

OPENING THE TOWNHALL TO THE COMMUNITY

Those of us on the Town Board sought to set a positive tone for the community in 2022, especially after the confining days of the COVID Pandemic in 2020 and 2021. We encouraged residents and their friends to rent the Town Hall facilities, visit the Town Hall on Wednesdays, and participate in fall classes.

SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES:

- Getting to Know Your Neighbor Wednesdays with coffee and refreshments through the summer. (The first Wednesday, we had 21 visitors between 10:00 and 2:00!) This program was discontinued.

Classes included:

- October 5 - "Wood Project with Beer Caps," by Artist C Ekholm
- November 2 - "Autumn Birches, Watercolor and Pen," by Artist S Pavlatos
- December 7 - "Gnome Project," by Artist C Ekholm

Our classes averaged 12-15 persons in each class.

Watch our website at www.perchlaketownship.org for additional classes.

We briefly opened the Town Hall on Sunday, December 18, 2022, from 1:00-4:00, anticipating a need for residents who were without power, heat, or water during the big snowstorm. No one showed up, probably because it was near the end of the storm and residents were getting their power back, but we will continue to discuss how to make our Town Hall more available during emergencies.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

We plan a Farmers Market and Craft Fair on Town Hall property next summer on or about August 5, 2023. The residents at the Annual Meeting on March 14, 2023, will have to authorize the event.

We hope to hear more ideas from the community soon.



SAVE THE DATE
 Annual Meeting
 3/14/23
 Board of Appeal & Equalization
 4/4/23

Perch Lake Township
 2779 Big Lake Rd
 Cloquet, MN 55720

Perch Lake TOWNSHIP NEWS

2779 BIG LAKE ROAD, CLOQUET, MN 55720

WINTER 2023



Paving Watkins Spur

Installing new culvert Watkins Spur

Excavator knocking down overhanging trees, snowstorm Dec 13-16, 2022

ROADS: SUMMER - DECEMBER 2022

This past summer, Perch Lake Township completed the usual dust control, grading, and gravel hauling. Different this summer was the rebuild of Watkins Spur. It's 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 would have 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.

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 didn't 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 up 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 township will be seeking proposals from contractors to do this work.

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MEETINGS

THE TOWN BOARD MEETS ON THE
 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
 AT 7:00 P.M.

March 13
 April 10
 May 8
 June 12
 July 10
 August 14
 September 11
 October 9
 (also Columbus Day & Indigenous People's Day)
 November 13
 December 11

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

GENERAL EMAIL
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 CLERK'S EMAIL
leames@perchlaketownship.org
 WEBSITE
www.perchlaketownship.org



UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

The Perch Lake Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Perch Lake Town Hall at 2779 Big Lake Road.

Have you ever been to an Annual Meeting?

If not, you should come this year! First, you will get coffee and a delicious treat made by Cheri DeMenge. Second, you will hear reports from local government leaders, discuss issues, vote on the township levy, and socialize with other residents.

So, what is going on at the 2023 Annual Meeting?

Cloquet Area Fire District Chief Jesse Buhs will discuss the fire and ambulance services for the community. As you may be aware, Perch Lake Township is a member of the CAFD. The CAFD rents part of our Town Hall.

We also plan to discuss a Farmers Market/ Craft Fair, tentatively to be held on August 5, 2023, the same weekend as the Big Lake Improvement Association Rummage Sale and Mash Ka Wisen Sobriety Pow-Wow. Residents must vote on whether to authorize the Town Board to hold a Farmers Market/Craft Fair on Town Hall property.

The residents will likely discuss the disastrous winter storm of December 13-15, and Carlton County's response. As a community, we can brainstorm on how the local township government should handle such emergencies in the future.

Finally, residents will get a chance to vote on the local township levy. The Town Board must operate within the limits of the levy approved by the residents who are eligible voters. Last year's levy was \$168,681.

So, you are invited. Also, we will provide additional information about the Annual Meeting on our website at www.perchlaketownship.org. (Click on Documents & Policies.)

UPCOMING BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION

UPCOMING BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION will be held on April 4, 2023, 10:00 AM, at Perch Lake Town Hall

You may have recently received your property valuation notice.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings are held annually by townships and cities throughout Minnesota between April 1st and May 31st.

The purpose of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) is to provide a fair and objective forum for property owners to appeal their valuation or classification. In all cities and organized townships, an appeal must be made to the LBAE before one can be made to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization (CBAE).

The Local Board of Appeal is actually the Perch Lake Town Board of Supervisors, and they are all trained to hear appeals from property owners. The Perch Lake Town Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held on April 4, 2023, 10:00 AM County Assessor Kyle Holms will be there, and will likely bring an extra assessor to do same-day home inspections.

If you believe that your property value or classification is incorrect, you may bring your case to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization. But first, it might be helpful to contact the County Assessor's Office at 218-384-9142 for additional information.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

In 2021 and 2022, Perch Lake Township received a total of \$118,367 in American Rescue Plan Funds. So, what did we do with the funds?

The funds were used approximately as follows:

\$34,308	New septic system
\$52,190	Electronic message board, trenching, wiring
\$3,859	Road & bridge
\$4,078	Desktop computers
\$1,855	Additional camera for media conferencing equipment
\$670	Election expenses
\$640	Hands-free towel and soap dispensers, face masks
\$4,408	Opening up the Town Hall, "Getting to Know Your Neighbor" Wednesdays, classes for residents and friends.
\$1,785	Newsletter, Pine Knot, postcard mailings
\$6,985	Miscellaneous, including a committee for developing ideas and events
\$5,592	Remaining budget for community events.
\$1,997	Uncommitted.

\$118,367

PERCH LAKE TOWNSHIP HISTORY

did you know?

Perch Lake Township was dissolved by the Carlton County Board of Commissioners in 1939. Then, after a petition drive in 1976, the County Board passed a resolution allowing the Township to reorganize.

The new town's next steps included:

- the first organizational meeting on September 13, 1976.
- the first regular meeting on September 20, 1976.
- the first annual meeting on March 8, 1977.

The population was 464 according to the 1970 Census.

(The current population is approximately 991 according to the Minnesota State Demographer.)

The current Town Hall at 2779 Big Lake Rd was built in 1979.

The first Town Board included

Sonja DeRusha (Clerk)
Alice Spoor (Treasurer)
David Erickson (Supervisor)
Ahti Kantonen (Supervisor)
and Bill Dems (Chairman)



Part of the first Perch Lake Town Board
September 29, 1976



TOWNHALL RENTALS

Our Town Hall continues to be available for rentals. The rates are \$50.00 for township residents and \$100.00 for non-residents. It is an excellent choice for birthdays, bridal showers, meetings, and other events. Remodeled kitchen!

Contact Lora Eames for application and reservation, 218-391-9178.

just a reminder

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

PERCH LAKE RECYCLING CENTER

The Perch Lake Recycling Center, adjacent to the Town Hall, continues to serve all residents, including those from outside the township. Accepted items include aluminum cans, glass, mixed paper, magazines, plastic, tin cans, and cardboard. The service is free.

RECYCLING SHED HOURS:

Wednesday-Friday: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



CAFD RECRUITING

The Cloquet Area Fire District (CAFD) is recruiting paid-on-call firefighters. Opportunities for advancement. Contact the District at (218) 499-4258, or check out the information on their website:

Paid-On-Call Firefighter (POC) | Cloquet Area Fire District, MN

<https://www.cloquetareafiredistrict.com/careers/employment-opportunities/paid-on-call-firefighter-poc>