



Regular Board Meeting  
Wednesday October 13, 2021

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday October 13, 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. Supervisor Larry Alfords, Supervisor Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Norm Leslie, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk Jayme Swenson were in attendance. State Representative Paul Novotny, five (5) guests and newspaper reporter were in the audience.

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

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

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda consisted of: A) Approval of Minutes; Regular meeting 09/22/2021. B) Approve List of Claims & Payroll paid 10/13/2021.

Motion/Second to Approve Consent Agenda by: Alfords/Brenteson. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

### **Open Forum**

State Representative Paul Novotny was in attendance to introduce himself and let the Board know he was available to bring any matters of concern to the 2022 legislative session. Treasurer Ken Warneke informed Paul, Minnesota Association of Township's lobbyists continue to advocate for better protection of township land in the annexation statutes. Ken told Paul, this is a concern for Big Lake Township and other townships, in the state. Paul stated he does not sit on that committee. But he will bring the township's concern up to those who do.

### **Business**

#### **CUP Amenment – H.O.P.E. Stables**

Town residents, Andy & Jolene Thelen (PID# 10-302-1200 22583 206<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Becker) were in attendance to request comment on their application to amend their current CUP. The request is to increase the number of horses allowed from 30 to 40, allow for people to leave the property on horse and allow for manure management to be handled via dumpster or compost. Recent infractions to their current CUP, which have been satisfactorily resolved.

Chair Aubol asked if there was anyone from the gallery, who wished to speak on the matter. Gina Gremillion 20401 County Road 73 was present. She lives in the property adjacent to H.O.P.E. Stables and voiced concerns about the current conditions, at the stable. She stated

there have been fires in the manure pile, horses have escaped from the stable & paddocks, there is not enough fenced area to handle the current number of horses – creating a feedlot-like environment, which has resulted in injury and illness of boarded horses. Other audience members spoke stating they had boarded their horses at H.O.P.E. Stables, since it opened and were very pleased with how their animals were treated. Noting they found the facility clean, ample room for horses to move about, and their animals were in good health. They also informed the Board that there was a rift between the Thelen's and Gina because Gina had previously worked for the stable. Gina admitted she had worked for the Thelen's, had left because of the conditions and the effect it was having on the animals. No other audience members made comment on the application presented.

The Board expressed concern over the number of horses with regard to the tillable acreage of roughly 16 acres. The Board asked how often the manure would be removed from the dumpster and if the riders who left the facility would be picking up manure left by horses, as they rode off the property and roadways. Jolene stated that the manure removal agreement presented as part of their application will utilize a leak-proof, 40yd container to collect manure. It will be switched out once a month, at a minimum. Manure may also be composted or spread on site and away from wetland areas. Jolene stated that riders will pick up any waste on roads and neighborhood properties, should horses defecate when being ridden off the premises. Andy noted that miniature horses are considered one animal unit, by the County's standards, but he didn't feel they produce the same amount of manure as a full-sized animal. He also stated the count of 40 horses included their personal horses, the property is a total of 34 acres and felt that there was ample land to accommodate 40 animals. Clerk Kimberly-Maas reminded the Board that when calculating the number of allowed animal units is made, only pastureland or tillable acres are used, and much of the land on the property is considered wetlands and are not included. The Board considered the concerns, comments, and information presented by the Thelen's as they discussed the CUP amendment requests presented and made comment on the CUP Amendment request.

Motion/Second to recommend approval of the CUP Amendment requests; provided the applicants comply with the County requirements by: Supervisor Aubol/Supervisor Hedstrom. Approved by Supervisors Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

#### County Attorney Prosecution Agreement

Clerk Kimberly-Maas presented an agreement from the County Attorney regarding the prosecution of Town ordinances. The Board had some questions about the agreement and requested additional information be gathered before considering it. Clerk Kimberly-Maas will contact Kathleen Heaney and report back to the Board.

Motion/Second to TABLE item UNTIL 10/27/2021 meeting by: Hedstrom/Alfords. Approved by Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. Motion Prevailed.

#### **Roads**

##### Adopt Resolution RES 2021-16 Accept Roads for Maintenance – Two Rivers

The town's engineer submitted his recommendation to adopt the 185<sup>th</sup> Street and 215<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Two Rivers development, for maintenance.

Motion/Second to adopt Resolution RES 2021- 16 Accepting roads in Two Rivers development by: Hedstrom/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

205<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Supervisor Alfords informed the Board that ASTECH plans to complete the patching and micro-overlay of the segment of 205<sup>th</sup> Avenue, from County Road 43 to Liberty Elementary, yet this season.

180<sup>th</sup> St. Connection

Supervisor Brenteson and Clerk Kimberly-Maas have reached out to Clint Corrow, regarding the obtaining permanent easement to connect 180<sup>th</sup> Street between Knick Knack Knoll Second Addition and Rivercrest Farms Second Addition. They have yet to hear back from him.

**Treasurer's Report**

Town Treasury Report

Ken reviewed the Treasurer's Report and financial statements with the Board. The town treasury ending balance (less escrows) was \$1,993,467.34. Total Treasury amount \$2,436,240.84. Ken noted the chassis invoice for the new grass rig was included in the claims paid. The Town's 50% portion was \$22,586. He also noted there are a couple more road projects to be done this season. He has no concerns with the balances of the funds. *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: Brenteson/Alfords. Approved by: Aubol, Alfords, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

**Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates**

Supervisor Hedstrom informed everyone he attended the Community Education Advisory meeting and all of the offered classes are full. He noted this is a testament to the quality of the programs offered.

Supervisor Brenteson is reviewing the areas where Midco has placed cable within the town's right of ways. He has a bit more to review, but the restoration he has seen, looks good. He anticipates their escrow will be returned in full.

**Announcements:**

Big Lake Area Food Shelf will be holding the last produce distribution of 2021 on Monday September Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30PM – 5:30PM at the township's Lions park.

Bridgeview Park Grand Re-Opening will be held on Tuesday October 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00PM – 3:30PM.

**Adjournment:**

Motion/Second to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:49 PM by: Leslie/Hedstrom. All Supervisors present approved. Motion Prevailed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Accepted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

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Bruce Aubol, Board Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk