

Second Monthly Board Meeting  
Minutes  
May 27, 2009

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

On Wednesday, May 27, 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

Todd McLouth, Township Engineer  
John Norgren, Township Rep. Sherburne County  
Planning Advisory Commission

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

Sherburne County Sheriff’s Deputy, Captain Steve Doran presented the Board with the quarterly call report for Big Lake Township. The Board had no concerns to report to Captain Doran at this time.

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

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

**OPEN FORUM**

Monticello City Administrator, Jeff O’Neil was present to inquire if the Board would be considering the resolution in support of Monticello broadband infrastructure during tonight’s meeting. Chairman Hofer advised this item would be discussed under Business from the Clerk.

**BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK**

a) John Weicht/Variance for Addition onto Home in Birch Lake Beach – David Cornelius of John C. Weicht & Associates presented a request for a 68’ variance in setback from the original high water level (OHWL) of Birch Lake for an addition on an existing residence. Mr. Cornelius presented plans to construct a 66’x72’ addition onto the south side of the existing house, away from Birch Lake. The required setback from a recreational development lake is 100’. The existing residence is 32’ from the OHWL of Birch Lake. The plan meets the setback for side lot setbacks. Supervisor Alfords motioned to recommend approval of the 68’ variance as shown on the plans dated 05-26-09. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All present were in favor.

b) Reynold Sundstrom/IUP for a Home Business in an Accessory Building – Ray Sundstrom presented a request for an IUP for a home business in an accessory building for the purpose of relocating his carpet business. Mr. Sundstrom advised he had previously operated his carpet business from his home location for 33 years prior to moving into the industrial park location. Due to slow business, he needs to leave the current site. He advised he will have only one other employee beside himself. The installers are subcontractors and would come to the site to pick up the materials. He advised he plans to use only one of the buildings at his home location for storage and displays. He plans to sell the products by appointment only and in-home. He advised his business sign will not exceed 12'sq. ft. It was noted by the Board that according to the drawing of the site submitted by Mr. Sundstrom, a portion of one of the accessory buildings and a portion of his house are over the property line. The Board advised this should be handled directly with the County. Supervisor Alfords motioned to recommend approval of the IUP for a home business in an accessory building. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. There was brief discussion regarding the need to apply for a variance because the building exceeds the area allowed for a home business in an accessory building. Mr. Sundstrom advised he was unsure if he needed to apply for this in addition to the IUP or if the IUP and Variance were on the same application. Clerk Hayes advised the comment form received from the County called for comments on an IUP only. John Norgren advised he would clarify with the County in regard to the need to apply for a variance.

c) Resolution on Monticello Broadband Infrastructure "Fiber to the Premises Project" – Supervisor Stahlmann advised he had spoken with residents in the Ridgewood Heights neighborhood and had received positive responses at the prospect of having another data and cable service option in the area. Supervisor Alfords noted for clarification that the proposed resolution supports extension of this fiber optic service, but is not an agreement to provide service. The Board reviewed the proposed resolution. Supervisor Stahlmann motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2009-09/Resolution By Big Lake Township Board on Broadband Infrastructure. Supervisor Alfords seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

e) Other-Updates-Meetings -

-City Administrator, Jeff O'Neil advised that the Monticello City Engineer, Bruce Westby will be sending all jurisdictions along the Mississippi River, and invitation to an open house to review bridge crossing proposals and offer comments. This event is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Administrator O'Neil advised that he and the City of Monticello are aware that some of the crossing proposals are not feasible; however, they are included in the proposals so that all options can be equitably reviewed before they are accepted or rejected as final options.

-Sherburne County Commissioner, Ewald Petersen was present to update the Board on several County and local issues. He advised that the MET Council, Metro Transit and Northstar had met to discuss recommendations for fares proposed at \$8.00 for Big Lake and \$6.00 for Elk River and had reduced those proposals to \$7.00 and \$5.50 respectively. The assembly had wanted fare-box recovery at 25% or more and this proposal would be 21%. It is expected that the Counties and Northstar will adopt these fares, which would be effective 2010 through 2011. The MET Council also needs to adopt these fares. If the proposed fare schedule is not adopted, it goes back through the public hearing process.

