

Second Monthly Board Meeting
Minutes
April 22, 2009

TOWN of BIG LAKE
"Sherburne County's First 5-Member Township Board"
P.O. Box 75, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309

On Wednesday, April 22, 2009, the Big Lake Board of Supervisors met at the Big Lake Town Hall located in the Big Lake Lions Park at 21960 County Road #5, Big Lake Township, Sherburne County, State of Minnesota. The meeting was tape recorded for transcribing purposes only.

Chairman Hofer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 5 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken by the chairperson.

Board Members Present:

- Bob Hofer, Chairman
- Mike Hayes, Supervisor
- Norm Leslie, Supervisor
- Jim Stahlmann, Supervisor
- Larry Alfords, Supervisor
- Ken Warneke, Treasurer
- Laura Hayes, Clerk
- Kristie Woolard, Deputy Clerk

All present stood and recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Supervisor Hayes motioned to approve the Second Monthly Meeting agenda with the addition of Sherburne County Sheriff's Deputy, Captain Steve Doran under Open Forum. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda.

Supervisor Stahlmann motioned to approve the list of claims & payroll. Supervisor Alfords seconded. Supervisor Hayes abstained from approval of Clerk Hayes payroll claim. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Sherburne County Sheriff's Deputy, Captain Steve Doran appeared before the Board to present call/response statistics for Big Lake Township. He advised there have been an increase in burglaries in the Big Lake area and advised a computerized phone call system, used by the Sheriff's Office, has been making calls to local residents to warn them of the increase in these crimes. Captain Doran advised the burglaries are quick, forced entry, daytime invasions. The items taken have been small items and cash.

BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK

a) Monticello-Big Lake Community Hospital (M-BLCH)/Marshall Smith, CEO – Marshall Smith, CEO M-BLCH presented the Board and audience with the hospitals 2008 annual report. This information was originally planned for presentation at the Annual Township meeting, March 10, 2009. Due to weather conditions, the presentation could not be made that evening.

b1) Marketing Committee Meeting, April 14, 2009 – Clerk Hayes advised she attended the marketing meeting. The committee met to discuss the cost estimates and locations of billboard advertising for the Northstar site in Big Lake. It was determined at this time, that due to the cost of billboard advertising, the committee would not pursue that at this time. The committee also discussed plans for the developer's event to be held in mid-September. Jim Brown and Jim Thares would be working on

putting together a list of developers to invite. The event is in its early planning stages, and may include a professional video featuring what Big Lake has to offer, a lunch and a bus tour of the Big Lake area. The marketing committee is planning to have at least 10 to 15 developers attend this event. The event would be similar to the developer events Sherburne County sponsors.

b2) Other-Update-Meetings – Clerk Hayes advised the Board about progress regarding the Charter Communications, Inc. Chapter 11 Reorganization process, which began in March 2009. The Township has been advised that it is the intention of Charter Communications, Inc. to honor all of the cable television franchises held by Charter entities. At a hearing on April 15, 2009 Charter obtained final approval from the Bankruptcy court to pay such fees and amounts. As further noted in a letter dated April 17, 2009, it is not clear that the Township's consent to the transaction is required by bankruptcy law; however, Charter has provided the Township with a sample resolution if the Township determines its consent is required. Supervisor Stahlmann motioned to approve Resolution 2009-07 Consent to Charter Restructuring. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

-Clerk Hayes advised an email has been received from Corey Boyer, City of Big Lake Finance Director regarding sponsorship and insurance requirements and cost for the Big Lake Student Council dance at the Big Lake Fire Hall. Corey Boyer advised that the school is not the sponsor of the event and therefore there is no entity available to provide proof of single event liability coverage. In effect, the City and Township would be sponsoring the event and there is an additional cost for this. Corey Boyer has further advised that the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust offers a program where outside parties can purchase single event policies when using public buildings. The cost for the coverage has been estimated at \$150. Treasurer Warneke advised Corey Boyer is asking the school to pay for this insurance. Treasurer Warneke inquired if this is not possible, would the Township be interested in paying for half of the cost along with the City. There was discussion regarding setting a precedent. Supervisor Stahlmann advised it is important to offer the youth in Big Lake something to do, outside of the school; and, although proceeds from the dance could possibly be used to cover the additional insurance costs, the local government entities should work together on the insurance issue to make this event possible. It was noted the Student Council representatives advised there would be a donation to the local food shelf from this event. Supervisor Stahlmann motioned to 1) request the Big Lake School to sponsor this event and purchase the additional insurance. 2) alternatively, if agreed upon by the City of Big Lake: the Township pay 1/2 (\$75.) and the City pay 1/2 (\$75) of the insurance fee, on a one time basis for the student council. 3) upon exhausting options one and two, the Township will pay for the additional insurance in the amount of \$150., on a one time basis for the student council. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

-Clerk Hayes advised the City of Big Lake would hold another public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on May 27th, 2009 for final consideration of the annexation of the former American Legion property located at County Road 43 and US Highway 10. Finance Committee members will be meeting with City of Big Lake staff on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss tax revenue sharing as related to this annexation.

BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOWN ROADS

1) Road Tour Update – The road committee advised the tour was completed in a day and a half. Road are in generally good condition and there are fewer signage problems this year. Last year's intensive brushing work was good and more will be done this year. Potholes were found and it was noted there are a lot of cracks in the roads. Two areas will have overlay's, 172nd Street south of TH10 and the Aspen Hills development. Treasurer Warneke advised a semi truck load of crackfilling

material will be ordered and crackfilling will start the middle of next week. The road committee advised they are preparing to do a large amount of seal coating too. There was discussion regarding the need to prepare the maintenance building lot for clean up day.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hofer reminded all Board Members and staff of the Urban Short Course on Thursday, April 23 at Rockwood in Otsego.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

c1) EDA - Supervisor Hayes advised the EDA met on April 13. He noted most of the business pertained to the City of Big Lake. The Krutzig/American Legion annexation was discussed. There was discussion regarding the TOD area. A City of Big Lake/Dynamics Land project near County Road 15 was discussed. The project includes the need for a rail spur access.

c2) Lion's Park Updates –

Ballfield - John Hunt, Big Lake Baseball Association appeared before the Board at the request of Supervisor Leslie. He thanks the Board for the use of the Lion's park field for baseball practice, noting the association uses 10 to 14 fields per night for games and practices during the baseball season. There was discussion regarding the status of construction of a second ballfield at Lion's park. Supervisor Leslie advised the new site isn't large enough to accommodate a regulation baseball field; however, it is large enough for a softball diamond and a practice soccer field in the outfield area. John Hunt advised the baseball association's biggest groups are the younger kids playing in the Roberto Clemente League and therefore, a smaller, more compact field is better. Supervisor Leslie advised he is gathering quotes for construction of a ballfield. There was discussion about the time frame and schedule of the construction and the ability to have it in usable condition for the 2009 ball season. John Hunt advised the Big Lake Baseball Association Board meets again on May 3. He will mention the Township's desire to construct a ballfield. There was discussion regarding grant programs available through the Minnesota Twins and Major League baseball. Both groups offer financial assistance through grants to construct or renovate ball fields. It appears both programs require a lead-time of 6 months or more. There was lengthy discussion regarding site preparation and construction, including leveling, lime and the need for silt fence. Supervisor Leslie advised he is seeking at least three quotes for the project and will bring them back to the Board for review. He advised the first quote has been received. It arrived after business hours today. Supervisor Leslie will work with County Ditch Inspector, John Norgren regarding the need for silt fence and where it should be placed.

Footbridges - Supervisor Leslie presented cost estimates from Big Lake Lumber for supplies to construct 16' footbridges for the Lion's park trail. Two types of materials were priced. Maintenance free/recycled material \$2850.43 per bridge; and, treated lumber, estimated to last 20 years, at a cost of \$654.17. If an 18' bridge is necessary the estimated treated lumber cost is \$736.00. Supervisor Leslie advised he has checked with the County and the DNR regarding any requirements they have. Both have advised they have no requirements for the footbridges. The Lion's and the Boy Scouts will construct and place the bridges. Supervisor Alford's motioned to approve the purchase of treated lumber for the construction of two bridges, either 16' or 18' long, whichever is necessary. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER

a) Other-Updates-Meetings – Treasurer Warneke advised there are several short term CD's maturing in the next month. As a result, we will see a reduction in our interest earnings this year.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Supervisor Stahlmann advised Supervisor Alford, Clerk Hayes and he met with the Township's website designer, Lynne Dahl-Fleming. The group worked through several pages of the proposed website. Lynne will prepare the proposed changes and bring them back for a second review by the group.

Supervisor Stahlmann advised he attended the Elk River Watershed meeting. He advised that he learned the majority of Big Lake Township is in the Elk River watershed and that overall the watershed is in healthy condition. He advised there was discussion and update regarding internal financial changes.

Supervisor Leslie advised he received a phone call from Jim Ridgeway, Big Lake Community Lake Association representative regarding the Township's action to make a contribution to the invasive weed program contingent upon a reduction to the parking fee charged to Big Lake Township residents at the Big Lake beach/boat launch. He advised by the close of the conversation it was determined that it would be appropriate for the lake association to meet with the City of Big Lake to discuss fee equalization.

Supervisor Leslie advised Chairman Hofer, Clerk Hayes, Deputy Clerk Woolard and he met to review a first draft rental agreement for the cabin at Lion's park. It was determined that use of the cabin will be reserved strictly for boy and girl scouting troops, packs and dens. Supervisor Leslie inquired with Treasurer Warneke about the Township's insurance on the property. Treasurer Warneke advised the Township liability coverage is the same at the cabin as it is in the rest of the park. The Township has general liability that covers the operation of the park. He advised the additional acres and buildings were added to the policy last year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Hayes to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk