

THIS TIME IN HISTORY!

This time in 2018, these are the items that the township board were dealing with on May 14, 2018. The clerk and treasurer reported on the financials of the township. Residents would be especially interested in this information. The board heard that the City of Cloquet was in the process of buying the old credit union on 14th Street for the purposes of the police and city hall offices. It might be possible for CAFD to move into old city hall. The Big Lake Sanitary District was working on finding funding through the state for the new sewer system around Big Lake. This project now appears to be dead in the water. Not much changes with the roads. They went through old business which included nuisance calls, receiving quotes on work on the parking lot, building maintenance options, a report from Steve Olson on his attendance to the Town Law Review, a review from attendees of CCATO (Carlton County Association of Township Officers), and new business including purchasing liquid calcium chloride, request quotes for fixing cracks on roads, dealing with liquor licenses, and summer short courses.



So you see, you miss a LOT when you aren't at meetings. Mark you calendars and join us. The dates are on the front page of this newsletter.



Perch Lake
Township
News

2779 Big Lake Road, Cloquet, MN 55720 Summer 2020-01

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CLOQUET AREA FIRE DISTRICT

In the fall of 2019, the Cloquet Area Fire District Strategic Planning Committee developed a project charter outlining the need to evaluate the current service delivery model. The committee wanted a team of individuals from within the District to evaluate the current delivery model and to search for areas that can improve

service. A group of three Paid-on-Call and three Career staff were tasked with working through this project.

The Team evaluated all areas of delivery within CAFD. The focus narrowed down to better utilization of current staffing of both Paid-on-Call and Career staff to allow for better district-wide coverage. The new model will put staffing in Station 1-Cloquet, Station 2-Perch Lake, and Station 3-Scanlon, with future plans of combining Station's -1, Cloquet and -3, Scanlon, and possible staffing at Station-4 East Brevator. The Perch Lake

area will see the first major moves toward meeting the new Delivery Model. The goal is to have staffing of four personnel in Station-2, Perch Lake. The staffing will consist of two career, and two paid-on-call personnel everyone day. This will provide quicker response and better coverage for the Perch Lake and West Brevator areas. This move will require improvements to Station-2 to support full-time staff. The Facilities Committee is evaluating construction and remodel options to support this increase in staff.

Staffing has already

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

- July 13, 2020
- August 10, 2020
- September 14, 2020
- October 12, 2020
- November 9, 2020
- December 14, 2020



2020 ELECTIONS

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

1. The State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 11.
 2. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3.
- Election Judges will follow Coronavirus guidelines mandated by the State.

Residents who are concerned about voting in-person may consider early voting or absentee ballots. Contact the County Auditor at 218-384-9127 or view the Minnesota Secretary of State website at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-in-person/> for additional information.

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

Email: perchlaketownship@gmail.com
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We're on the web
<http://www.perchlaketownship.org>

Perch Lake Township
 2779 Big Lake Rd
 Cloquet, MN 55720

TOWNSHIP ROAD REPORT

For many of us, township roads are the last leg of our journey home. Years ago, in the spring, that last leg may have included walking a muddy road for that final leg home. Lately, that has not been a problem, primarily a result of the ongoing maintenance of the township roads. Every spring the township supervisors inspect the township roads and recommend maintenance projects. Here are a few of the projects:

- ◆ Brower Drive replace 2 culverts (left over from 2019).
- ◆ Add Class V gravel:
 - * Strand Rd in wetland crossing (left over from 2019)
 - * Reponen Rd from Strand Rd to Moorhead Rd and from Connor's Rd to first corner.
 - * East half mile of Ditchbank Road.
- ◆ Dust control on gravel roads should be completed by the end of May
- ◆ Brushing on several roads
- ◆ Hardwood Lake Rd grind the pavement on the west 900 feet and return to gravel
- ◆ Most of the paved roads will be striped in 2020
- ◆ Crack patching Jarvinen Road, completed May 20, 2020.

Work continues with the rebuild of Watkins Spur. The town board hosted a public hearing with a preliminary design in January 2020. On May 18, 2020, Carlton County Transportation and the Perch Lake

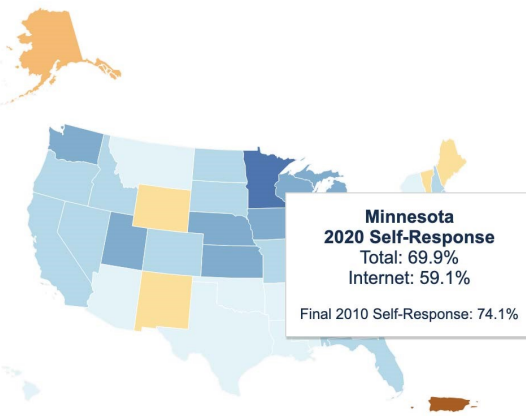


Crack patching on Jarvinen Road

Township roads supervisor met with affected property owners to discuss alignment of new outlet and alternatives. The work is still planned for 2021 to coincide with the rebuild of CASH 7 (Big Lake Rd and Cary Rd).

We are living in uncertain times with COVID-19. The town board does not know how COVID-19 will affect revenues. Roads are funded by a combination of gas tax and property taxes. Property taxes provide the majority of the funds at 85.2% of the road and bridge budget. Gas tax funds are 14.8% of the road and bridge budget. The township received the 2019 gas tax funds in April of 2020. Gas taxes are down for the last eight weeks of stay-at-home. Whether this pattern continues for the rest of the year remains to be seen. The first half of property taxes were due May 15. The County sends the townships their allocation of property taxes in July. Perch Lake Township will not know until July whether there was a significant reduction in property tax collections. The town board will adjust road expenditures based on revenues. The township does save up for road reconstruction projects like the Watkins Spur reconstruction. As a result, there is a cushion if revenues are significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. We should have a better picture of the impact in the fall of 2020.

Just a reminder to residents regarding cleaning driveways or yards of snow, leaves, and debris, it is against the law to push snow and ice or dump leaves or other debris onto a township roadway.



If you have any ideas for articles or other suggestions, please contact Clerk Lora Eames at 218-391-9178 or leames@perchlaketownship.org

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CANCELLED!

CANCELLED! We regret to say that due to the coronavirus, our First Annual National Night Out on August 4th, 2020, will be cancelled. We are hoping that we will be able to plan an event next year in 2021.

The Perch Lake Recycling Center hours of operation

**Wednesday – Friday
2:00-6:00 pm**

**Saturday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

CAFD STATION #2 INCREASES STAFF

From Chair Gary Harms: The following message from the Cloquet Area Fire District (CAFD) is very encouraging for residents of Perch Lake Township for it explains current and future plans for expanded service to our township and what your tax dollars are, in part, contributing to this effort. The Perch Lake Township is represented on the Cloquet Area Fire District Board of Directors by Gary Harms, Perch Lake Township Chairman and Steve Olson, Supervisor (as Alternate).



Roger Waters, Assistant Chief, Cloquet Area Fire District

Rentals for our Town Hall are on hold for now due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Town Board will evaluate the situation later in the year and decide when to make the hall available for social gatherings.

Make a Difference!

The Cloquet Area Fire District is always looking for volunteers. These are on-call paid positions and paid training. Contact the District at (218) 499-4258, or check out the information on their website:

http://cloquetareafiredistrict.com/howdoi/apply_for/careers_n_volunteer_opportunities.htm

CLOQUET AREA FIRE DISTRICT

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started at Station-2. You may have noticed that we have started staffing Station-2 on a part-time basis with our paid-on-call staff. This is helping us to determine paid-on-call staffing needs while collecting response data. This response data will help us to determine proper response districts.

The exciting part of this model is that we can accomplish better coverage and better service to our customers without impacting the budget in the area of staffing. Simply put, this is better utilization of our staff and resources.

The timeline to implement this model is outlined into several phases and continues to move forward. We have had some challenges due to COVID-19 with

the limited ability to meet, however, we continue to move forward. Some of the bigger accomplishments are: Part-time staffing at Station's -2 and -3 utilizing current paid-on-call staff. Hiring of career staff to get staffing up to approved level of 27. Completing necessary training for paid-on-call staff to respond from Station-2. The improvement of response boundaries to allow for better Perch Lake and Brevator coverage.

Everyone at CAFD is striving to provide the best possible service to everyone in the District. The new delivery model is a key component to do just that. If you see activity at the Perch Lake Station, please feel free to stop in and meet with our staff.

did you know.....

DID YOU KNOW that Perch Lake Township used to have its own education? Around 1919, the first school, Kattmann School, was built by John and Charles Johnson. Later, Bergman School started. In 1927, Kattmann School was closed and Big Lake School was built. Once the road and transportation system was much improved, the children were sent to school in town. Those in the northern portion of the township went to Cloquet; those in the southern portion went to Carlton. (Information taken from an article entitled a Brief History of Perch Lake Township authored by Martin Kotiranta. We are unable to verify at this time if this was published in the Pine Knot).