

Monthly Board Meeting  
Minutes  
October 28, 2015

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

On Wednesday, October 28, 2015 the Big Lake Board of Supervisors met at the Big Lake Town Hall located in the Big Lake Lions Park Community Center 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 3 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken by the Chairman.

Board Members Present:     Bob Hofer, Chairman  
                                  Bruce Aubol, Supervisor  
                                  Norm Leslie, Supervisor  
                                  Steve Pflieghaar, Supervisor  
                                  Larry Alfords, Supervisor  
                                  Ken Warneke, Treasurer  
                                  Laura Hayes, Clerk  
                                  Samantha Peterson, Deputy Clerk

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

Supervisor Pflieghaar motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All were in favor.

Supervisor Pflieghaar motioned to approve consent agenda items. The consent agenda consisted of: a) Approve Claims, Payroll & List of Claims & Payroll. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor.

**BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK**

a) SEV MN 1 LLC and James & Jeffrey Sanford/Request for IUP to Construct & Operate 30 1-MegaWatt Solar Farm Sections 23 & 26, South of US Hwy 10, Westside Big Lake Township – Joe Tierney, Sunrise Energy Ventures, Minnetonka MN and James Sanford, property owner appeared before the Board to present their request for the construction and operation of the solar farm. Joe Tierney advised the application will be amended to construct 20 1-MegaWatt panels. This will remove the requirement for an EAW to be completed and a negative declaration of an EIS. Currently this is required for operating capacities between 25 and 50 MegaWatts. The Town Board members each presented questions regarding the operation, maintenance, removal at end of life/use, viability of solar energy production, productivity, government subsidies, impact on environment and neighbors, distribution to power companies and property access. Discussion lasted 50

minutes. Supervisor Alfords motioned to recommend the amended proposal for 20 1-MegaWatt solar garden proceed through the IUP process and to the County for the public hearing. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All were in favor.

b) Recommendation to County Board for John Norgren & Bruce Aubol Representative & Alternate to Sherburne County Planning Advisory Board – Supervisor Leslie motioned to recommend to the County Board that John Norgren serve as Big Lake Township's representative on the Sherburne County Planning Advisory Commission; and, to recommend Bruce Aubol serve as the alternate representative for this three-year term. Supervisor Pflighaar seconded. All were in favor.

## BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TOWN ROADS

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – Township Engineer, Ross Abel advised The final payment application for the overlays done by Rum River Contracting have been prepared; however, contractor affidavits have not been received and payment will be held until received. Beginning October 29<sup>th</sup>, patch work will be ground.

Finish work on the 226<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Nierman property has been done. There is more water ponding on the lower section than before. Nothing was changed in the drainage plan, where it is ponding is close to the elevation of the lake. Supervisor Alfords advised the road committee will review. It is suspected the percolation is affected by the lake elevation.

Supervisor Alfords advised the fall road tour will be conducted in the next couple of weeks.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Hofer advised he received a phone call from the Big Lake City Administrator regarding a possible annexation and requested a meeting with him and a Township Board EDA member.

Supervisor Alfords and Chairman Hofer will be attending a Hwy 25 - Monticello Transportation meeting to review a concept plan for Hwy 25.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

1) The Supervisor's had nothing to report.

### TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Warneke had nothing to report.

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ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Leslie to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Pflughar seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk

Bob Hofer, Chairman