



Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday May 26, 2021 6:00 PM

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday May 26, 2021 at the Town of Big Lake Town Hall, located in the Big Lake Township's Lions Park Community Center, at 21960 County Road 5 NW, Big Lake Township, Sherburne County, State of Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bruce Aubol and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Vice-Chair Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Larry Alfords, Supervisor Norm Leslie, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk Jayme Swenson, Fire Chief Seth Hansen, Bruce Messelt - County Administrator, Raeanne Danielowski – County Commissioner, eight audience guests, and news reporter were in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented Agenda by: Leslie/Brenteson. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. Motion Prevailed. The meeting proceeded in accordance with presented Agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of: A) Approval of Minutes; Regular meeting 05/12/2021. B) Approve List of Claims & Payroll paid 05/26/2021. Motion/Second to Approve Consent Agenda by: Hedstrom/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Big Lake Fire Department Report

Chief Seth Hansen reported 36 total calls for service in April 2021: City of Big Lake had sixteen (16), Big Lake Township had twelve (12), four (4) in Orrock Township, and four (4) mutual aid calls. Calls for service year to date are up a total of 41 calls from the same time period in 2020. Of those calls there were nine (9) fire – structure & wildland, one (1) hazardous participated in online training learning about protection of evidence and fire origins. Hands-on training consisted pumps, rapid intervention team (RIT), and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Seth reported the training burn held in Orrock township was a success. He also noted the conditions continue to be very dry.

Sherburne County Administrator Report

County Commissioner, Raeanne Danielowski introduced Bruce Messelt County Administrator to the Board. Bruce gave an overview of Sherburne County's 2020 activities, to all in attendance. Of primary notes were the change in number of absentee voters during the general election. Bruce noted this may be the norm, moving forward and the County Auditor's office is making adjustments on how to handle this in the future. Part of the adjustments will be to have additional scanning machines running to handle the ballots and more election

staff, as well. CARES Act funds were used to assist county businesses, communities, and non-profits. Dan Weber was heavily involved in helping to administer the funds at the county and local levels. Big Lake area received and distributed CARES Act funds: business grants = \$ 690,384.18; State business relief = \$ 478,509.88; schools and NPOs = \$552,219.00 for a total of \$ 1,712,113.06. The county continues to be home to many – 9.80% growth from 2010 to 2020, new construction continues at a good pace, and home values continue to increase. However, many residents continue to travel out of the county for their jobs. Bruce shared that of every \$1 collected in property taxes, only 39 cents goes toward county services. The bulk of those funds are spent on law enforcement, public works, and health, human services & youth programs. The ten-year average increase to the county budget and levy was 2.08%. The tax rate continues on a downward trend. However, the increase of home values is what is causing the increase to property taxes. The county launched a new online service which allows interested parties to drill down into the finances of the county. The program is called OpenGov. Expanding broadband services continues to be a priority within Sherburne County. The need became much more apparent during the closure of most businesses and schools, due to coronavirus response. Recent and upcoming activities include: COVID-19 response – inoculation clinics; secured \$20.5 million (State bonding) for Becker Business Park Infrastructure – due to the upcoming Sherco closure; secured \$2 Million for TH 169 & CSAH 4 interchange (Zimmerman); requesting construction funding for the interchange project, as well; 2020 Census/Re-Districting (data delayed); flexibility for child protection 24-hour response; aging public equipment & infrastructure. *A copy of the presented information will be retained as part of the official Minutes and available in the Clerk's Office.*

Open Forum

No persons in attendance for open forum.

Regular Business

Birch Lake Beach – Septic on Town Parcel

Todd Jagodinski and Troy Ostrander returned with the documentation requested by the Board at the April 28th meeting. The certificate of septic compliance for the system that serves PID# 10-404-0130 was made available, as was a survey done by Craig Wensmann of Bogart Pederson. The northern most drain field lines are just outside of the ROW of 224th Ave. Supervisor Alford reminded the Board there is a structure on the town's parcel, which helps to mitigate the flow of water off of 224th Ave. as the water travels to Birch Lake. The structure was built with grant money and the help of Sherburne County Soil and Water District (SWCD). Todd and Troy asked if the Board would be willing to vacate or sell the portion of the town's parcel which lies outside of the 66' road right-of way. This request to vacate or sell, was declined. However; the Board was amenable to issuing a license agreement so the existing septic system can remain, in its current location. The license agreement would be a temporary agreement meaning any future upgrades to the system would need to be placed in a different location – outside of the town's property. This is contingent on county Planning and Zoning's approval of solution.

Motion/second to issue a temporary license agreement granting permission for the current septic system for PID# 10-404-0130 to remain on town parcel PID# 10-404-0132 by: Alford/Hedstrom. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brentson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Clerk will work with Lynn Wayteshek – planning & zoning, town engineer, town lawyer, property owners, and Craig Wensmann, on license agreement.

