

**March 11, 2024**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Gary Harms opened the March 11, 2024, 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

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

**MOTION (Olson/Depre):** To approve the March 11, 2024, regular agenda with the addition of the following items.

- Item 6-d: Meeting with FDL Reservation Business Committee, March 6, 2024.
- Item 7-b: Discussion of Upcoming Classes.

Motion carried.

**3. RECEIPT/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. February 12, 2024, Regular Minutes**

**MOTION (Depre/Olson):** To approve the February 12, 2024, regular minutes as recorded.  
Motion carried.

**b. February 12, 2024, Board of Audit Minutes**

**MOTION (Olson/Depre):** To approve the February 12, 2024, Board of Audit minutes as recorded.  
Motion carried

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**a. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer DeMenge provided the Treasurer's Report for February 2024.

**MOTION (Olson/Depre):** To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with a cash balance of \$277,308.76 for the period ending February 29, 2024. Motion carried.

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

Supervisors approved the regular claims and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) claims for payment.

**a. Regular Claims**

**MOTION (Depre/Olson):** To approve the payment of regular claims. Motion carried.

\$2,118.00 Late claims list for February 12, 2024: Claims #5085 - #5087

4,288.92 Regular claims list for March 11, 2024: Claims #5088 - #5105

813.33	Employee payroll for March 5, 2024
1,715.00	Election judge payroll for March 11, 2024
2,204.80	Regular payroll for March 11, 2024
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\$11,140.05	Total

**b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Claims.**

**MOTION (Olson/Depre):** To approve the payment of ARPA claims. Motion carried.

\$250.00 Total

**6. REPORTS**

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

Chair Harms reported that things have been quiet and Chief Jesse Buhs would be at the Annual Meeting on March 12, 2024.

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

Supervisor Depre reported that the County sent letters to owners of noncompliant septic systems on Big Lake, notifying them that they must replace their systems within two years.

**c. Road and Bridge.**

**(1) Tom DeLovely, Foreman**

DeLovely had no specific report but offered comments as needed.

**(2) Steve Olson, Road & Bridge Supervisor**

a. Olson reported that he had checked the gravel roads – all are in decent shape. Ditchbank Road has some soft spots. Enbridge is still hauling.

b. Olson reported that he got a call from Todd Golley, Enbridge, regarding a waiver of road restrictions.

c. Olson reminded Board members that they need to:

- obtain estimates for pipe replacement.
- re-gravel Ditchbank, Strand, Lake (south), and Reponen.

**(3) General discussion**

**(a) Weight restrictions**

Olson reported that Minnesota Statute 169.87 establishes seasonal weight restrictions:

- unpaved roads – 5-ton.
- paved roads - 10-ton.

Local authorities can set weight restrictions for township roads. Olson advised that the Township’s paved roads should be posted for 5-ton.

After some discussion, supervisors approved a motion to purchase six 5-ton weight restriction signs.

**MOTION (Harms/Depre):** To approve the posting of six 5-ton weight restriction signs on Hardwood Lake Road, Homestead Road, Jarvinen Road, Magney Drive (east side), Maple Drive (east side) and Salmi Road. (The township will order signs from Carlton County Transportation.) Motion carried.

**(b) 2024 Road Inspection Tour**

Supervisors made arrangements for the Road Inspection Tour and agreed to meet at Perch Lake Town Hall on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

**d. Meeting with Fond Du Lac Reservation Business Committee (RBC)**

*Chair Gary Harms*

Harms reported that the supervisors met with the FDL RBC on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The purpose was to discuss and collaborate on topics of mutual interest. He described the meeting as productive – with “good give and take both ways” They discussed roads, including a bike pedestrian path along Big Lake Road. (The FDL is applying for a grant to extend the bike path from the Tribal Center out towards Perch Lake.) Supervisors mentioned the Big Lake Area Sanitary District, but FDL did not pursue that discussion.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Old Housekeeping.**

None.

**b. American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Committee (Treasurer DeMenge):**

DeMenge requested approval for two classes – one for a dragonfly suncatcher and one series of five yoga classes:

**MOTION (Olson/Depre):** To approve the following classes:

- Dragonfly Suncatcher Thursday, April 18, 2024, 1:30-3:30 One class
- Yoga Wednesdays April 3 – May 8 Five classes  
Instructor will take April 24th off \$10 fee/5 classes

Motion carried.

**c. Discussion of Storeroom of Remodel – Quote from John Melin.**

Harms presented a plan shown below for (i) enlarging the storage area entry and (ii) making it easier for everyone to set up for meetings and events.

Name	Project	Unit Costs	Totals
John Mellin 5387 Highway 31 Cluver, MN 55779	Enlarge entry to 8-ft. opening (w/o door)	\$30 per hr. x 4 hrs. + materials for header/trim boards	\$120 + materials
Uline Corporate Headquarters 12575 Uline Drive Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158	Purchase eleven 6-ft tables to replace 8-ft tables.	\$115 per table x 3 \$105 per table x 8	\$345 \$840
	Table dolly		\$435

After some discussion, supervisors agreed that they should hold onto some 8-foot tables and purchase four six-foot tables.

**MOTION (Depre/Olson):** To approve the widening of the storage area entry and the purchase of new equipment, to include:

- contracting with John Melin, based on a quote for \$120 + materials.
- ordering four 6-foot tables and one dolly for a cost of \$885.

Motion carried.

**d. Review Quotes for Township’s Annual Road Maintenance Contracts.**

Harms announced that the Town Board had received two quotes from Tom DeLovely – one for brushing, mulching, and equipment and one for loading and hauling.

2024 Summary of Quotes Perch Lake Township Road Maintenance Contracts		
Tom DeLovely 3053 Jarvinen Road Cloquet, MN 55720	Brushing	\$155.00 hr.
	Mulching	\$275.00 hr.
	Equipment	\$145.00 hr.
	Loading & Hauling Town-Supplied:	
	▪ Class 5	\$9.50 cy.
	▪ Pit Run Gravel	\$9.50 cy.

The supervisors reviewed and approved quotes received from Tom DeLovely.

**MOTION (Olson/Depre):** To contract with Tom DeLovely for the brushing, mulching, and equipment on Township roads, based on quotes of brushing at \$155.00 per hour, mulching at \$275.00 per hour, and equipment at \$145.00 per hour. Motion carried.

**MOTION (Olson/Depre):** To contract with Tom DeLovely for the loading and hauling of Township-supplied Class 5 and pit run gravel on Township roads, based on a quote of \$9.50 per cubic yard. Motion carried.

Olson brought up two points regarding the gravel – (i) that the Township wishes to have its own supply of gravel for its roads; and (ii) the Township should seek quotes for gravel.

**d. Consideration of Roadside Mowing Bids**

Harms reported that the Town Board had received two quotes – one from Jerry Telker (Jerry’s Roadside Mowing, LLC), and one from Eric Carlson. Both quotes were based on a flat fee for roads mowed in past years.

2024 Summary of Quotes Perch Lake Township Roadside Mowing Contract	
Jerry Telker Jerry’s Roadside Mowing LLC 94102 Telker Road, Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783	\$1,250
Eric Carlson 1008 Spring Lake Road, Cloquet, MN 55720	\$2,000

After some discussion, supervisors approved the quote from Eric Carlson.

**MOTION (Depre/Olson):** To contract with Jerry Telcher, Jerry’s Road Side Mowing, LLC, for the mowing of Perch Lake Township roadsides, based on a quote of \$1,250. Motion carried.

**e. Report on Presidential Nomination Primary Election, March 5, 2024**

Eames reported that both shifts went smoothly with no incidents reported. She will provide additional information about costs in April.

Those voting at the Town Hall	104
Absentee voters	9
Total voters	113
Voter turnout 113 (total voters)/638 (total registered voters)	17.7%

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. New Housekeeping**

Treasurer DeMenge asked everyone to submit their claims by Thursday, April 4, since Town Board members will attend the MAT spring short course in Duluth on Friday, April 5.

**b. Set Date for Road Inspection Tour.**

Previously discussed. See 3-b.

**c. Revisit Town Board Motion of May 8, 2023, Authorizing ARPA Committee to Plan Community Celebration.**

**(1) Introduction/History**

Supervisor Depre had previously requested this item on the agenda.

Eames recalled that residents approved Elector Resolution No. 2023-002 at the Annual Meeting, held March 14, 2023, authorizing the Town Board to hold a community celebration for an amount up to \$5,000.

The Town Board passed the following motion on May 8, 2023: “To authorize the ARPA Committee to prepare plans for a community event, based on Elector Resolution No. 2023-002 as approved by residents at the March 14, 2023, Annual Meeting and limited to \$5,000. (This authorization does not presume that an event will take place.)”

**(2) Discussion & Action**

The Town Board never had a community celebration, and the Board never rescinded the motion of May 8, 2023. Depre pointed out that the Board should have unearmarked the \$5,000 previously earmarked for the community celebration. Supervisors were in consensus with this and passed a motion to rescind the motion.

**MOTION (Depre/Harms):** To rescind the motion made by the Town Board on May 8, 2023, authorizing a community celebration, and earmarking \$5,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for that purpose; and to return the same \$5,0000 to the ARPA Fund. Motion carried.

DeMenge reported that residents will discuss the Farmers Market at the Annual Meeting (March 12). She wondered what to say about funding the Farmers Market - the Township will not have sufficient ARPA funds to cover the cost of this event. Supervisors advised her to tell residents that the money to pay for the Farmers Market will come from the General Fund.

**d. Revised Rental Agreement.**

Chair Harms and Rental Manager Olson offered a revised rental agreement which includes the addition of:

- the assumption of responsibility by renters.
- a statement that the Town is not liable for any renter's loss, damage, injury, or illness.
- an indemnification paragraph from the Minnesota Association of Townships library.
- a rule against political campaign signs.

**MOTION (Depre/Olson):** To approve the new rental agreement, dated April 8, 2024.  
Motion carried.

**e. Posting Weight Restrictions.**

Previously discussed. See 6c(3)(a).

**9. Visitor Comments**

Resident Kurt Besser asked about the slumping issue on Lakeview Drive, and supervisors recalled that they had accepted a quote from Omar's Sand & Gravel last November to do a temporary repair of the road for \$19,940. They expect that Omar will complete the work sometime in 2024.

**10. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chair Harms adjourned the meeting at approximately 09:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by Town Board

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Lora Eames, Clerk

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Gary Harms, Chair