-The County has begun its budget process. Two workshop days in June will be dedicated to the County budget. The County Board of Commissioners is hoping there will not be additional funding cuts from the state. Because of lower property valuations and nearly unchanged tax capacity, County taxes will remain about the same. The County Truth in Taxation hearings will be held soon. Federal Stimulus funds may be used to overcome County budget deficits to the Health and Human Services Departments.

-Commissioner Petersen advised all but two of the County road projects have let for bid and awarded. In June, the County will hold a public hearing on its fee schedules. Most fees charged by the County are set to recover their costs.

-New septic system requirements have received increased construction requirements and additional inspections. The MPCA has added three chapters to the septic system requirements. All new systems in Sherburne County must be pressurized and several new inspections will be required. Therefore, the costs and fees at the County will increase.

-Clerk Hayes directed the Board's attention to memo received from the City of Big Lake today regarding the food shelf and senior area. It was noted it was for the Board's information and possibly future agenda item. No action was taken by the Board.

d) Bailey Station Cemetery Fee Increase Proposals – John Norgren, Bailey Station Cemetery Chairperson advised the Cemetery Board met April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. The cemetery fee schedule was reviewed. The Cemetery Board recommended several fee increases. It was recommended that for Big Lake Township and Sherburne County residents, the columbarium fees remain the same, noting these fees recover the cost of the columbarium unit and raise funds for a second columbarium. The rate increases would be effective July 1, 2009. There was discussion regarding advertising the rate increase to encourage lot sales. On Memorial Day, three lots and two columbarium units were sold. John Norgren advised there are 1300 gravesites available in the cemetery. Supervisor Leslie motioned to adopt the fee increases as proposed, effective July 1, 2009. Supervisor Alford's seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

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

### **TOWN ROADS**

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – Bids have been advertised for 2009 Road Improvements, Bituminous Patching, Road & Culvert Repair and Bituminous Overlays; and, for 2009 Seal Coat Improvements. The bids will be received June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and presented to the Big Lake Town Board at the June 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Monthly Meeting for consideration and award.

-Township Engineer, Todd McLouth advised the final warranty inspection of the 226<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 188<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements has been completed. The roads and restoration were found to be in compliance with the Township road standards; therefore, it is recommended that the Township make final acceptance of the project and release any securities held by the Township. Supervisor Hayes motioned to accept the project and release any securities being held. Supervisor Alford's seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

-Supervisor Alford's updated the Board on 221<sup>st</sup> Avenue Improvements. He advised a section of the road would be elevated without impacting the wetland adjacent to the road. It was also noted that a lady slipper had been located in the ditch and was relocated by Jen Oknich, Environmental specialist at Sherburne County Zoning.

-Supervisor Alford's further advised that 220<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Northwest corner of the Township had subgrade repairs following dig out. 300 tons of fill was brought in to repair beneath the road. 223<sup>rd</sup> Avenue will be the next area checked and repaired if necessary.

-Street sweeping is finished and crackfilling has begun. Due to the lack of rain, the mowing will not be started until July.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – Chairman Hofer advised he and Supervisor Leslie had reconditioned and resampled the water at the cabin. The water sample was negative for coli form bacteria and nitrates and therefore is a usable water source for cabin users. Supervisor Leslie advised he is still working on getting mantles for the gas lamps in the cabin. Moore's Excavating started ballfield construction today. One of two footbridges have been constructed and installed by the Lion's Club. The second footbridge will be completed and placed in approximately a week. Supervisor Leslie advised one of the hydrants in the park split and needs to be dug out and replaced. Moore's excavating will make this repair when they are working on the ballfield.

**BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER**

a) Other-Updates-Meetings – Treasurer Warneke advised there are two bills tonight's claims for work assigned following the road tour. Treasurer Warneke reviewed the 101 and 102 funds with the Board. The 101 fund has a balance of \$197,604.85 and the 102 fund has a balance of \$1,310,728.73. Total government & escrow funds \$2,390,555.96. Treasurer Warneke advised funds currently in a deficit will recover following receipt of the May/June property tax settlement.

**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 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk