



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

MONTHLY MEETING – WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2018

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, on Wednesday February 14, 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 Chair Hofer, at 6:00PM 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, news reporter and two audience members were in attendance. Absent from the meeting was Supervisor Larry Alfords.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion/Second to accept Agenda as presented by: Aubol/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 01-24-18, 2018 Recycle Day SCORE Grant application and Approval of the List of Claims & Payroll.

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

CLERK'S BUSINESS

Rob Lind Variance: Clerk Kimberly-Maas informed the Board that she had been informed by Sherburne County and Rob Lind, that Rob had formally withdrawn his variance request with regard to subdivision ordinance section 11, subd. 1:2D, heard by the Board on 01/10/2018.

NO FURTHER ACTION NEEDED

Request to Amend Sandford Solar Farm IUP: Request to change the name on the existing IUP #54271 from SEV MN 1, LLC to DG Minnesota CSG, LLC. The address of the applicant has not changed. The Board had no concerns with the name change request. Brenda will make this comment on the Sherburne County supplied form and submit it to Planning & Zoning offices.

Boettner Variance request: Bill and Deborah Boettner were present to answer any questions on their variance request to section 17, subd. 8.3, to allow them to construct a 3,000 sq ft pole shed on their 4.5 acre parcel in the plat of Roslyn Addition. Brenda informed the Board that Mitch Glines had spoken with the Boettners and informed them they MUST apply for both the home and building permit at the same time. This is to ensure a home is also constructed on the parcel. The Boettners plan is to construct the shed and house some of their belongings and construction materials, while the house is being built. But intend to construct a home there within a short time after constructing the shed.

Comments made to Sherburne County were to recommend approval of the variance, which would allow for the larger pole building. The Board desires the Boettners apply for both the shed and home permits at the same time. To ensure the home is built in a timely fashion, the Board would like to have language added to the building permits or variance approval, if granted by the County, which

states if the home is not completed within the permit time frame (6 mos), the shed will be removed, at the expense of the Boettners.

Kaufmann request to use Drainage Easement: Mike and Korrin Kaufmann were present to answer any questions on their request to place a catch basin device within the drainage easement on the west side of their property. The Kaufmann's live in Riverdale Estates Plat 2. Their back yard has Elk River frontage and when they built their home, they were required to install a holding pond in the back yard, to catch run off water. However, they still have a significant amount of overland water, which threatens flooding in their basement. They have contacted Sherburne County for help to resolve the problem. One solution is to dredge the drainage easement to allow more holding space. This would destroy the root system of the trees within the easement. The Kaufmanns would like to install a catch basin system which would minimize damage to the trees. Sherburne County informed them that approval would need to be obtained from Big Lake Town Board, to work within the easement. Mike had provided sketch plans for the Board and Engineer, Ross Abel to preview. If approval is given by the Town, the Kaufmanns will need to work with Sherburne County and the DNR to obtain all permits necessary. The Kaufmann's also understand any cleaning of the device would be the responsibility of them or future landowners. Ross voiced his concerns of allowing residents to work within the easement, without Town involvement. He also wondered if the device could be installed near the easement, but within the yard. Ross suggested he and one or two Township representatives visit the location to get a better understanding of the situation, before making recommendation. Ross, Bob Hofer and Ken Warneke will meet Mike Kaufmann at the residence on Monday February 19, 2018. This committee will make recommendation to the Board on possible solution(s).

FOLLOW UP AT 2/28/2018 MEETING

Andy & Jolene Thelen – Riding and Boarding Stable Town Ordinance Amendment or Variance Request: The Board revisited the request made by Andy and Jolene Thelen's plan for a riding/boarding stable and business, on their property. The reason for reviewing it is because the Town's Ordinance 85-1 For Regulation of Animals does not allow horses, (considered agricultural animals – sect. 100.01 subd. 16.), on their platted property (sect. 100.2, subd.1) The Town Animal 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 (sect. 100.2, subd. 1A.) and no stable or barn in which agricultural animals are kept or maintained shall be located within 300 feet of a neighboring dwelling or platted area (sect. 100.2, subd. 1B.)

The County will not grant a CUP to the Thelens unless the Board amends or gives variance to Town Ordinance 85-1, to allow agricultural animals and barns/stables, on platted land. Additionally, the Board would likely need to allow more than one animal per acre of pastureland, since the Town Ordinance only allows that density on UNPLATTED land of 4 acres or more.

Supervisor Pflighaar stated he was opposed to amending Town Ordinance and opposed to granting variances to the existing Town Ordinance. He stated there is not enough land owned by the Thelens for the number of animals they will be boarding and pasturing. He believes to grant variance or amend the ordinance, in this situation is not in the best interest of the Town. Supervisors Aubol, Hofer and Leslie concurred.

Motion/Second to follow the existing Ordinance 85-1 For Regulation of Animals and not grant variances to it, for CUP request made by Andy and Jolene Thelen by: Leslie/Pflighaar. All Supervisors present approved. Motion prevails.

BOARD BUSINESS. UPDATES. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervisor Hofer had no updates.

Supervisor Aubol informed the Board that Community Ed. offices are housed at Liberty Elementary School and they are providing good programs which are being well attended. The Community Ed. theater will be performing Looney Lutherans on Saturday March 3rd. More information can be found at the Community Ed. website.

Supervisor Leslie announced the Lions Annual Fish Fry is scheduled for the upcoming Friday (February 16, 2018). He also informed the Board he is awaiting a quote to expand the well-used doggy park. The expansion will include a receiving area and a smaller fenced in area, to cater to smaller dogs. He hopes to have the quote for Board consideration at the next meeting.

Supervisor Pflughhaar reported from BLEDA meeting that Cargill will be adding 16,000 sq. feet on the north side of their building, Paragon has paid off their loan early, LSI plans to build 20-25 homes in the City of Big Lake in 2018 and Williams-Dingman Funeral home is slated to open in the spring of 2018.

ROADS

Ross Abel informed the Board he is still waiting for lien waivers from Park's subcontractors. The Town will continue to hold payment until they are received and approved as compliant, by Ross.

TREASURER BUSINESS

Treasurer Warneke reviewed the financial report. Total fund balance is \$1,492,000.00. The Town has spent \$98,000 of the \$160,000 Plowing Budget. There is \$192,000 left in the Road & Bridge Fund. He has made payments to the Fire Department Operating Fund - \$70,000, Bonds, Industrial Park bills and 2018 Highway 25 Coalition. The Board had no concerns or questions on the Treasurer's report. Motion/Second to approve the Treasurer's report by: Pflughhaar/Aubol. All Supervisors approved. Motion Passed

Ken is finishing up the 2017 books in preparation for the Board of Audit meeting.

The Board had no concerns or questions for the Treasurer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a short Finance Committee meeting to review the budget. Ken will connect with Finance Committee to arrange meeting time.

Annual Board of Audit will be held during the February 28, 2018 meeting.

MAT Short Course registration is taking place for Board members interested in attending.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second to adjourn the Wednesday February 14, 2018 Regular Meeting at 7:30PM by: Leslie/Pflughhaar. All present Supervisors Approved. Motion Passed.

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

Accepted this 28th day of February 2018, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bob Hofer, Chairman

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk