



Perch Lake Township News

2779 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, MN 55720 Summer 2019-01

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ROAD AND BRIDGE UPDATE

The condition of township roads impacts the residents who live along them every day. The town board strives to keep township roads in good shape.

We had an especially hard winter with snow falls lasting into May. The exceptionally long winter resulted in enormous snowbanks. Residents were running out of room to plow snow. The County was having the same problem on township roads from residents pushing snow across the roads to the opposite side. This resulted in the County running out of room to

plow township roads. The county plows were barely able to get through when plowing as a result of residents pushing snow across the road. It is illegal to obstruct a road or deposit snow or ice thereon according to Minnesota Statute 160.2715.

The Township's next big road project will be Watkins Spur on the west



Aerial View of Watkins Spur

side of Big Lake. This year the Carlton County Transportation Department will be completing engineering on the project. A public meeting on the project was held on February 12, 2019. A second public meeting will be held using the engineering results in the fall of 2019. Road construction is planned for 2020.

On April 20, the board supervisors completed a road inspection which resulted in the following recommendations:

- Add class V gravel to Bergman Road, Reponen Road east of

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Town Board meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

- August 12
- September 9
- October 14
- November 12 (rescheduled from regular meeting due to Veteran's Day)
- December 9

ELECTIONS IN 2019 AND 2020

Earlier this year, Tony Lourey (prev. State Senator District 11) was appointed to serve as the Commissioner of the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services. This appointment created a vacancy for Senator,

District 11. Therefore, the Governor called for a Special Election to fill this vacancy. This included Perch Lake Township.

Two elections were held in

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Town Board Members:

Chairman Gary Harms, (218) 451-1629
 Supervisor Steve Olson, (218) 591-1795
 Supervisor Keith Depre, (218) 348-4119
 Treasurer Cheri DeMenge, (218) 390-0636
 Clerk Lora Eames, (218) 391-9178

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ELECTIONS IN 2019 AND 2020

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Perch Lake Township:

1. Special Primary on January 22.
2. Special General Election on February 5 with 197 eligible voters at Perch Lake Township and a 31.6% voter turnout.

Jason Rarick won the Special General Election to fill the Senate District 11 seat.

There will be three elections at the Perch Lake Town Hall in 2020:

1. The 2020 Presidential Primary

will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

2. The State Primary will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.
3. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Next year's primary election replaces a system in which Minnesota's parties had expressed presidential preference via a caucus system. The precinct caucuses will not go away. They will be held on February 25, 2020, to conduct other party business.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

On April 3, 2019, the Perch Lake Town Board and the Carlton County Assessor held a Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting at the Perch Lake Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to review property assessments for 2020.

County Assessor Kyle Holmes reported that Perch Lake values have remained unchanged within the last three years. However, that has changed with a number of home sales and higher purchase prices, reflected in higher

assessments. The average increases in Perch Lake were:

- 23% for off-lake, off-water property.
- 13% for on-lake, on-water property.

Residents who appeared in front of the board could make their concerns known, have an inspection done, and present an appeal of their assessments. Several persons had changes made in their assessments.

GET INVOLVED!

The Board would like to encourage Perch Lake Township citizens to have their voices heard. Come to the meetings on the second Monday of every month in the town hall building at 2779 Big Lake Road. They last about an hour and we go through everything that matters to you! Items such as roads and bridges, the Cloquet Area Fire Fire District, and the Big Lake Area Sanitary District. *So join us and let's make Perch Lake the best township in the State of Minnesota!*

Feedback from our first newsletter was very positive. Therefore, we will continue to provide updates on township matters via periodic publications. If you find this newsletter helpful, please let us know by contacting Lora Eames at 218-391-9178, or perchlaketownship@gmail.com or leames@perchlaketownship.org. Suggestions are welcome to add anything to our next addition. Thank you!

BIG LAKE AREA SANITARY DISTRICT

Big Lake Area Sanitary District (BLASD) project is still on hold. The FDL Reservation Business Committee (RBC) has chosen to not sign a joint powers agreement (JPA) with BLASD which would have moved the project forward. FDL cites concerns with cost, control and fairness. The BLASD Board would like to hold a mediation session with the RBC. Meanwhile, Town Chairman Gary Harms will contact RBC members to see what can be done to get the project back on track.



