

Second Monthly Board Meeting  
Minutes  
June 23, 2010

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

On Wednesday, June 23, 2010 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.

Vice-Chairman Alford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 3 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken by the chairperson.

Board Members Present:           Mike Hayes, Supervisor  
  Norm Leslie, Supervisor  
  Larry Alford, Supervisor  
  Jim Stahlmann, Supervisor  
  Ken Warneke, Treasurer  
  Laura Hayes, Clerk  
  Kristie Woolard, Deputy Clerk  
  Todd McLouth, Township Engineer

Board Members Absent           Bob Hofer, Chairman

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

Supervisor Stahlmann motioned to approve the Second Monthly Meeting agenda. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda as presented.

Supervisor Stahlmann motioned to approve consent agenda items: a) Approve Exclusive Commercial Sale Listing Agreement for 24 Months with Gaughan. b) Approve List of Claims (Disbursement List will be Received at Meeting). Supervisor Leslie seconded. Supervisor Hayes abstained from approval of Clerk Hayes payroll claim. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

**OPEN FORUM**

Lisa Knutson, 16130 - 225<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Birch Lake Beach appeared before the Board to discuss maintenance issues regarding wash-outs on the platted street/driveway access north of 225<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Treasurer viewed the site on Tuesday and Supervisor Alford viewed today, following last night's 2"+ rain fall. It was noted this is an undesirable situation because of the slope of the access and the sandy material used in construction of it. The Township's policy regarding driveway accesses is that they are maintained privately in areas that are not platted. Lisa Knutson inquired if she and the neighbors could legally make improvements to the access. She noted she was advised it was an easement when she purchased her home and has since been advised it is road right-of-way. She further advised she and the neighbors using the access are interested in possibly paving it. The Board reviewed an aerial photo of the property, road and access. The Board advised the road committee will need to work on this situation. Supervisor Alford advised if improvements are made, it may require the acquisition of additional property. In the meantime, the Township will be able to reshape the access when there are work crews in the area with the appropriate equipment. Lisa Knutson inquired when that will happen. Supervisor Stahlmann noted the Township has several road projects in progress at this time and therefore it is not possible to give an exact date. He further noted there are ownership issues to be considered and worked on with this project.

Sherburne County Commissioner, Ewald Petersen was present to give the Board updates on several County issues.

-The Elk River Watershed ad-hoc shareholder committee met last week. Commissioner Petersen attended on behalf of Commissioner Riebel. During this meeting, the TMDL studies conducted on three Sherburne County lakes/rivers were presented.

-Perfluorochemicals (PFC's) and methane gas leakages have been detected at the Veit/Vonco Landfill on County Road 14, Big Lake Township. Vents have been installed to handle the methane gas issues. The PFC leach rate is .7, which is two times higher than the states acceptable level. It was noted that PFC's don't break down in soil or water.

-The state of Minnesota has reduced Sentence To Service (STS) funding from 50% to 25% for crew leader wages. After reviewing the STS program at Sherburne County, it was determined it would be appropriate to eliminate one of the four work crews. The fourth crew typically worked nights in the jail. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the change will affect Cities and Townships utilizing the STS program services.

-The legislative session ended mid-May leaving unfinished budget and funding plans for 2011 and 2012. It is estimated that the State of Minnesota is between \$3.5 and \$7 billion in debt. Several legislators are planning to retire and several will be up for re-election this fall.

-The County's Market Aid Credit was not cut as recommended by the Governor. Payments are due to be received in December and next spring. It is doubtful the state will be able to cash flow these payments.

-The County Road Tour was conducted today. There will be changes in County Road signage. Sherburne County is in Region 7W, which is an area that will be receiving federal funding for several road projects. County Roads 15 and 79 will be project areas that receive funding and will have substantial improvements made to them.

-There has been a change in state law that allows County Assessor's to offer testimony in tax court. This will eliminate the need to hire an outside assessor to review the property and offer testimony.

-The Northstar Corridor Development Authority is planning to make an application in late August for federal funding to extend the Northstar to St. Cloud.

