

Monthly Board Meeting  
Minutes  
May 25, 2016

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

On Wednesday, May 25, 2016 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 2 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present:     Bob Hofer, Chairman  
                                      Steve Pflughaar, Supervisor  
                                      Norm Leslie, Supervisor  
                                      Bruce Aubol, 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 Leslie motioned to approve the agenda. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda as presented.

Supervisor Aubol motioned to approve consent agenda items. The consent agenda consisted of: a) Approve Corporate Authorization Resolutions at First National Bank of Elk River and KleinBank. b) Approve List of Claims and Payroll. Supervisor Pflughaar seconded. All were in favor.

**BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK**

a) Socore Energy/Request to Amend Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance Sec. 16.2 IUP Subd 1 Authority – The Board reviewed the proposed amendment change to the ordinance. Supervisor Aubol noted Sherburne County Zoning staff and Sherburne County Attorneys have spent a considerable amount of time drafting the ordinance and proposed changes to the document. The Board had no objection to the proposed amendment as presented.

b) City of Big Lake OAA Request for 27 Acre Solar Garden Site Discussion – Chairman Hofer and Supervisor Alfords met with Big Lake City Administrator, Clay Wilfahrt today; and, with Sherburne County Zoning Administrator Nancy Riddle and Ass't Zoning Administrator Lynn Waytashek last week regarding the solar garden proposal. Both meetings were very productive. The County currently has 56 applications county-wide for solar farms. To date, the City of Big Lake solar garden proposal is the only one that has objected to requirements of the County solar ordinance including the decommissioning escrow. Supervisor Alfords noted the estimated cost to construct the 27 acre solar farm is \$12.5 million, the County requested escrow is 1% of construction cost (\$125,000.) The City of Big Lake is proposing to keep lease fees up to \$56,000. in a fund as the decommissioning fee. Supervisor Alfords advised Administrator Wilfahrt will do more research on protective language and decommissioning costs and process. The Board noted if the property were to stay in the Township and under County Zoning Ordinance, building the first solar farm or garden with 5 exceptions isn't in the best interest of the community. Supervisor Leslie motioned to table action to a future meeting. Supervisor Alfords seconded. All were in favor.

c) Other-Updates-Meetings

- 1) Sherburne History Center-Membership Renewal at Heritage \$1,000. Level - Clerk Hayes advised renewal of the membership is in tonight's claims. Supervisor Pflughhaar motioned to renew membership at the Heritage level for \$1,000. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor.
- 2) Sherburne County Fair Parade Committee – Sherburne County Fair Parade Committee is asking for nominations for 2016 County Fair Parade Grand Marshall. Supervisors were asked to bring recommendations to the June 8<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting for submissions.

BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOWN ROADS

- 1) Township Engineer, Ross Abel advised seal coating will be done June 13 & 14. Supervisor Pflughhaar noted the ditch washout on 215<sup>th</sup> Avenue still needs to be repaired. Treasurer Warneke advised this has been given to Jeff Rhodes for repair, in addition to a couple washouts in Meadowlands.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hofer advised he had nothing specific to report.

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Other-Updates-Meetings – Supervisor Leslie advised the ballfield turf has had three applications of various fertilizer blends and is growing very well. It may be possible to play ball on it late July/early August. Benches have been installed. The soccer field has had a few games played on it.

Supervisor Alfords advised, during the meeting today with City Administrator Wilfahrt, the County wide accessible composting facility, operated by the City of Big Lake, was discussed in regard to drainage issues that need to be resolved. It was noted there is a borrow pit near the site that could hold surface water if it were routed to it. Supervisor Aubol motioned to allow the Township to participate financially with the City of Big Lake to improve grading & drainage at the composting site. Supervisor Pflieger seconded. All were in favor.

## BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER

a) Monthly Report –Treasurer Warneke inquired if the Board was interested in increasing the amount of the Clerk and Treasurer's Bonds. Treasurer Warneke advised the bond offers financial recovery in the event of theft. Currently the Township is covered \$100k for each, Clerk and Treasurer up to an annual aggregate of \$100k. Additional coverage is \$100. for an additional \$100k of coverage up to \$500k. The Board determined additional coverage would not be necessary. Supervisor Pflieger motioned to make no change. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer Warneke further advised the values for insurance coverage on property should be reviewed. Supervisor Alfords motioned to have the finance and the park committees review the coverage. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Leslie to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Pflieger seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk

Robert Hofer, Chairman