

TOWN of BIG LAKE
"Sherburne County's First 5-Member Township Board"

On Tuesday, March 13, 2012, the Annual Town Meeting was held at the Big Lake Town Hall, located in Lions Park Community Center, 21960 County Road 5, Big Lake Township, County of Sherburne, State of Minnesota. The election polls were open for the annual township election as posted and published from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Laura Hayes, Town Clerk, called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. There were 16 people in attendance when the meeting commenced.

Election of a Moderator -Mike Hayes nominated Rick Stearns to be moderator for the meeting. John Norgren motioned to close nominations and seconded the nomination. All voted in favor. Rick Stearns took over the meeting as moderator.

Pledge of Allegiance - All stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes –John Norgren motioned to approve the March 8, 2011 Annual Town meeting minutes as presented, and the August 24, 2011 Re-convened Annual Meeting as presented. Norm Leslie seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Ewald Petersen motioned to waive reading of all checks written and received, and to read a synopsis. Jim Sanford seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Treasurer Warneke reviewed a summary financial report showing dollar amount and percent of budget spent for 2011 compared to 2010 for both revenues and expenditures. 2011 percent of revenue from taxes was 82%, an increase of 4% from 2010. Treasure Warneke noted market value credit is no longer received. Treasurer Warneke advised the Township receives property tax revenue for their half ownership of the 1992 OAA area. Total revenue for 2012 was \$1,383,643. Treasurer Warneke reviewed several of the expenditures, noting total expenditures for 2012 were \$1,376,896. He advised cash receipts vary from year to year depending on when bills are sent or paid. He noted the outside annual audit is conducted on an accrual basis. Treasurer Warneke advised the electorate that the Town Board of Supervisors held the annual audit of all financial records for the year ending December 31, 2011 at the February 8, 2012 Regular Monthly Board Meeting.

Annual Fire Report - Big Lake Fire Chief, Randy Miller advised the Big Lake Fire Department ended the year with a total of 232 emergency calls, which is similar to previous years. 2010 – 208; 2009 – 183; 2008-227; and 2007-228. The call breakdowns were 43% to City of Big Lake, 38% to Big Lake Township, 9% to Orrock Township and 10% were mutual aid. Total hours spent on call were 4285, which is up from 2010 with 3803 hours. Total training hours were down from 2010. At this time there are 32 fire fighters on the roster out of 35 positions.

13 firefighters have 1 to 5 years of service; 5 firefighters have 5 to 10 years; 5 firefighters have 10 to 15 years and 7 have 20 years or more of service on the department.

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The department will be looking to recruit new members in the near future. Chief Miller advised the department officers include one chief, one assistant chief, and four captains. Chief Miller reviewed the fire apparatus inventory and ages of equipment. He advised the next major purchases would be replacement of the large concrete pad in front of the fire hall. It is showing its age and use. Chief Miller noted a command vehicle, an SUV style truck, would be a nice addition to the department. Other future purchases would be the purchase of Self Contained Breather Apparatus (SCBA's), which include a bottle, harness and facemask for each fire fighter. Currently, there are 30 SCBA's, which have a life expectancy of 15 years. They currently work fine, but have only 6 years of life left and don't meet current standards that new SCBA's do. The current cost of a SCBA is approximately \$4,000. Currently the fire department is working on acquiring grants and donations for a side-by-side ATV. They have raised \$9,000. toward the purchase from charitable donations and groups. They need approximately \$15,000. The ATV would be used in remote areas and to find missing or injured people who need extrication. It could also be used during grass fires to transport fire department personnel into or out of an area.

Hospital Board Report - New River Medical Center Chief Compliance Officer, Lynn Wieczorek presented the 2011 annual report. The hospital district was established in 1961. The New River Medical Center is a Critical Access Hospital facility operating 25 beds. New River also operates an 89-bed skilled care nursing facility that also provides rehabilitation programs. The Monticello Cancer Center offers medical oncology and radiation oncology with the use of Calypso, a guided beam for radiation and x-ray treatment. 468 babies were born at New River in 2011 and 13,022 emergency room visits. Revenue and expenditures were reviewed. In 2011 New River introduced hyperbaric medicine at the hospital. Hyperbaric patients are exposed to pressurized oxygen, which increases blood flow, helps new blood vessels form, reduces infection and promotes healing. This is used for chronic wounds and for diabetic care. The Legal Status Committee was formed in 2010 and has completed its consideration of changing the legal status of the hospital. In October 2012, New River Medical Center will change to a non-governmental, nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization.

Open Forum – No requests for the Town Board to consider; or, requests to consider when setting the proposed 2013 levy were presented.

Past Years Report of the Town - Big Lake Town Board Chairman, Bob Hofer will provide his report to the Town Clerk, who will arrange for it to be published on the Township website.

Bailey Station Cemetery – John Norgren reported there have been columbarium sales in the past year. The Bailey Station Cemetery Board met on February 16, 2012. The Board reviewed the current rates and determined they were adequate. Ken Elrite was added to the Board membership. An additional member was deemed appropriate due to several members being gone during the winter months, making it difficult to reach a quorum. The Board members are all unpaid volunteers. John Norgren thanked Don Kampa of Don's Lawncare for the mowing and care of the cemetery grounds. E.G.G.S. Landscaping maintains and replaces

plantings in the center feature. The Cemetery Board will meet at the Cemetery on May 19, 2012 for a walk through and clean up of the grounds prior to Memorial Day. The Cemetery Board is getting prices for the cleaning and painting of the front fence and gate.

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Big Lake Township Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) – Clerk Hayes invited the public to share any opinions or comments on the Township’s SWPPP. The SWPPP is the “Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program”. The Township was mandated to develop this plan by the MPCA under their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The Township was required to develop, implement and enforce a stormwater pollution prevention program designed to reduce the discharge of the pollutants to protect water quality and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan was drafted and submitted to the MPCA on November 14, 2007. The Township submitted its first annual report for calendar year 2007 due in June 2008; and has submitted it annually since. During the April 2008 Annual Town Road Tour, the road committee took an inventory of Township storm drainage facilities. These outlets have been mapped and are inspected annually during the Town Road Tour. Since April 2009 the road committee has inspected these 12 culverts, greater than 18” in size, located under Township roads, and found no deficiencies or outside activities present. The plan is on file at the Clerk’s Office and is available for public review anytime during business hours.

Old Business – There was no old business presented for discussion.

New Business – There was no new business presented for discussion.

Election Results - Moderator, Rick Stearns announced the election results as follows:

Supervisor Seat #1:	Jim Stahlmann	36
Write-Ins:	Jim Sanford	12
Supervisor Seat #2:	Larry Alford	50

The Board of Canvass will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 to certify the election results.

Proposed Levy for 2013 - Treasurer Warneke presented the proposed levy amounts, which were reviewed by the Township Finance Committee:

General Fund	\$	141,000.
Road Fund	\$	507,000.
Big Lake Fire Fund	\$	58,000.
Cemetery Fund	\$	0.
Fire District #1 Fund	\$	26,000.
Fire Bldg./Equip. Fund	\$	0.
Economic Development	\$	170,000.
CIP Bond Redemption	\$	59,000.
Capital Expenditure Fund	\$	<u>0.</u>

Proposed 2013 Levy \$ 961,000.

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The proposed levy for 2013 is a decrease of \$23,000. from 2012. Treasurer Warneke reviewed the estimated 2013 tax values, rate comparisons and tax capacities and noted the levy, as proposed, has decreased by 31% since 2008. Treasurer Warneke planned for a 5% tax capacity decrease when preparing this levy proposal. Treasurer Warneke advised the 2012 tax levy proposal was based on a 5% decrease also. Treasurer Warneke recommended accepting the report as tentative and finalizing the levy at the reconvened annual meeting on September 12, 2012. Bob Hofer motioned to accept preliminary report and set the final levy at the Reconvened Annual Meeting on September 12, 2012. Mike Hayes seconded. All present were in favor. The motion carried.

Last Call for Business From the Floor – Sherburne County Commissioner, Ewald Petersen provided updated information from the County Auditor’s Office regarding an increase again in the green acre agricultural land values. He advised farm property will be taxed nearly as much as commercial and industrial property. He further advised the County Board has reappointed Marc Schneider, Planning & Zoning office as weed inspector. He will be attending the April 2012 Sherburne County Association of Townships meeting to advise the Township of significant changes in weed laws; and, biological controls for purple loosestrife and leafy spurge.

Next Annual Meeting - Ewald Petersen motioned to set the date of March 12, 2013 for the next annual meeting, immediately following the closing of the polls at the Big Lake Town Hall. Bob Hofer seconded. All present voted in favor. The motion passed.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mike Hayes to recess the annual meeting until September 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at which time the levy, tentatively set at \$961,000. will be finalized. John Norgren seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The meeting recessed at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Hayes,
Town Clerk