

TOWN of BIG LAKE
"Sherburne County's First 5-Member Township Board"
P.O. Box 75, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309

On Wednesday, October 12, 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 20 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present: Bob Hofer, Chairman
 Steve Pflgebraar, Supervisor
 Norm Leslie, Supervisor
 Bruce Aubol, Supervisor
 Larry Alfords, Supervisor
 Ken Warneke, Treasurer
 Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk

Staff Members Absent: Laura Hayes, 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 Pflgebraar 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 the Claims & Payroll and List of Claims & Payroll. Supervisor Pflgebraar seconded. All were in favor.

OPEN FORUM

Chair Hofer recognized the attendance of State Senator, Mary Kiffmeyer. Senator Kiffmeyer gave a brief update to the Board and attendees on items being discussed and worked on at the State level. Of note is the TH-25 corridor. Supervisor Aubol asked about out-state broadband. Senator Kiffmeyer told the audience of the additional \$35 million to an existing fund, which is to be used to upgrade internet coverage for residents who live in rural areas. She also noted there is new technology which uses existing electrical lines as conduction for internet. This and other technologies are being investigated as options to bring internet to the rural communities.

Resident, Lisa Knutson addressed the Board with her need to have an easement granted to allow access to her property. The parcel to the west of her property and north of the Town owned parcel, has been purchased by her and her husband. There is a paved access through the Town owned parcel, but there is no formal road or cartway. The Road Committee members and Town Engineer will investigate and give their recommendation to resolve this concern.

BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK

a) John Louiselle/North Line – IUP for business to sell customized trailers – John Louiselle appeared before the Board to discuss his need to obtain an IUP in order to sell his customized trailers. The State Statues mandate he have a motor vehicle sales license because he will be making four or more per year. He is leasing space from Peterson's Towing which is not currently zoned for this type of business. John will renew his lease should Sherburne County Planning and Zoning approve the IUP. The Board felt this business would be a good fit in the location. Supervisor Alfords motioned to recommend approval of the IUP. Supervisor Pflgebraar seconded. All were in favor.

b) SEV MN 1LLC – request to amend current IUP 54271 Doc #820029 – Joe Tierney & Dean Leischow Sunrise Energy Services – Request to Amend Existing IUP to Move Phase 1 from the North End to the South End of the Property for a Solar Farm – Joe Tierney and Dean Leischow appeared before the Board to present their request. There were several statements made by Mr. Leischow and Mr. Tierney that the Township approved these requests. One of the statements made by Mr. Leischow, was that Xcel is the driving force behind the request to change the IUP to have Phase I moved to the south section of the parcel. This is the exact opposite of what was stated by Town Board Supervisor & Sherburne Planning Advisory Commission Representative Bruce Aubol. He was advised it is his understanding and that of Sherburne County staff that Xcel Energy is not requiring SEV MN 1 LLC to move phase 1 to the Southern portion of the property. The decision to move phase 1 to the south is strictly a cost saving action being done by SEV MN 1 LLC. And, if it is SEV MN 1 LLC's intention to develop the property into a full 20 Megawatt facility in the future, it will eventually be north, and will require lines to be installed anyway.

There was discussion regarding the original proposal to start north and connect to the existing lines. The Town Board noted several Issues they had asked to be addressed prior to this meeting. a) complete construction plans- including, but is not limited to, all proposal and construction drawings showing all items in their actual location within, and outside the site up to the interconnection point of Xcel lines along County 11; b) absolute, defined answers of what will be overhead lines, number and location of poles, or underground lines. The information distributed by Joe and Dean did not have the information requested. Joe & Dean stated the design came from Xcel and was one SEV needed to follow. The Board was also told the zoning can direct Xcel in the placement of the poles and lines. It was stated to start on the north of the property could cost over \$100,000 to install the poles and lines to connect to Xcel's lines on the south of the property. Mr. Leischow stated the Board's approval could contain the design considerations, which were brought up at the meeting: 1) installing underground lines, 2) Installing ground transformers instead of pole mounted, 3) follow up meeting to have the conditions met before construction.

Supervisor Alfords felt the information given by Mr. Leischow and Mr. Tierney was not sufficient enough to make a recommendation to approve or deny the change of the IUP. Supervisor Alfords motioned to TABLE the item until the next monthly meeting to be held on 10/26/16. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Lieschow and Mr. Tierney departed after the motion passed.

c) Other-Updates-Meetings –Supervisors Alfords and Aubol made the request to have a meeting scheduled with Planning and Zoning staff, Nancy Riddle and Lynn Waytashek,

to discuss the situation. They also suggested the County Attorney be invited, but may not need to be present.

BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOWN ROADS

- 1) Road Tour: Road Committee reported a lot of growth of brush and tree limbs. A list/map of areas in need of trimming will be created and given to Jeff Rhodes. There were very few road concerns which had not already been corrected. All projects looked good and the committee members felt Knife River provided good service for our projects. Ken Warneke advised the striping was completed. Ross Abel advised the restoration phase of applying topsoil was complete and it would be seeded/mulched the following day. There are a few letters which will need to be sent out by the Clerk's office. The information will be given to the Clerk's office.
- 2) 146th St. – Camp Cozy/Septic Line crossing drainage easement: Ken Warneke stated there was more information which needs to be included in the Encroachment Agreement, being drafted by counsel. He will make sure the Clerk's office has the information, for the Agreement
- 3) Sale of Tax Forfeiture land: Ross Abel and the Road Committee did not feel the Town needed to pull the parcels from the auction. Supervisor Alfords motioned to adopt the Resolution to sell the tax forfeited land. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All were in favor.
- 4) Other Updates- Meetings: Ross Abel updated the status of the drainage correction project on Birch Lake. The work is 50% complete with the basins, concrete work and manholes done. The contractor is doing a nice job. To date the roads have been remained open. Ross has been in direct communication with the bus company, so they can reroute when necessary. The cutout of pavement on 224th Ave was also complete.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hofer advised he had been to the EDA meeting, as Supervisor Pfliegaar was unable to attend. He thought the information presented was interesting. No other items to report.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Leslie also attended the EDA meeting and updated the Board. The industrial park land needs to be appraised, as development looks to be coming soon. Appraisals should be for 2.5, 5 and 10 acre parcels. No other items to report.

BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER

a) Monthly Report – Treasurer Warneke reported the cash balance of all funds was at one of the lowest in a long time (\$1,103,000). The R&B fund was down \$700,000 (\$227,000 in the fund), from the usual amount held. He noted there will need to be some shuffling of budget money, within the fund, to pay for some of the upcoming trimming

and brushing expenses, which were not anticipated. Most of the 2016 road projects have been completed and paid.

The second disbursement from the County will be distributed in December, which will replenish the fund. Supervisor Alfords motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Pfleghaar seconded. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Leslie to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Pfleghaar seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk

Robert Hofer, Chairman