

Colon Township Lake Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2020
Colon Township Hall

1. Call to Order: Chairman Borgert called meeting to order at 10:05 AM
Approval of agenda: Pangle/ Bell, all yes
2. Roll Call Board Members Present: Bell, Borgert, Crawford, Pangle, Tenney. Absent: Wenzel.
3. Roll Call Advisory Committee Members Present: Bell, Borgert, Camper, Costello, Crawford, Schneider, Taylor, Tenney. Absent: Charles, Dounages, LeRouge.
4. Motion to approve minutes from August 8, 2020 meeting: Tenney/Bell, all yes
5. Secchi readings: Long Lake 4' on 9/11, Palmer Lake 3.5' on 9/7, Lepley Not taken.
6. Financial Report.

Date	Description	Expenses	Income	Balance
07/31/2020	Beginning Balance		\$ 380,956.80	\$ 380,956.80
	Approved Bills from July	\$ 3,025.75	\$ -	\$ 377,931.05
08/31/2020	Interest		\$ 80.60	\$ 378,011.65
07/01/2020		\$ -		\$ 378,011.65
09/16/2020	Ending Balance			\$ 378,011.65

BILLS SUBMITTED TO PAID

P..O.Box annual fee	\$ 42.00
Sturgis Media Group, July & August	\$ 157.00
Laggis Fish Farm (1,100 6" - 8" Walleye)	\$ 3,145.00
BILLS TO BE PAID:	\$ 3,344.00

A motion to approve the 8-31-20 financials was made by Tenney/Pangle, all yes.

7. Old Business

- A. Financial report for 8/8 correction: \$78.70 was a payment to Sturgis Media Group and not interest earned. Ending balance difference 7/31 should have been \$380,956.80 not \$380,875.42 as approved to include \$81.38 of interest for July.
- B. Public survey committee to be started by Costello with Crawford, Tenney & Borgert to review and assist. Ideas for the survey include boating restrictions, favorite things about the lake, sewer around the lake, among other ideas. Borgert stated Tenney believes there is a push for sewers going through the township again.

8. New Business

- A. Groves of Progressive AE attended meeting via Zoom
 - i. Vegetation Survey done 7/20 by checking type and density of plants found at set GPS points. Survey looking for reason for lack of rooted plants. Believed dark water from algae shades out rooted plants. This survey has been done since 2016. It is a snap shot of the lakes on the given date. Diversity of species is generally increasing over the last five years

- ii. Hydro-acoustic survey also done on 7/20. Sonar done at GPS coordinates around shallow part of lake to measure height of plants and how many plants are in each location. There has been an increase in volume over the last five years, but still many areas have little plant growth as well. Still presence of E. Milfoil which is invasive and exclusively treated by PLM. Overall the survey shows the lakes are moving in the right direction.
 - iii. The reason for species varying from year to year could be related to timing or weather differences. Certain species grow best at different temperature and weather conditions. It is also possible different species were simply not collected in the sampling.
 - iv. DEQ looking for more information before algal permit can be issued. Groves was not aware of any new request, but said he would reach out to PLM and DEQ to make sure they have the information they need to evaluate the permit requested.
 - v. No assessment to be collected in 2021. Surplus funds in treasury to be used to fund 2021 treatment program. Groves to help board starting at April 2021 meeting to set up public hearings for continuation of the special assessment district for the next five year cycle. Meetings should be held in May, June or July if possible. Groves suggested two meetings on the same day. Groves suggested opening the board meeting, closing the meeting, starting the public hearing to establish the district and closing that meeting. Next another board meeting would be called to order to approve a resolution to accept the district then have the meeting closed. The next step would be to open a public hearing to establish the assessment on the district and then close the public hearing. The board would then be called to order again to approve a resolution to accept the assessment and then the meeting would be closed.
- B. Advisory committee presented motion by Camper/Bell, all yes to allow treasurer to pay up to \$20,000.00 in bills presented over the winter. Complaint presented by Tenney from Bremen Acres regarding boat wakes in channel. It was determined that Bremen Acres is outside the no wake zone. Advisory committee recommends they contact the sheriff with their complaint. Andy from PLM still working on expanded algal permits for Long Lake and will pursue Palmer Lake as well at boards direction. Clarity similar to previous years. June treatment was the largest treatment. Better native plant growth seen on both lakes compared to previous years.
- C. Motion by Bell/Pangle, all yes to allow treasurer to pay bills received over the winter for up to \$20,000.00.
- D. Walleye stocking still on track for mid to late October. Fish have been certified and permit is in process and expected in time for stocking. Board is stocking fish in place of DNR because DNR has no fish because of COVID and the board felt the program should continue to move forward to help control shad. Next DNR fish survey scheduled for 2024 will be early in season and limited to mostly the presence of walleye and not look at shad population. Schools of shad still reported by several advisory committee members.
- E. PLM report given during advisory committee report to board. There was a motion by Tenney/Pangle, all yes to instruct PLM to pursue expanded algal treatments for both Long & Palmers lakes in 2021.
- F. Public comments from Frank regarding financial assessments waived in 2020 due to COVID restrictions. New assessment process will start in April 2021. Frank also questioned the presence of a reserve fund balance policy because of the large amount of money held in reserve. No such policy currently exists. Discussion around the reason for the large balance. Algal bloom has stained the water causing fewer rooted plants resulting in fewer treatments. Reserve funds will be drawn down in 2021 since no assessments will be collected. During last assessment period several large projects were being contemplated to deal with algal bloom as a result the reserve fund was allowed to grow. The board is very aware of the balance in the reserve fund and will address that in the next assessment period.
- G. 2021 meetings scheduled for 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11. To be held at Colon Township hall at 10:00 A.M. Larger venue requirements for assessment renewal may be held at a larger venue, hopefully the fire barn.
- H. Motion for adjournment by Bell/Pangle, all yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Crawford
Colon Lake Board Secretary