## **BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK**

a) Municipal Recycling Board/Big Lake Compost Facility – Clerk Hayes advised she has spoken with City of Big Lake, Public Works Director, Mike Goebel regarding members of the Municipal Recycling Board implementing a fee structure for use of the composting site. The municipal recycling board is made up of representatives from the Cities of Big Lake, Becker, Elk River and Zimmerman. Elk River and Zimmerman have already implemented a user fee system. The City of Big Lake is concerned that although they are currently mandated, as part of the SCORE funding they receive, to accept compostable material from any Sherburne County resident, they will see an increase in use if they aren't consistent with their partners. Each composting facility has labor and equipment costs associated with grinding, mixing/turning and bunching their compost that they must pay for. The SCORE funds do not completely cover the costs to maintain the sites. The City is suggesting an annual dashboard sticker that would cost \$10. for residents and \$100. for any commercial entity. The Township has been asked if they would be interested in having stickers available for purchase at the Town Clerk's Office, if the City of Big Lake implements this system. Purchasing the annual pass would be on the honor system and randomly checked. The City of Big Lake does not have the funds or personnel to post someone at the site to check for passes. Clerk Hayes advised the Township will need to document any instances of compostable debris or tree branch dumping that is found in the Township after this goes into affect. Currently there is not a problem with this type of dumping, but is something to be aware of that could begin. Supervisor Leslie motioned to have the Clerk's Office work with the City of Big Lake to have annual passes available for purchase at the Town Clerk's Office. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

## **BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **TOWN ROADS**

1) Award 2010 Road Improvement Project – Township Engineer, Todd McLouth presented the bid tabulations for the 2010 Road Improvements. The projects were split into three schedules for bidding. Three bids were received. The lowest bid was from Knife River Corporation in the total amount of \$266,706.35. The engineer's estimate was \$252,000. and was based partially on bituminous costs estimated at \$45. to \$47 dollars per ton using spring 2010 prices. There was discussion regarding the bid for schedule B-211<sup>th</sup> Avenue (east end) and whether or not to keep it on the project list as an overlay. It was determined that it is most cost to effective to do the project as planned this year. Supervisor Stahlmann motioned to do all three schedules in the 2010 Road Projects and to award the bid to the lower bidder, Knife River Corporation. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. Township Engineer, Todd McLouth will prepare the necessary documents and present to the Chairman and Clerk for signatures.

2) Other-Updates-Meetings – Todd McLouth advised Clerk Hayes has been given the contracts for the 2010 seal coating projects. The Chairman and Clerk will sign and return copies to Oliver Engineering and ASTECH.

-191<sup>st</sup> Street cul-de-sac improvement easements have been prepared by the engineer. The Road Committee will review and meetings will be scheduled with the affected landowners.

-Treasurer Warneke advised shouldering and sign work are in progress. Washouts in Whitewater Heights and Birch Lake Beach, accentuated by last night's 2"+ rain fall, have been repaired.

-Supervisor Stahlmann checked the triple culvert in Ridgewood Heights following the rainfall event. It was noted to be backing up on the north end of the culvert.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – No report was given in Chairman Hofer's absence.

### **SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – Supervisor Stahlmann advised he attended the same Elk River Watershed Meeting that Commissioner Petersen spoke about earlier in the meeting. He noted the lack of enforcement strength by either of the Counties involved in the watershed to force polluters to stop polluting the lakes/rivers.

-Supervisor Stahlmann and Supervisor Hayes both attended the EDA meeting. The City of Big Lake has a couple of possible projects in their jurisdiction. The rail park is still in progress and the City is continuing to see if they can get the rail track spur under the via dock. The only item affecting the joint EDA area was the recommendation to enter into an exclusive commercial sale listing agreement for 24 months with Gaughan Companies to market and sell parcels in the Big Lake Industrial Park.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER**

a) Other-Updates-Meetings – Treasurer Warneke reviewed the fund balances and advised that 70% of the May/June settlement was received on June 18<sup>th</sup>. This is reflected in the cash balance statement. Treasurer Warneke advised he is checking on Certificate of Deposit rates. The best rate found so far is 2% for 2 years. All funds are in the positive with the exception of the Aspen Hills WWTF fund, which is a 5-year special assessment fund. Tom Kaliher, Auditor has finished the field work portion of the

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Township's audit for year ended 12-31-2009. The final report is due to the State Auditor by June 30<sup>th</sup>. There are no budget issues at this time.

**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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk