

Monthly Board Meeting
Minutes
October 9, 2013

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

On Wednesday, October 9, 2013 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. The meeting was tape recorded for transcribing purposes only.

Vice-chairman Alfords called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 7 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken by the Chairman.

Board Members Present: Bob Hofer, Chairman
 Larry Alfords, Supervisor
 Bruce Aubol, Supervisor
 Norm Leslie, Supervisor
 Ken Warneke, Treasurer
 Laura Hayes, Clerk
 LaDonna Braun, Deputy Clerk

Board Members Absent: Steve Pflighaar, Supervisor

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

Supervisor Aubol advised he had a Community Education meeting update to give under Business from the Board. Supervisor Leslie motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Supervisor Aubol's report. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda as amended.

Supervisor Alfords motioned to approve consent agenda items. The consent agenda consisted of: a) Approval of Minutes: Regular Monthly Board Meeting 9-11-13 and Second Monthly Board Meeting 9-25-13. b) Approve List of Claims and September Fire Department Payroll. (Disbursement List will be received at Meeting). Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Pete Ahrens, 19624-166th Street, Big Lake Township appeared before the Board to inquire if 194th Avenue has a 66' right-of-way; and, how far down 194th Avenue the Township plows the snow. The Board advised the State of Minnesota sent a letter to the Township this summer commenting on the preliminary plat of Great Elk Subdivision. 194th Avenue was mentioned in this comment letter. The owner/developer has not

appeared before the Board to present the plat. The Board advised Pete Ahrens they would investigate the width of the right-of-way of 194th Avenue and respond to his inquiry.

BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK

a) Mark Lewis/22' Setback Variance from ROW of 226th Avenue, Eagle Lake Park for Attached Garage – Mark Lewis appeared before the Board to request a variance in setback to construct an attached garage. Mark and Kathy Lewis are planning to build a new home on Eagle Lake. An existing detached garage could be used; however, the new garage will be 4' feet farther away from 226th Avenue than the existing garage. Supervisor Aubol motioned to recommend approval of the 22' foot variance in setback and the plan to remove the existing garage and construct an attached garage of the same size, placing it 4' feet farther from the road right-of-way. Supervisor Alfords seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

b) Erik & Valerie Johnson/Requesting Variance to Township Animal Ordinance to Keep Chickens in Platted Area (Rosewood Addition) – Erik Johnson appeared before the Board to request a variance to the Township Animal Ordinance to keep the chickens they have had for the past 3 years. Currently they have 12 chickens (8 laying hens, 4 older hens). The rooster, which is what the neighbor complained about, is no longer there. Erik Johnson advised having the chickens is therapeutic for their youngest child. The child also has an allergy to pasteurized eggs and therefore he is able to eat these. Supervisor Aubol inquired if the chickens are kept in pens. Erik Johnson advised they are. Supervisor Alfords advised the animal ordinance also serves as protection for the Johnson's against other animals. Supervisor Leslie inquired if there weren't other sources for fresh eggs they could use. Erik Johnson advised there are. Supervisor Alfords motioned to deny the variance request to keep the chickens in a platted area. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOWN ROADS

1) Resolutions to Extend Township Road Snowplowing Contracts with JME Companies & TW Hauling & Excavating through April 14, 2014 – Clerk Hayes advised both companies agreed to keep their hourly rates and fuel surcharges the same as the previous 3-year contract; and, advised they are interested in extending the contract for an additional year. Jay Morrell, owner of JME Companies advised, for the purposes of future fleet planning, a 3-year contract is preferred. Supervisor Alfords motioned to extend both contracts for one year to expire April 14, 2014. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

2) Mississippi River Crossing/Present Formal Request for Study Information – Supervisor Alfords advised that Chairman Hofer, Clerk Hayes and he attended a meeting at the Sherburne County Public Works Office with Public Works Director, John Menter and Sherburne County Highway Engineer, Rhonda Lewis. The meeting was

scheduled by representatives from WSB & Assoc. During that meeting, Supervisor Alfords requested a copy of the study including the criteria demonstrating how the bridge crossing sites were chosen or determined. It seems that requesting this information is viewed as the Township denying the request to consider a bridge crossing; and, this is not the first time a copy of the study has been requested. Supervisor Aubol motioned to send a letter to the City of Monticello and WSB & Assoc. and copy it to Wright County requesting a full copy of the study be given to the Township for review and consideration. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

Other-Updates-Meetings – Treasurer Warneke advised mowing is being done.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1) Review Special Joint Meeting with City of Big Lake 10/7/13 – Clerk Hayes advised Mayor RaeAnne Danielowski called today and wanted to extend her thanks to the Town Board for attending the meeting. Supervisor Alfords advised he felt the meeting was positive. As a result of the meeting discussion, Clerk Hayes was asked to check previous records dating back to the 1st phase of Industrial Park East to see if or what portion of the EDA Director's wage was paid by the Township. Treasurer Warneke advised he recalls contributing toward the cost of consulting costs, but not the EDA Director's wage. An invoice for policing services for 2010, 2011 & 2012 were in tonight's claims. Chief Scharf will be working on a calculation for future police service cost sharing.

BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER

a) Monthly Report – Treasurer Warneke advised there were \$152,819.18 in claims and payroll approved under the consent agenda. Treasurer Warneke advised total government funds and escrow are approximately \$2,354,099.02. Treasurer Warneke reviewed the 101, 102, 103 & 402 account receipts and disbursements, noting all are positive totals. No changes have been made to investments. Supervisor Aubol motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Alfords seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Supervisor Aubol advised he attended the Community Education Meeting on October 8. This was the first meeting of the new year for the advisory group. Last year's activities were recapped. Trap shooting was very successful with 40 participants and will be offered again this year. Gymnastics is very popular and is offered nearly every evening. The swimming pool will be open for fall lessons and for winter use. Driver's Education left Big Lake community education a couple of years ago, it will be coming back. The Community Education directors are planning to be able to stay financially sound with adjusted and new programs and office changes. The next meeting will be November 12 at 6:30 pm. at Independence Elementary.

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Supervisor Leslie advised EDA will be held Tuesday, October 15 due to Monday being Columbus Day. Supervisor Leslie advised he attended the EDA Director interviews. 4 people were interviewed. The first candidate chosen turned down the position. The second candidate accepted. He is currently working in economic development in Hibbing, MN.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk

Robert Hofer, Chairman