

**Public Hearing:** T. Tenney moved to suspend the business portion of the meeting for the public hearing on the special assessments. Second J. Wenzel. Motion Carried

There were approximately 30 plus individuals attend this meeting. J. Borgert proposal for the assessment. He asked that individuals state their name, address and please limit their comments to 3 minutes: Following are comments/questions and responses from the Lake Board:

- Designation/difference of back lots with deed access to water. (Back lots without deeded access are not assessed.)
- How many parcels are on the lake? (748)
- Testing of lakes: What kind of testing is done in terms of safety for children. (Lakes are annually tested for E. coli)
- How are the lakes trending over the years? (T. Groves responded. Biggest change is the algae, good weed & gizzard shad issue other than that the lakes are holding their own.)
- Has the lake board explored the possible dredging the lake in the shallow parts? (T. Groves – permits from state, disposal of materials, expense (Millions of dollars) basically cost prohibitive.)
- Has there been any talk about sewers around the township areas on the Lakes & Channel? (Review of past attempt to get sewers in township areas of the lakes and channel. This is a matter for the Colon Township Board & the request will be relayed to them.)
- Is there been anything being discussed about farm runoff? (T. Groves – the watershed, which drains into the lakes is 100 times larger than the lakes. Most of the watershed is agricultural and tiled. This is something that we have to live with as we have no control over the issue.)
- Dredge the small channel between Long Lake and Lepley Lake? (Bring it to the lake board for further discussion.)
- Water quality of the lake and rain fall. (Yes, when there is a heavy downpour there is potential for runoff.)
- Continued: Dredging of both the channel between Palmer and Long Lake and Lepley Lake. (Please bring this to the Lake Board at a regular meeting.)
- Does the assessment fee include the channel between Long & Palmer Lake? (Yes)
- Why can't the stumps and logs be cut out? (EGLE will not permit the removal of logs or stumps.)
- Sewers, who are the powers to be. (Colon Township Board)
- Toxin in the waters. (T. Groves – Trace elements of different materials in the silt but nothing to be overly concerned with.)
- Since this is a public lake, owned by the State, why isn't the State taking care of it? (You cannot levy an assessment on the State of Michigan.)
- Long lake no wake by bridge is not being observed & sheriff department not helping. (The Lake Board cannot enforce this. Continue to work with the sheriff department.)

- Governor will be setting aside 2.5 million dollars for parks and recreation. Can we tap into this money? (That is for parks and recreation not individual lakes.)
- Dredging: Can individuals have areas dredged if they pay for them? This was done on the south end of Palmer a number of years ago. (You would need a permit from the State to this in front of your individual property.)
- Could you make an island in the lake out of dredging material instead of having to relocate the material somewhere else? (The lake board would have to have a separate assessment for any type of dredging.)
- Can dredging be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting and can we have a motion now to do this? (No, at this time we can have a motion because this is a public hearing on a special assessment. It will be on the agenda.)
- The State is handing out money right and left for water issues why can't we get some of that? (Most of this money involves safe drinking water and not for public lakes.)
- Has anyone done anything to check on the health of the fish in the lake: (EGLE does a fish survey on lakes? The last was 11 years ago. The next is in 2024 for walleye only. The State does one every 15 to 20 years for every lake in the State of Michigan.)
- Assessment, where did they come up with this number (\$) and what happened to the money put aside for the bridge (Long Lake Bridge) that fell through? That was \$200,000.00 was set aside to make the bridge higher. (If that is the case you were misled. The Lake Board had nothing to do with the reconstruction of Long Lake bridge. That was a county and state project.)
- What about the money when there was the assessment for the lakes in 2015 & 2016 to put the alum in the lakes to help clear it up? (T. Groves – Yes, it was discussed and after further study it was not financially feasible as it would run into millions of dollars to build and maintain. At the present time we are researching a new product called Phoslock.)
- Do you have a long-term plan for the algal problem? (Unfortunately, this is a long-term problem that will need to be address on a yearly basis. In 2019 a process was tried in Long Lake; however, the results were not good and EGLE denied our permit for 2021.)
- Do you have any plans to do a drawdown in the future for people to work on lakefronts? (This has to go the county because of court ordered lake levels. This is also a permit process with the State. The last time this was done in 2010.)
- No one has addressed one of the biggest issues Gizzard Shad. In the last fish study, it was determined that 50% of the biomass of the fish in both lakes is Gizzard Shad. (At this time Palmer and Long Lake are the furthest northern lakes that contain Gizzard Shad. In a very hard winter, a large percentage of these would be killed off but with climate change that may never happen.)
- How much of the plant growth is evasive? (4% of the lakes and connecting channel.)

- What percentage of the lake is sandy bottom and would dredging the muck up help good plant growth? (There are years of silt/muck on the bottom of the lake & dredging probable would not help with weed growth.)
- Was Long Lake a river at one time and became a lake when the dam was put in? (Both areas had small lakes prior to the construction of the dam.)
- Question on stocking of walleye and qualification of fisheries they are from. (J. Borgert explained the stocking process and coordination with the State. EGLE has complete control of what species of fish can be put into the lakes. They also dedicate how many fish can be put in per acre.)
- Question on the survey. (J. Crawford went over the survey.)
- Is it or is it not true that we stocked the Gizzard Shad in a stocking of other fish? (It was probably done, unintended, by the DNR when they were stocking channel cat in the lakes.)
- Does the special assessment have to go before the vote of the people? (This meeting is to discuss the special assessment however the actual approval will be done by the Lake Board and does not go before the people.)
- As part of this assessment are they going to put dye into people septic to see who is leaching into the lakes? (That would have to be a decision made by the sewer project itself and we have nothing to do with that. We will pass this information on to the powers to be.)
- Are there plans for the \$362,000.00 or can some of that money be used to offset the cost to residents? (Yes, there are plans for that money, such as the Phoslock, which will be quite expensive.)
- In the original letter sent out to riparian's the amount was \$77,500 plus but the assessment is actually \$76,000 plus, why the discrepancy? (The original letter was sent out with the amount from the last assessment. When we went over the assessment roll and plugged in the numbers it came out as less.)
- What is the total amount that will be assessed? (\$76,575.00)
- Does the board plan on, other than the \$1,500 you receive from the village, township, county, assessing a tax on residents in general living in the area to boost revenues to the lake board? (No, the board only has the authority to tax the assessment area we are involved in. We cannot expand into property taxes to individuals who are not riparian's or individuals who have back lots without access to the lakes.)
- Do you know how long it takes for water change in the lakes? (In normal conditions it takes 14 days for a complete flushing of Long Lake and 22 for Palmer Lake.)
- When we had the multi lake assessment back in '15/'16 there was a suggestion of doing nothing at to the lakes to see what happens. Did we try that at all? (This was a study done by Dr. Judd, which was a comparison of Thompson Lake to our lakes. In that study Dr. Judd did not recommend doing nothing.)

- Do we ever worry about the dam breaking? Is it monitored? (The Lamberson Dam is owned by the Village of Colon and is inspected every three years by the State of Michigan's Dam Authority.)
- What is the Facebook and website you have set up? (Facebook page: Colon Township Lake Board & Webpage: [www.colontownshiplakeboard.com](http://www.colontownshiplakeboard.com))
- How long does it take to get a 3" walleye to the 15" length? (2 to 3 years. The walleye they will put in the lake this year will be an average of 9".)