



PUBLIC HEARING- ROAD TURN BACK
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday June 23, 2021 6:00 PM

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday June 23, 2021 at the Town of Big Lake Town Hall, located in the Big Lake Township's Lions Park Community Center, at 21960 County Road 5 NW, Big Lake Township, Sherburne County, State of Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Bruce Aubol and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Vice-Chair Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Larry Alfords, Supervisor Norm Leslie, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk Jayme Swenson, Fire Captain Nick Christianson, Andrew Witter - County Engineer, one guest, and news reporter were in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented Agenda by: Hedstrom/Brenteson. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. Motion Prevailed. The meeting proceeded in accordance with presented Agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD TURN BACK

Motion/Second to OPEN the Public Hearing by: Leslie/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. Motion Prevailed.

Chair Aubol declared the Public Hearing Open at 6:01PM.

Andrew Witter - Sherburne County Engineer, explained the County was proposing to turn back County Road 79. Addition to the turn back, 209th Av will be turned up and become a county road. This process requires a Public Hearing.

Resident Corey Adler, 15323 209th Ave, Elk River was present to express his thoughts on the process and the turn up of 209th Ave. He voiced concern of the lack of notification. The only notification was in the local papers. He wondered why he and his neighbors were not sent notification of the Public Hearing through USPS services. Andrew explained there is no requirement to send notices to residents. Corey expressed the increase in traffic included a lot of gravel trucks – he counted upwards of 240 daily. Many of the vehicles drive well over the posted limit of 45 MPH – Sherburne County Sheriff's department has been called, but there are no good locations for them to sit, clock and cite drivers. These are major safety concerns to those who walk, bike, or jog the shoulders. He wondered if the road will be widened enough to allow for the shoulders to be used in a safer manner or how would those who live on the road otherwise benefit from its turn up to a county road status.

Supervisor Alfords explained that the township and county have been working towards turning up 209th Ave for a few years. Both agencies realize that the number of vehicles on County Road 79 – approximately 350 daily, is quite low for a county road and that 209th Ave with roughly 1500 vehicles traveling it daily is very high for a township road. The turn back of CR79 and the turn up of 209th Ave. makes a lot of sense. Andrew informed Corey and the Board that the final design of 209th Ave., has yet to be finalized. But wider shoulders, better

signage, striping and County safety features will be included in the final design. Supervisor Hedstrom added that CR79 is not a through road, but 209th Ave. most definitely is. No other audience members requested to be heard during the Public Hearing.

Motion to close the Public Hearing by: Hedstrom/Brenteson. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None Abstained. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Clerk Kimberly-Maas informed the Board no applications had been received by the clerk's office.

Motion to CLOSE the Public Hearing by: Supervisor Brenteson. Seconded by: Supervisor Leslie. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. Motion Prevailed.

Hearing closed at 6:20PM.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of: A) Approval of Minutes; Regular meeting 06/09/2021. B) Approve List of Claims & Payroll paid 06/23/2021. Motion/Second to Approve Consent Agenda by: Hedstrom/Brenteson. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Big Lake Fire Department Report

Captain Nick Christianson was in attendance and reported 28 total calls for service in May 2021: Big Lake Township had eight (8), City of Big Lake had 20. This was an increase of 38 calls from the same time period in 2020. Of those calls there were three (3) grassland fires, one (1) miscellaneous fire, five (5) hazardous conditions, three (3) medical assists, and two (2) motor vehicle accidents. The members participated in online training on slips, trips & falls, and supplemental oxygen use. Hands-on training consisted focused on use of the extrication equipment. Capt. Christianson shared the Orrock live burn training went very well. The homeowner and members from BLFD and one Becker FD member were able to get several opportunities to get in the structure and practice their skills. The homeowner treated the members to a barbeque dinner, when training was done. BLFD took the opportunity to mingle with the public during the Big Lake Community Expo, as well. Captain Christianson reminded all present that the dry conditions are making it ripe for wildfires and there have been some recent days considered "red flag" due to the drought and winds.

2020 Annual Audit Report

Ashley Meagher, lead auditor from Schlenner, Wenner & Associates was in attendance to present the results of the 2020 audit. She noted the staff was great to work with and the team was able to wrap up their onsite work within a day. The auditors reviewed, Contracting and Bidding, Depositories of Public Funds, Conflicts of Interest, Public Indebtedness, Claims and Disbursements and Miscellaneous Provisions. Findings: lack of segregation of duties- which is normal for an agency of our size and lack of Annual Delegation of Electronic Funds Transfers Authority (EFTs). This was a small oversight by staff and EFT authorization has already been given in 2021. Schlenner, Wenner & Associates gave an unmodified (clean) opinion from the auditor, have prepared financial statements on behalf of the Township, and will file those with the State of Minnesota. *The full 2020 Audit Report is retained and available for public inspection, in the Clerk's Office.*

Motion/Second to Accept the presented 2020 Audit Report by: Alford/Hedstrom. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Motion/Second to authorize Schlenner, Wenner & Associates to file reports with the State of Minnesota by: Hedstrom/Brenteson. Approved by Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed

Open Forum

No items brought forth.

Regular Business

Agreement to turn back County Road 79 and turn up 209th Ave.

Motion/second to recommend approval to enter into agreement to turn back County Road 79 to the Town of Big Lake and turn up 209th Ave. NW to Sherburne County by: Aubol/Hedstrom. Approved by Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Representation to One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

The Mississippi River St. Cloud One Watershed One Plan partnership, which includes the Sherburne Soil and Water District, is in the process of pursuing a Clean Water Fund planning grant. The group sent an inquiry to see if there was interest in having a representative from the Town Board to be part of the group. There was no interest from any supervisors to participate.

ARPA Funds

Treasurer Warneke had been attending the virtual meetings held by Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) on the subject of the ARPA funds. He told the Board that the application process is open and the MAT recommendation is to name at least one person to be named as contact on the application, should the Board wish to receive the funding. Ken also stated that another virtual meeting to discuss what the funds can be spent on is scheduled for the upcoming Friday, should any supervisors or staff wish to attend. MAT stated that the Board can authorize the application for ARPA funds through a motion and should name the person(s) who will be authorized to receive the funds on behalf of the Town.

Motion/Second to make application to receive ARPA funds and delegating Ken Warneke – Town Treasurer, and Brenda Kimberly-Maas- Town Clerk as its authorized personnel by: Aubol/Leslie. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Roads

2021 Overlay Projects

Wes Davis, town engineer, sent over the overlay schedule. Knife River plans to start the projects on Tuesday July 5, 2021 and hopes to have all paving work completed within ten (10) days, weather permitting. Restoration should be done by the 21st of July.

Other road matters

The road committee plans to meet on Thursday June 24th, to discuss other road work and items to be completed this construction season.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Warneke reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements with the Board. He noted the first tax settlement was received. The town treasury ending balance (less escrows) was \$2,112,796.42. Ken has no concerns with balances in the treasury. *Financial Reports are retained as part of the official Minutes and available in the Clerk’s Office.* Motion/Second to approve the Treasurer’s report by: Alford/Hedstrom. Approved by: Aubol, Alford, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates

Supervisor Leslie told the Board there had been some irrigation issues at the park, which have been addressed and Jeff Rhodes was out to drop a couple of trees that were overhanging the river.

Supervisor Hedstrom reminded everyone that Spudfest kicks off the upcoming Friday. The softball tournament will be kicked off with by the friendly rivalry game between the BLFD and the BLPD “Guns & Hoses” game. Opening pitch is at 5PM.

Announcements:

- Town office is closed on Monday July 5, 2021 in observance of Independence Day,
- Intent to Franchise Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday July 14, 2021 at 6:00PM
- SCAT meeting on Wednesday July 14, 2021 meeting begins at 7:00PM.
- Big Lake Community Food Shelf distribution on Monday July 19th beginning at 3:30PM.
- MAT Zoom Meeting – ARPA Funds on Friday June 25th at 10:00AM

Adjournment:

Motion/Second to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:20 PM by: Leslie/Brenteson. All Supervisors present approved. Motion Prevailed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk and Jayme Swenson, Deputy Clerk

Accepted this 14th day of July 2021, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Aubol, Board Chair

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk