



21960 COUNTY ROAD 5 • PO BOX 75 • BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA 55309

## **MONTHLY MEETING – WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 2018**

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The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, on Wednesday January 24, 2018, at the Town of Big Lake Town Hall, located in the Big Lake Township, Lions Park Community Center, 21960 County Road 5, Big Lake Township, Sherburne County, State of Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Aubol and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited.

Board Supervisors present were Bruce Aubol, Bob Hofer, Norm Leslie and Steve Pfliegaar, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk Jayme Swenson, Town Engineer Ross Abel, Sherburne County Sheriff Commander Steve Doran, Interim Fire Chief Ken Halverson, Fire Department member Chris Brezinka and six audience members were in attendance. Absent from the meeting was Supervisor Larry Alford.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Motion/Second to accept Agenda as presented by: Leslie/Pleghaar. All present Supervisors approved. Motion Prevailed.

The meeting proceeded in accordance with the presented agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda consisted of: Approval of Regular Monthly Board Meeting Minutes 01-10-18, Approval of Election Judge Selection List, Adoption of Resolution 2018-01 – Accepting Fire Department Donation, Adoption of Resolution 2018-02 – Setting Absentee Ballot Board for March 13, 2018 Town Elections, Approve List of Claims & Payroll.

Motion/Second to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by: Hofer/Pfliegaar. All present Supervisors approved. Motion Prevailed.

### **BIG LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Interim Fire Chief Halverson updated the Board, reporting the Department responded to a total of 158 calls in 2017. January to date the Department responded to 16 calls, many of which were house fires. There are seven new members, of the eight originally hired. They have completed level 1 & 2 training and will be taking hazmat training, next.

### **CLERK'S BUSINESS**

Big Lake Fire Relief Association Benefit Increase: Chris Brezinka, Relief Association President, was present to request an increase to the Relief Association benefits. He reported the current benefit is funded at 114% and the Association is requesting approval to increase the current retirement payout benefits to \$4500 per year of service, a \$400 increase. Chris reported there was no increase in 2016, but an increase in 2017. Chris also requested the Board have a representative(s) for the Relief Association. Bruce Aubol and Steve Pfliegaar agreed to be the Town's co-representatives to the BLFDRA.

Motion/Second to increase the Big Lake Fire Department Relief Association retirement benefit by \$400, effective on January 25, 2018 by: Leslie/Hofer. All present Supervisors approved. Motion Prevailed.

Andy & Jolene Thelen – Riding and Boarding Stable CUP Request: Andy and Jolene Thelen were present to discuss their plan for a riding/boarding stable and business, on their property. Clerk Kimberly-Maas informed the Board the Town's current animal ordinance will not allow horses, (considered agricultural animals), a barn or stable, on their platted property. The Town ordinance also states on UNPLATTED land, there can only be one animal unit (1 horse is equal to 1 animal unit) per acre of pasture land. She also reminded the Board the County is requiring this be a CUP, rather than an IUP, which means the use permit stays with the land. The Thelen's told the Board they are looking to have up to 25 horses on the 11-acre parcel. They want to board horses, give lessons, work with PTSD patients, and offer equine massage. Additionally, they plan on holding two large events each year, some smaller events throughout the year, sell tack and allow boarders to store horse trailers, at the facility. The Board asked about waste storage and removal and what other areas the horses would be pastured. Andy Thelen stated they have a plan to use adjacent land for pasture, which is owned by relatives and a local farmer will be taking the manure and using it on his fields.

CUP Comments to be submitted to Sherburne County: Recommend DENIAL of CUP, Town Ordinance will need to be amended or variance granted for land use, Thelen's to work with Sherburne SWCD to create a compliant waste management plan, consider changing to IUP and modifying it to include adjacent family land.

Sanford Solar Farm: Clerk Kimberly-Maas told the Board that Jim Sanford had approached Sherburne County Planning and Zoning and the Town about NextEra's offer to plant vegetation along the Xcel only, field approach to the solar garden. The vegetative planting is not a requirement of the IUP. Jim told Brenda, the wheels of his irrigation system would be blocked by any plantings and he would lose his ability to irrigate several acres of land. The County has no concerns if the planting is not done and is requesting the Township give input.

Supervisor Pflieger directed Brenda to inform the County, that they are respectfully declining the generous offer made by NextEra, to plant vegetation along the Xcel field access. The vegetative screening around the solar panels is to remain a condition of the IUP.

Big Lake Chamber Vendor Fair participation: The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce Vendor Fair will be held on Sunday March 4, 2018. Member cost, for a standard (no electricity), 8' x 10' booth is \$200. Clerk Kimberly-Maas inquired on the Board's decision to attend. Jayme and Brenda will be in the booth all day. Other Board members will also be scheduled to help in the booth.

Motion/Second to participate in the 2018 Vendor Fair, in a standard 8' x 10' booth by: Leslie/Pflieger. All present Supervisors approved. Motion Prevailed.

### **BOARD BUSINESS, UPDATES, COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Supervisor Hofer had no updates.

Supervisor Aubol noted a lot of changes are happening at the Big Lake Fire Department and the Fire Board is getting to and through the situations.

Supervisor Leslie was invited by Hannah Klimmek, to attend a business retention and expansion field trip, at White Bear Clothing, which is located in the Big Lake Industrial Park. He found the event interesting. He learned that White Bear Clothing designs various clothing items, sends the patterns and material out for manufacturing and sells the finished product directly to other businesses.

Supervisor Pflieger also attended a business retention and expansion field trip. He visited Vision Transportation's bus garage, in the Big Lake Industrial Park. During his visit, Steve learned there is a huge demand for bus drivers.

Steve also attended Sherburne County Community Partners meeting. There he learned about the robotics program, in the Becker school district.

### **ROADS**

Ross Abel informed the Board the seeding and mulching quantities done by Park Construction were higher than the amounts calculated by Oliver & Associates. An agreement, on the differences was reached and the Final Total for 2017 Park Construction contract, will be \$45,659. The FINAL pay application was part of tonight's claims. The voucher will be held until all lien waivers are received from Park's subcontractors. Ross also told the Board the 2017 ASTECH contract, is paid in full.

### **TREASURER BUSINESS**

Treasurer Warneke informed the Board he represented the Town, at the ISD 728 Community Meeting. During the meeting he learned about the presence of law enforcement in the schools, ISD 728 community education programs and attendees were asked to get input on what the district is doing well and where there was room for improvement. It was reported ISD 728 is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest, in the Minnesota, but is #10 in fund receipts. Attendees were asked to give their requests for what they would like to learn and/or discuss, at the next meeting.

Ken is working on balancing the 2017 books.

The Board had no concerns or questions for the Treasurer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion/Second to adjourn the Wednesday January 24, 2018 Regular Meeting at 7:11PM by: Leslie/Pfleghaar. All present Supervisors Approved. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town of Big Lake, Clerk

Accepted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2018, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

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Bob Hofer, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk