

Monthly Board Meeting  
Minutes  
April 27, 2016

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

On Wednesday, April 27, 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 8 people in the audience at the start of the meeting. Roll call was taken.

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

Board Members Absent:     Steve Pfliegaar, 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 with the addition of a report from Commander Doran, Sherburne County Sheriff's Department. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All were in favor. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda as amended.

Supervisor Aubol motioned to approve consent agenda items. The consent agenda consisted of: a) Approve List of Claims and Payroll. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor.

Commander Doran, Sherburne County Sheriff's Department presented the Board with the monthly call list. 232 calls for service in the past month, down from 292 the previous month. The Sheriff's Department will be concluding its distracted driving enhanced patrol at the end of April. The Board had no concerns to report.

BUSINESS FROM THE CLERK

a) David Virnig & Leah Cason / 85' Variance in Setback from the Centerline of 146<sup>th</sup> Street for a 10' x 18' Addition on Existing Residence; and, 25' Variance in Setback from the Centerline of 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue for same addition. – David Virnig & Leah Cason appeared before the Board to present the variance requests. Supervisor Aubol noted the addition won't make the house any closer to 146<sup>th</sup> Street or 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The existing house structure is already nonconforming to setback requirements. Supervisor Aubol motioned to recommend approval of both variance requests. Supervisor Alford's seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

b) Jennifer Robbie / 20' Variance in Setback from the Right of Way of 182<sup>nd</sup> Avenue for an Addition on Existing Garage; and, 12' Variance in setback from the OHWL of the Mississippi River for an Addition on Existing Garage. – Jennifer Robbie appeared before the Board to present the variance requests. She advised the Board due to the house being built in the 1980's, the garage is too short (20' deep) to accommodate today's trucks and SUV's, which are 19.5" to 21" long and 8' wide with mirrors. The garage doors are 7' wide. She advised she drives a full sized truck. Supervisor Aubol motioned to recommend approval of both variance requests. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

c) Other-Updates-Meetings – Clerk Hayes advised City Administrator, Clay Wilfahrt has inquired if the Town Board would be available and interested to meet with the Big Lake City Council to discuss the City solar farm proposal/OAA. Supervisor Aubol reviewed for Supervisor Alford's what has transpired and the conversations at the Town Board meetings with Administrator Wilfahrt. Supervisor Aubol concluded with his preference to stay with the uniformity of the County Solar Farm Ordinance requirements noting the County has put a lot of professional staff time and effort into creating the ordinance; and, he is reluctant to take action that would set precedence. Supervisor Alford's inquired what the actual cost of decommissioning per panel is; and, if the City has conducted a thorough review of the company (how long have they been in business, how many projects have they done, etc). Would the lease fees be held in an actual escrow fund and be immediately available and enough to cover decommissioning if that became necessary. Chairman Hofer noted unless the solar array can be built nearly to the fence and vegetation is at a minimum, it is not possible to construct a 5 Megawatt garden. Treasurer Warneke noted it could also encourage more annexation. The Board advised they would be interested in meeting with the City Council as proposed by Clay Wilfahrt. The recommended date was May 11, 2016. The Board recommended 7:45 p.m. or 8 p.m. at Town Hall, as first choice; and, 5 p.m. as second choice at City Hall.

-The City of Big Lake has received 30 day notice of lease termination from Centracare. They plan to be out of the fire station by the end of May. Ambulance service will remain in Big Lake. They will occupy their new site next to the Holiday gas station.

## BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERVISORS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TOWN ROADS

1) Award Bids for 2016 Seal Coat Projects - Township Engineer, Ross Abel presented the Board a bid tabulation report. Three bids were received. The lowest bidder was Allied Blacktop Company at \$98,603.73. The engineer's estimate for all the project areas was \$119,805.00. Supervisor Alfords recommended the road committee meet and review the list areas, noting it will have to be pared down to stay within budget. Supervisor Aubol motioned to defer the decision to the road committee, to allow the road committee to evaluate the projects to be completed; and, to allow the road committee to award the contract. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor.

2) Award Bids for 2016 Patching and Overlay Projects – Township Engineer, Ross Abel presented the Board a bid tabulation report. Five bids were received. The lowest bidder was Knife River Corporation at \$428,718.80. The engineer's estimate for all the project areas was \$411,525.00. Supervisor Aubol motioned to defer the decision to the road committee, to allow the road committee to evaluate the projects to be completed; and, to allow the road committee to award the contract. Supervisor Leslie seconded. All present were in favor.

The road committee and Township engineer will meet Tuesday, May 3 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall to discuss.

Supervisor Alfords advised the Spring Road has been done.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hofer advised he and Treasurer Warneke attended the MAT sponsored Legal Short Course in Burnsville, April 21. Treasurer Warneke noted one of the items presented was a change to contracting law. A new statute is now in place that requires an additional certification from contractors regarding their tax obligations. Treasurer Warneke was unsure if this was an addition to the IC134 form currently used or if it would be replacing it. Other topics covered were methods of financing road improvements: special assessments versus general levy funds; and, fire relief association law changes.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Other-Updates-Meetings – Supervisor Aubol advised the County Zoning Advisory Board approved amending IUPs for solar farms and gardens to allow ownership changes. Ownership will be allowed to transfer without reapplication. The solar farm proposals in the area are being proposed in phases now that Xcel Energy and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) have advised that Xcel is unable to purchase, and integrate into the power grid, solar power greater than 5 Megawatts. The solar companies have filed a lawsuit against the PUC's position.

- Supervisor Leslie advised the County Park Plan draft has been completed and a copy is available for Township review. The plan includes local park plans such as walking/biking trail connection between the City of Big Lake and Township; and, sidewalks on both sides of Eagle Lake Road. The County Park Plan was a 6 month project Supervisor Leslie served on. Supervisor Leslie further noted the dugouts at the new Township/Lion's Park softball field are finished. Player benches need to be installed yet. The field has been fertilized and slit seeded. It is anticipated it may be ready for late summer use. Supervisor Leslie will be meeting with Bogart Pederson to create plans for a gravel parking area near the garage directly off County Road 5.

Chairman Hofer advised he will be attending a meeting this Friday at the City of Monticello to finalize and sign the Joint Powers Agreement for a future Mississippi River crossing. Chairman Hofer advised the revised JPA has been amended to address the items Big Lake Township Attorney, Peter Tiede identified. Supervisor Alford's motioned to allow the Chairman to sign and allow Big Lake Township to enter into the Joint Powers Agreement. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All present were in favor.

#### BUSINESS FROM THE TREASURER

a) Monthly Report –Treasurer Warneke advised the new CTAS accounting updates have been installed. Some issues with the program were solved and others were created. The cash balance of all funds was \$1,194,600. He advised there are deficits in a couple of funds. Street sweeping next year should have a budget set before sweeping begins. The snowplowing budget has approximately \$100,000. in it for November and December plowing. Most likely this will not all be used and some of these funds can be rolled into the 2016 patching and overlay projects. Supervisor Alford's motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Aubol seconded. All present were in favor.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Leslie to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Alford's seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hayes, Clerk

Robert Hofer, Chairman