild of Watkins Spur. It has been quite a while since the township has done a road rebuild.

Watkins Spur is a relatively small road with a 14-foot width and a little over 900 feet in length. Watkins Spur was in very poor shape and had numerous drainage problems. Watkins Spur also was a dead-end road with a poorly designed cul-de-sac. Given the narrow width and the poorly designed cul-de-sac Carlton County was unable to plow the road in the winter. Emergency vehicles such as fire and ambulance had a difficult time maneuvering on the road. The rebuild included the elimination of the cul-de-sac and punching the road back out to Lakeview drive creating a loop. Creating the loop solved the access problems for the snowplow and emergency vehicles. The Carlton County Transportation Department completed the road design for Watkins Spur. They insured that the plow would be able to access the new road by staking out the plan and working with the plow driver to ensure access.

The project was bid out in February of 2022. Perch Lake Township received 6 bids. Omar's Sand and Gravel was awarded the rebuild portion of the project and Ulland Bros was awarded the paving portion of the project. The total bid amount for the project was \$139,078. The final cost could go up or down based on quantities of materials used. Omar's began work on the project July 25 and completed Aug 2. Ulland Bros Completed the paving in one day on October 24. The final cost for rebuild and paving was \$139,306.90.

The township had beaver problems on Reponen Rd and Strand Road. A trapper was hired to trap out the problem beaver. The culverts where Otter Creek crosses Reponen Road were plugged by the problem beaver causing flooding on Strand and Reponen Roads.

December brought us snow. The snowstorm of December 13 to 16 brought us ice and wet heavy snow. The snow clung to the trees and bent many over. Many of us lost power for several days. It also made plowing difficult. Some roads required tree clearing before they could be plowed. Perch Lake Township worked several days removing trees for the plows. The Carlton County plows were able to partially open the roads before the end of the week. We were hoping that the snow would come off the trees in a couple of days but that did not happen. The Carlton County Transportation Department asked the township to clear more hanging trees so they could plow township roads full width. Perch Lake Township had nearly 3 miles to clear so instead of using chainsaws and polesaws to remove the trees the township contracted with DeCaigny Excavating. DeCaigny brought in an excavator to smash down the overhanging trees. The resulting debris was pushed to the side of the road. This allowed the CCTD access to plow the road full width. Perch Lake Township will have a mess to clean up in the spring.

Fortunately, Carlton County requested an Emergency Declaration from the Governor. The Governor made the Emergency Declaration on January 31, 2023. The Emergency Declaration opens State Emergency funds to assist local governments. The state emergency funds will pay for 75% of Perch Lake Township actual expenses including clean up in the spring. The cleanup will include those trees that are still hanging over the roads to prevent future blockages due to fallen trees.

The December snow storm has called to the Board's attention that we need to increase vegetation control on our road sides. There are some township roads where trees and brush are nearly encroaching the driving surface. The trees and brush obscure sight distances, limit snow plowing width, and can wind up in the driving lane after storms like the one last December. The Board will be looking at clearing out 10 to 20 feet from the driving lane. This will probably take several years to complete.

Last November, the Perch Lake Township entered into a new road maintenance agreement with the Carlton County Transportation Department. The CCTD wanted to standardize agreements with the townships. The agreement covers grading of gravel roads, snow and ice removal, emergency repairs, purchase of materials, sign maintenance, and engineering services. Snow and ice removal may be a of particular interest. High traffic volume roads have priority for snow removal. Snow plowing will occur after at least 2 inches of snow has accumulated. Gravel roads may not be plowed when road surface is soft. Low volume roads may see reduced snow plow service on weekends and holidays.

2022 Road and Bridge Accounting

I. ROAD & BRIDGE RECEIPTS

a.	Road Taxes Levied for 2022	\$91,010	
b.	Amount Collected in 2022	\$91,011	\$91,011
c.	Other Receipts		
	State Gas Tax Road Allotment	\$15,756	
	State Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$465	
	Town Aid	\$287	
	Access Permit (Driveway) Fees	\$50	
	Utility Permit Fees	\$250	
	Culverts	\$0	
	Interest Earned	\$300	
	Miscellaneous	\$7,209	
	Transfer from Government Fund	\$15,000	
		\$39,317	\$39,317
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$130,328	\$130,328

II. ROAD & BRIDGE DISBURSEMENTS

Street Maintenance Materials, Culverts & Storage			
	Calcium Chloride	\$8,188	
	Miscellaneous, Sand & Salt	\$2,063	
	Culverts	\$4,680	
	Miscellaneous materials, i.e., cold mix	\$110	
	DeCaigny - Storage of Class 5	\$500	
		\$15,541	\$15,541
b.	Road Work		
	Jerry's Roadside Mowing	\$1,450	
	Carlton County - General Roadwork	\$724	
	DeLovely - General Roadwork	\$19,130	
	Omar's Sand & Gravel, Inc. (Watkins Spur)	\$80,688	
	Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$58,622	
	Miscellaneous	\$46	
		\$160,660	\$160,660

c. Signs			
Carlton County - Signs & Related Repair Materials	\$157		
	<u>\$157</u>	\$157	
d. Snow Removal on Township Roads			
Carlton County	\$11,362		
DeLovely - Watkins Spur	\$900		
	<u>\$12,262</u>	\$12,262	
d. Professional Services			
Carlton County - Professional Engineering Services	\$11,050	\$11,050	
e. Animal Control			
Brett Collier	\$825	\$825	
		<u><u>\$200,495</u></u>	-\$200,495
III. DIFF BETWEEN RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS			<u><u>-\$70,167</u></u>