

Monthly Board Meeting
Minutes
April 13, 2011

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

On Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 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.

Chairman Hofer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 5 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken by the Chairman.

Board Members Present: Bob Hofer, Chairman
 Norm Leslie, Supervisor
 Larry Alfords, Supervisor
 Mike Hayes, Supervisor
 Ken Warneke, Treasurer
 Laura Hayes, Clerk
 Kristie Woolard, Deputy Clerk
 Todd McLouth, Township Engineer

Board Members Absent: Jim Stahlmann, Supervisor

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 as presented. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda as presented.

Supervisor Alfords motioned to approve consent agenda items: a) Approval of Minutes: Regular Monthly Board Meeting 3-9-11, Second Monthly Meeting 3-23-11; and, Board of Review & Equalization 4-1-11. b) Call the Quarterly Meeting of the Sherburne County Association of Township as Haven Town Hall, Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Noting a Quorum of Township Supervisors may be present. c) Adopt Resolutions 2011-02, 2011-03, 2011-04, 2011-05 and 2011-06 Authorizing Contract with Interested Officer Under M.S. § 471.88, subd. 5 d) Approve List of Claims (Disbursement List will be Received at Meeting). Supervisor Leslie seconded. Each Supervisor abstained from approval of their payroll claim. Supervisor Hayes abstained from approval of Clerk Hayes payroll claim. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Sherburne County Sheriff Deputy, Captain Steve Doran appeared before the Board to respond to any concerns from the Township. No concerns were presented at this time.

Carol Nierman, 18778-226th Avenue NW, Eagle Lake Park appeared before the Board regarding a drainage issue on 226th Avenue and 187th Street in Eagle Lake Park. She inquired about the possibility installing a bituminous curb to prevent the silt flow and provided photographs from the most recent rainfall last Wednesday. She further inquired if the spring road tour had been conducted yet. The Board reviewed the photos and advised the road tour has been tentatively set to begin on Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

Russell Peterson, 18949 227th Avenue, Eagle Lake Park advised the Board he will mark his Torrens property line with flags, noting the road committee should also look at during the road tour.

BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK

a) Gary D'Heilly, Engineer – Concept plan 39.9 acres PID#'s 10-124-4401, 4404, 4406, 4408 / Consideration of Alternate Soil Standards – Gary D'Heilly, Engineer for Doug Pietig presented information and drawings regarding the mottled soil located on his clients property. Gary D'Heilly advised the mottling is not the result of high ground water levels. He advised the mottle layer follows the terrain and causes rainwater to not be able to drain down. He advised that proposed septic system placements would be sufficient; however, drain tile would be necessary for proposed homes to have basements. There was lengthy discussion regarding mottled soil conditions in the parcels being reviewed. Supervisor Hayes inquired if the proposed 4 houses would have individual septic systems or if it would be a community system, similar to Aspen Hills. Gary D'Heilly advised individual septic systems could be supported in the area. It was noted these properties are straight East of the Aspen Hills development. Supervisor Alfords mentioned there are many lots in the inventory at this time and advised he was concerned about approving a marginal plat with the overage of developed lots currently available in the Township. Gary D'Heilly advised the top layer of soil is approximately 18" of sand and gravel, which transitions into a silt layer. He noted no clay was found. Treasurer Warneke inquired if remnants of the former gravel were found. Gary D'Heilly advised 20+ soil borings were taken on the properties because what they were finding did not match the soil maps. Supervisor Alfords advised he was concerned that building pads would have to be very high and all require drain tile to light. Treasurer Warneke advised he was concerned about the proposed location of the road and possible overlap with a County Ditch. Gary D'Heilly advised he wasn't aware there was a County Ditch through the property. He advised he will investigate this with the County Ditch Inspector/Planning and Zoning Office. Supervisor Alfords advised County ditch and drain tile issues must be addressed. The Board reviewed their areas of concern including; the style of location of septic systems that will be used, requesting that mound systems be used; foundations and the amount of drain tile to light that will most likely be necessary to ensure against basement flooding; and, the location of county drain tile and the County Ditch within the property. The Board further noted that through the course of the standard plat procedure, further drainage issues may come up and will need to be addressed. Supervisor Alfords motioned to accept the concept plan with the use of alternative soil standards using mound systems and drain tile to light; and, that any other changes need to be approved by the Township; and, that the Township is not eager

about the prospect of another development in Big Lake Township at this time, especially with the need to have alternate soils approved and the current amount of road mileage being maintained by the Township with out tax base to support it within open, existing developments. Supervisor Hayes seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

Supervisor Hayes moved to the audience at 7:38 p.m.

b) Mike & Laura Hayes – 14' Variance Request for the Construction of a 30'x40' Storage Building – Mike Hayes, 19281 172nd Street, Big Lake appeared before the Board to request a 14' variance in setback from the side property line to construct a 30'x40' storage building. The required setback is 50', the proposed building would be 36' from the property line. Mike Hayes advised the building would be used for the storage of a vehicle for a new driver in the family. The purpose of requesting a variance is to save several maturing trees that would otherwise need to be removed; and, to avoid moving the driveway. It was noted this is a 6-acre parcel in the middle of 500 acres owned by the applicant and his family. The property is zoned agricultural. Supervisor Leslie motioned to approve the 14' variance request. Supervisor Alfords seconded. Supervisors Leslie, Alfords and Hofer voted in favor. No one voted in opposition. The motion carried.

Supervisor Hayes returned to his seat at the Town Board meeting table at 7:42 p.m.

c) Other-Updates-Meetings –

-Clerk Hayes inquired about the start date for the 211th Avenue reconstruction so that property owners, the county and local public safety offices could be advised. Township Engineer, Todd McLouth advised a preconstruction meeting will be held at the end of May and temporary road closure would not happen until after school is out, after June 3, 2011.

-Clerk Hayes advised Attorney, Peter Tiede has inquired if the Township would like to spend approximately \$700. for title insurance for the property gifted to the Township by Harold (Bud) and Nola Mitchell. Clerk Hayes advised it may not be necessary because the property was a gift, no taxpayer funds were spent to purchase it; and, it is low and unbuildable and will remain in its natural state. The Board unanimously agreed to forgo purchasing title insurance.

-Clerk Hayes advised volunteers have been contacted for clean up day. There are many returning volunteers and several new. The Big Lake Fire Department has six fire fighters who have volunteered to help; however, they will only be able to work in the morning. Supervisor Leslie advised he would inquire with the Big Lake Lions for additional afternoon volunteers.

-Clerk Hayes advised the County Planning & Zoning Office has produced an updated draft comprehensive plan. The county is requesting that all Town Boards review the draft and submit comments. The plan may be viewed online. Clerk Hayes will place the

County Draft Comprehensive Plan on the April 27th and May 11th Town Board meetings agenda's. Comments must be returned to the County Planning & Zoning Department no later than May 19, 2011.

BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

TOWN ROADS

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – Township Engineer, Todd McLouth noted the 211th Avenue preconstruction meeting will be held at the end of May. He reviewed Contract Amendment No. 1. for 211th Avenue Road Reconstruction. Flooding of the adjacent property will not be used for wetland replacement. The Township and Robert Eddy were not able to coordinate this as originally planned for the creation of a wetland; therefore, the outlet structure is not required and has been deleted from the contract. This will reduce the contract amount by \$15,500. Wetland credits were borrowed from the wetland bank operated by the State of Minnesota. Todd McLouth advised there was no cost involved in doing this because it is a safety concern due to the steep ditch. He further advised that 221st Avenue, (Meadowlands) Road Build-Up has been added to the contract. This will include 16" of granular borrow over the top of the existing bituminous pavement, and will add \$18,779.25 to the contract amount. Supervisor Hayes motioned to approve Contract Amendment No. 1 for 211th Avenue Road Reconstruction. Supervisor Alfords seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried. Chairman Hofer signed the contract amendment.

-Township Engineer, Todd McLouth will be meeting with Attorney, Ron Black (attorney for Vernon and Delores Schwalbe) at his office; regarding the proposed Road Easement and Vacation.

-The Road Committee set the 2011 Spring Tour to begin at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 and to be concluded on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

-Treasurer Warneke advised he has a call into Jeff Rhodes/Driveway Services regarding scheduling street sweeping.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1) Other-Updates-Meetings – Chairman Hofer advised he had nothing specific to report.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS

1) Fire Board Meeting – Supervisor Hayes advised the light fixtures and bulbs in the fire hall have been replaced with energy efficient, fluorescent fixtures. There was discussion regarding new fire fighter licensure requirements. Long time fire fighters can be grandfathered in; and, after discussion it was determined that the City and Township will pay for licensure of any fire fighters who are required to do so. This will ensure that all fire fighters are licensed. The Fire Chief has not received the ISO ratings from the 2010 review. The fire department is taking applications and are looking to hire three or

four more people to complete their roster. There are several fire fighters who have been on the department for 20 or more years. There are also many fire fighters who are dedicated to the day shift; therefore this is a good time to do hiring and recruiting.

2) EDA – Conversation continues regarding the rail park. It is not anticipated there will not be a Target or Wal-Mart coming to Big Lake anytime soon. The demographic numbers aren't high enough; and, Big Lake is in too close of proximity to cities that already have these stores.

3) Other – Updates - Meetings – Supervisor Leslie updated on the Board on park improvement possibilities, advising the building and grounds committee needs to meet to discuss. He advised the walking trail around the ballfield needs to be redesignated. The trail was covered when the ballfield area was graded and seeded. Now that the field has been established it would be good to reestablish the trail and consider paving the ¼ mile surface to make it handicapped accessible. Supervisor Leslie further noted the possibility of painting the Merry Go Round and possibly replacing the wooden fence around the outdoor garbage area. The Big Lake Lion's Club will be conducting a park clean up and will assess the park for summer projects.

BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER

a) Monthly Report – Treasurer Warneke reviewed the cash balance statement. Total government funds and total escrow funds are \$2,055,991.99. Treasurer Warneke reviewed the Interim Financial Reports for the 101,102,103 and 402 accounts. He advised they are on target for nearing the end of the first quarter. Supervisor Hayes motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Hayes to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Hayes, Clerk