PERCH LAKE RECYCLING CENTER

The Perch Lake Recycling Center, located adjacent to the Town Hall, continues to serve our residents at a high level and you are encouraged to bring your recyclables to us for further processing. We also collect cardboard, including cereal boxes and paper egg cartons.

The hours of operation are Wednesday – Friday from 2:00-6:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

This is a free service to all.

The Cloquet Area Fire District is always looking for volunteers. These are on-call paid positions and paid training.
 Contact Darren at 218-499-4258

CLOQUET AREA FIRE DISTRICT

As a member of the Cloquet Area Fire District (CAFD), Perch Lake Township is represented on the District Board by Township Chairman Gary Harms. Our views are always about providing the best service at an affordable cost to Perch Lake taxpayers. We continue to support the goal of increased community membership.

included in the State Legislature's bonding bill. Instead, the District is focused on the repair and upgrade of the building on Cloquet Avenue. Also, with the addition of Station 4 in Brevator, the CAFD Board is taking a hard look at expanding the current facilities at both Perch Lake and Brevator.

The CAFD Board is not currently pursuing a new fire station headquarters because they were not successful in having the project

Chairman Gary Harms reported that CAFD Fire Chief Kevin Schroeder plans to retire in June 2020; therefore, the CAFD Board will create a succession plan for his replacement.

Just a reminder

to residents regarding clearing driveways or yards of snow, leaves, and debris:

It is against the law to push snow and ice onto a Township roadway.

It is against the law to dump leaves or other debris onto a Township roadway.

Our Town Hall continues to be available for rentals. The rates are \$50.00 for township residents and \$75.00 for non-residents. It's an excellent choice for birthdays, bridal showers, meetings, etc., as the rental includes a recently remodeled kitchen with all amenities. Contact Pat Anderson at 218-879-9720 for an application.

If you have any stories and/or photos that relate to the history of Perch Lake Township, please contact Lora Eames at 218-391-9178 or email them to perchlaketownship@gmail.com. We will make every effort to get them into the next newsletter.

ROAD AND BRIDGE UPDATE

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- #1022, Strand Road on wetland crossings, and Hardwood Lake Road west of #3012.
- Crack sealing on Brower Drive, Magney Drive, Lyndhurst Bay

Drive and Hardwood Lake Road east of #3012.

- A collapsed culvert will be replaced on Brower Drive.
- Calcium Chloride was applied on gravel roads on June 12 for dust control.



Beaver Dam north of Strand Road culvert #9

Strand Road experienced water over the Road in May and June. A beaver trapper has been hired to remove the nuisance beaver. When the beavers are trapped the dams are removed by our road contractor. This is an annual problem.

In addition, we hear from County Transportation that they will resurface the Big Lake Road in 2021 as a federally-funded project.

In loving memory of...

Ray Larson passed away on November 15, 2018, and his son Phill Larson passed away on June 1, 2019. Ray and Phill logged and farmed together and both were active members in the St. Mary and Joseph's church on Mission Road. Ray was an avid rummage saler and loved going to the Big Lake rummage sales. He was a very gentle man and was friendly to everyone. Ray lived in Perch Lake Township for 58 years! Although Phill was a resident of Sawyer at the time of his death, he grew up in Perch Lake Township. Phill had a huge heart and was always ready to help anyone who needed anything repaired. He was known as "The tall guy from Sawyer."

The death of these two wonderful men are a terrible loss to the Larson family.

WHAT IS A TOWN BOARD?

A *town board* is an elected body chosen to conduct the affairs of the town. The governing body of a standard township is comprised of three supervisors, a clerk and a treasurer. If elections are in March, supervisors serve three-year terms, while clerks and treasurers serve two-year terms. If elections are in November, supervisors have either a four- or six-year term while the clerk and treasurer hold four-year terms. The powers and duties of towns and town officers are set out in state statute.

There are optional forms of town government provided for in statute that allow the town voters to change the basic town board structure by appointing the clerk and/or treasurer, combining the clerk and treasurer positions, adopting a five member board of supervisors, choosing

November elections, or using mail-in ballots (provided your county approves).

Perch Lake Township holds its elections in November. The supervisors, clerk, and treasurer each serve four-year terms.



This spring we continued to make improvements to the Town Hall property - hanging flower planters and a permanent lighted display of the flag. In addition, we added lights above the outside letters on the building.

<http://www.perchlaketownship.org>

We're on the web

Perch Lake Township
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