Pollinator Garden – Eagle Scout project

Scout Liam Royce was present to request approval from the Board, to plant approximately one acre of park land with plants which attract pollinators. The area is on the east side of the park, near the river. The area has been reviewed by two SWCD staffers, parks committee members Norm Leslie and Bruce Aubol and all four of these people feel the location would be ideal, for a pollinator garden. The area will be tilled and possibly chemically treated to remove the current vegetation. Liam will plant native plant species and will ensure they receive water and care, until they are well established. The area would become a naturalized native planting area. Docile pollinators like honeybees, butterflies, and a threatened bumblebee species will benefit from the project. Aggressive stinging bees like hornets, wasps, and yellow jackets will not be attracted to the area. Should the Board approve the use, Liam will present the project to the Eagle Scout Council. Once he has their approval, Liam will return and present a more detailed plan and may need some financial assistance to purchase plants, at that time. Noah Hart will be helping guide Liam through the project, which is to expected to be completed in 2022.

Motion/Second approving the planting of a pollinator garden in the identified location, for Liam Royce’s Eagle Scout project by: Leslie/Hedstrom. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Recycle Day Reflection

Clerk Kimberly-Maas informed the Board the 2021 Recycle Day was another successful event. Workers were thankful for the warmer weather. The event had a total of 263 customers. Of those 118 were from Big Lake Township, 77 City of Big Lake, 67 Orrock Township, and one resident of Elk River – who missed the event held in Elk River. Highlights of items recycled: 258 appliances, 260 tires, 110 – 1# propane tanks, and 253 fluorescent lamps/bulbs. People still brought some items considered to be municipal solid waste (MSW), including four (4) ammonia refrigerators – which had to be turned away, as they have to be taken to a certified disposal company. Community members will continue to be informed on what items can be recycled and what needs to be taken to the landfill.

Staff and road committee members had been discussing selling the 30 yd dumpster which used to be utilized for cardboard recycling, when the Town provided the service at the maintenance shed. The dumpster is full of cardboard from crack fill boxes. But is no longer needed since crack fill material now is delivered in plastic bags, which are melted with the tar and used on our roads. Jeff Rhodes has indicated this will likely be true of all future deliveries. A few years ago, Jayme investigated getting rid of the cardboard, and found it to be fairly expensive – and currently Liberty carton is NOT accepting unbundled materials. The Town doesn’t have a bundler anymore. Brenda asked Jason Warehime – Metro Appliance Recycling, if he was interested in the dumpster. He is and has offered \$2000 for the dumpster and will get the cardboard recycled as part of the purchase. Board members inquired if the offer was within the range of the going rate. Jayme noted she had investigated prices of 30yd dumpsters of similar style; and the offer is in the appropriate price range. The Board requested some additional time to consider the offer.

Roads

Supervisor Alfords reported spring maintenance is continuing and the committee is still finalizing the areas to add onto the overlay project list.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Warneke reported the annual audit was completed. A portion of the work was done via electronic means and the audit team was also onsite for a day. The audit went well from the perspective of town staff and the audit team. Invoices from the audit and 2022 property assessment statements, have yet to be received. The \$80,000 left in the 2020 snow budget will be used for additional overlay work.

Ken reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements with the Board. The town treasury ending balance (less escrows) was \$1,789,367.25 Ken has no concerns with balances in the treasury and the Town is in good shape, for this time of the year. *Financial Reports are retained as part of the official Minutes and available in the Clerk's Office.* Motion/Second to approve the Treasurer's report by: Leslie/Alfords. Approved by: Aubol, Alfords, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates

Supervisor Leslie noted the new "handy-man" has been working on some town hall and park projects. Norm is pleased with the timeliness and quality of the work. He expects to see a bill after the end of the month.

Supervisor Aubol attended the County's Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting. He reported that plat development and new home construction continues to boom, in Livonia and Baldwin townships.

Supervisor Brenteson reported the CMRP group is getting closer to an action plan for the Framework 2030 project.

Supervisor Alfords reported he and Supervisor Leslie met with City Administrator Clay Wilfarht on the possibility of the Ewald & Rita Petersen property being annexed to the city. Conversation between the Petersen's and a developer are occurring. The developer is interested in this parcel, rather than land in the industrial park, due to the frontage of HWY 10, the placement of their 1500 sq ft building, and their future expansion plans. The business would bring roughly 225 new jobs to the area. The sale of the land is not final, but Clay wanted the Town to know the discussion is being had.

Announcements:

Attendees were reminded to take the High Speed Internet Survey – the link is on the Town's website.

Big Lake Area Food Shelf will be distributing food packages the months of June, July, and August in the townhall parking lot. Dates are yet to be finalized and will be announced when they are known.

Adjournment:

Motion/Second to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:37 PM by: Leslie/Hedstrom. All Supervisors present approved. Motion Prevailed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk and Jayme Swenson, Deputy Clerk

Accepted this 9th day of June 2021, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Dean Brenteson, Board Vice-Chair

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk