

Monthly Board Meeting  
Minutes  
March 11, 2015

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

On Wednesday, March 11, 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.

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  
                                      Norm Leslie, Supervisor  
                                      Bruce Aubol, Supervisor  
                                      Steve Pflieghaar, Supervisor – arrived at 7:20 p.m.  
                                      Ken Warneke, Treasurer  
                                      Laura Hayes, Clerk

Board Members Absent:     Larry Alfords, Supervisor  
                                      LaDonna Braun, Deputy Clerk

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

**BOARD OF CANVASS**

Chairman Hofer announced the Annual Township Board of Canvass election results from the March 10, 2015 election. 29 ballots were cast from the 4,671 registered voters in Big Lake Township.

The tally sheet indicated the following:

Supervisor Seat #1	Steve Pflieghaar	29
Supervisor Seat #2	Larry Alfords	28
Supervisor Seat #2	Randy Miller	1

The Election Judges indicated by their signatures that the tally is correct. Election Judges serving were Christina Dokkebakken, Rita Petersen Gloria Hensel and Debbie Workman. Supervisor Leslie motioned to certify the official canvassed results of the March 10, 2015 Town Election. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All present were in favor. The Board members present signed the Board of Canvass Certification.

Supervisor Leslie motioned to approve the agenda. Supervisor Aubol advised he would be giving a Community Education update under the Supervisor Reports; and, seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda as amended.

Supervisor Aubol motioned to approve consent agenda items. The consent agenda consisted of: a) Approval of Minutes: Regular Monthly Board Meeting 2-11-15; and, Second Monthly Board Meeting 2-25-15. b) Approve the Big Lake Fire Chief's Authority for activities at the fire hall, a facility that falls within his span of control, exception are events at which liquor or beer is sold. c) Approve List of Claims & Payroll. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor.

#### OPEN FORUM

Bret Collier, Big Lake Township resident inquired if the Board had any new information on solar energy since the presentation by Sunrise Energy at the February 11, 2015 meeting; and, if there would be any local review of its permit process. Chairman Hofer and Supervisor Aubol advised State mandates dictate specific percentages of renewable energy. Clerk Hayes advised the County is creating a solar farm/solar energy ordinance. Sherburne County Zoning Administrator, Nancy Riddle attended the February 11 meeting to hear the presentation and receive Board Comments on the proposed solar energy zoning ordinance. Supervisor Aubol further advised it is unlikely the Township will be asked for further comments, this issued falls under the purview of the State.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK

a) Sherburne County Sheriff Joel Brott, 2014 Annual Report - Sherburne County Sheriff Joel Brott appeared before the Board. He presented a cumulative report of the monthly & quarterly reports received from Commander Doran during the year.

b) Clean Up Day Update – Saturday, May 2, 2015 Quote Review – Clerk Hayes presented the hauling and recycling quote received from Republic Services for the clean up day event. There were slight increases to several of the items collected. The Board reviewed the quote and the proposed advertisement. The Board made no changes to the gate fees that will be charged to residents. Clerk Hayes advised the township has been awarded up to \$17,013 in SCORE grant funds to offset costs of the cleanup day. These are reimbursable funds for materials that meet SCORE grant requirements. Clerk Hayes will sign and submit the contract with Sherburne County.

c) Cable Franchise Status Review-Renewal of Franchise Agreement(s) January 2018 – Clerk Hayes advised Charter Communications has sent a letter to the Township advising they are interested in renewing their franchise agreement and are requesting the Township commence renewal proceedings in accordance with new Cable Act legislation. Clerk Hayes advised that Attorney, Robert J.V. Vose, who drafted the original franchise agreements still practices at Kennedy & Graven, Chartered. Clerk Hayes advised she would keep the information & present to the Board again at a later meeting.

## BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TOWN ROADS

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – Treasurer Warneke advised the Spring Road Weight Restrictions go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 12, 2015. Supervisor Pflughhaar inquired how the date is determined. Treasurer Warneke advised MNDOT determines using their monitored study sites around the state.

2) 209<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Township Engineer, Ross Abel reported on 209<sup>th</sup> Avenue subgrade issues which are causing frost heaves and sinking areas in the pavement. Three specific areas have been identified as especially bad. Previous removal of subgrade and road improvements done in 1988, 1994 & 1995 and 2006 have shown varied soils is a serious issue causing the road to experience pavement heaving and dropping each spring. Crackfilling will begin on 209<sup>th</sup> Avenue next week in an effort to keep as much water as possible out of the sub-base. There was brief discussion regarding the spring weight limit on 209<sup>th</sup> Avenue; and, whether to adjust the weight tonnage restriction or leave it posted longer. It was determined that the township would continue with its regular program of assessing and repairing areas of the subgrade as issues appear. The cost to completely reconstruct 209<sup>th</sup> Avenue is more than the Township can do financially.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hofer advised the Township Annual meeting was held last night following the election. Reports were given to the residents and election results were announced.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

1) EDA update – Supervisor Pflughhaar advised WSB & Assoc., hired by the City of Big Lake to replace EDA Manager, Heidi Steinmetz, was in attendance at the meeting. EDA member Jim Dickenson presented a spreadsheet he created offering different scenarios of how the EDA can release themselves from the Industrial Park Expansion Area. The scenarios demonstrated outcomes of selling the property at \$1.50 per sq. ft. down to \$.34 per sq. ft. Lupelin Brewing is preparing to open. Members will be welcomed in March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Kwik Trip will not begin until 2016.

Joint Legislative Conference Review – Supervisor Aubol advised Supervisor Leslie, Clerk Hayes and he attended the Joint Legislative Conference on March 5, 2015. Associations represented were: League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Association of Townships, Minnesota School Board Association and Association of Minnesota Counties. Governor Dayton addressed the assembly during lunch. In addition to regular meeting agenda items, Supervisor Aubol and Clerk Hayes attended at break out session on workforce housing shortages and skilled labor gaps in outstate Minnesota. Supervisor Leslie attended a session on groundwater resources. The Supervisors and Clerk also attended the Broadband discussion.

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- Supervisor Leslie and Treasurer Warneke attended the broadband visioning meeting March 10. It was sponsored by the Blandin Foundation. Sherburne County EDA invited area residents, business owners and local officials to attend the discussion and presentation.

-Supervisor Aubol advised he attended the community education meeting March 10. Community Education will be putting on a musical "Cinderella" in May. The bike rodeo for children will be held again this spring. Facility rental rates were reviewed and discussed. Comparatively to other surrounding communities, Big Lake is a good value. There was also discussion regarding ball field and improvements such as the addition of lights.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER

a) Monthly Report –Treasurer Warneke reviewed the cash balance statement. Total receipts to date are \$202,182.60 and disbursements are \$309,952.40. Ending balance is \$1,409,239.72. General fund ending balance is \$224,135.25 and \$660,291.47 in Road Fund. Most of the brushing budget has been spent since the work was done this winter due to minimal snow cover. \$95,179.39 of the snow and ice removal budget of \$140,000. has been spent. There is still March, November and December 2015 to be prepared for. Supervisor Aubol motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Pflieghaar seconded. All were in favor.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Leslie to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Pflieghaar seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk

Robert Hofer, Chairman