



Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday September 28, 2022 6:00 PM

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday September 28, 2022, 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 Brenteson, Supervisor Larry Alfords, Supervisor Norm Leslie, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk Jayme Cannon, Chief Seth Hansen – Big Lake Fire Department, Patriot newspaper reporter, and one member of the public were in attendance.

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 the presented Agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consists of: A) Approval of Minutes; Regular meeting of 09/14 /2022. B) Presentation of Reconvened Annual Meeting Minutes DRAFT. C) Approve List of Claims & Payroll paid 09/15/2022 – 09/28/2022. D) Approve Resolution RES 2022-13 Appointing Election Judges for 2022 State General Election. E) Call for two meetings of the City of Big Lake and Town of Big Lake Joint Planning Board, for variance and site plan review for Mega Storage USA project on PID 65-553-0115 within the OAA. 1. Public Hearing meeting on Wednesday 10/12/2022 at 4:00PM. 2. Wednesday 10/26/2022 at 4:30PM to consider approval of applications. Motion/Second to Approve Consent Agenda by: Brenteson/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Fire Department Report

Big Lake Fire Department Chief Seth Hansen presented his report for the months of July and August. He reported the department responded to a total of 57 calls. Twenty-five (25) in the City of Big Lake, twenty-four (24) in Big Lake Township, five (5) in Orrock Township and 4 mutual aid calls. Of those, nine were fire calls. The department welcomed four new members to the department – Eric Boe, Trever Roediger, Ryan Lien, and Steve Christenson. BLFD attended Night to Unite events within the township and city. They were joined by the Sheriff's department and BLPD at the events. Several people enjoyed the music of Shirts and Skins at the BLFD dance, held on August 13th. The fire station's new roof is 90% complete. The materials for the finishing façade are on backorder. Once they arrive, they will be installed. The roof looks great, and no leaks have been discovered. Chief Hansen thanked Dean Brenteson

for his work in coordinating the project. He also thanked Deputy Clerk Cannon for her help with the replacement of the water softening system and ice machine. October is fire prevention month. The folks at Lupulin Brewery created a special brew as a fundraising effort, for the fire department. The brew, dubbed “Hose Monster” was aged for 14 months in bourbon barrels. The new brew will debut on October 8th when the department will be at the brewery with some of their equipment. Lupulin will donate \$5 of every growler and \$1 of every pour made on October 8th and \$1 per pour every Thursday in October to the department. Chief Hansen made a new video with “Buzz”, Big Lake school’s mascot which will be previewed by students at Independence and Liberty elementary schools ahead of the department’s visits. Fire prevention month will continue with the department’s open house on the 15th of October. The open house is one of the highest attended events of this kind, in the state. There will be fire a helicopter, smoke trailer, demonstrations, bounce house, pumpkins and truck rides, for attendees to enjoy. This is a free public event.

New Business

2022 Primary Election Review

Clerk Kimberly-Maas gave a review of the Primary Election. There were several concerns from the primary which were brought to her attention. Tabulator lost time between Public Accuracy Testing and election day – precinct 1, poll pad loaded with incorrect data – precinct 2, ballot reading concerns – precinct 2, poll pads missing precinct finder – county-wide, minimum required election judges could be staffed due to statutory requirements – all township precincts affected, training concerns – all township precincts, and unusual tabulator summary reports were printed at all three township precincts.

Many of the concerns have been or are in the process of being resolved, either by county staff or township staff. Brenda thanked Katie Catlin for her article regarding the need for additional democrat and non-partisan election judges. Many people responded and have committed to serving as election judges because of the article. Brenda expects the precincts will be staffed well, on November 8th. Brenda is working with the clerks from Becker and Orrock townships to hold additional training for new election judges. The plan is to have the poll pads available so judges can have a “hand-on” training with the equipment. Sherburne County elections staff is helping with these efforts. Brenda told the Board that all township precincts balanced (all ballots were accounted for) when the polls closed and the county elections staff verified the results of the election, prior to running abstract reports. However, the unusual report included a negative one (-1). Other county governmental units also had negative numbers reported on their summary tapes. Diane Arnold contacted Dominion about the unusual reports. Dominion’s response was included with the packet of information provided to the supervisors and is included as part of the official minutes. The reported information was due to a selection made which is only meant for closed primary elections. It was noted that Minnesota holds open primaries, and it was unclear how the setting for this report was selected. There were additional questions from the review, which were beyond the scope of Brenda’s ability to answer. The Board felt those questions should be sent to Diane Arnold, County Auditor/Treasurer, to be addressed.

Motion/second to send unresolved questions regarding the primary elections to Diane Arnold, County Auditor/Treasurer, to be addressed by: Aubol/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. Motion Prevailed.

Roads

Supervisor Brenteson updated that the lack of rain after shoulder restoration resulted in poor germination in many areas. Most areas have been reseeded. The restoration efforts on 197th Street need further attention and will be addressed. Soil correction has been done on 214th Ave. and blacktop will be laid soon. Brushing work continues to be done and the use of the boom mower seems to be effective in clearing the scrub brush and trees from the right of ways. The road committee will be evaluating the cost-effectiveness of clearing the slopes of the brush and how this helps reduce the time and cost of overhead trimming. The hope is the crews will be able to get to the larger trees easier, with the right-of-way cleared. The use of chemicals to keep the brush at bay may be a future option, once the slopes have been mechanically cleared. Alford's reported the road committee will be setting the fall road tour date soon. He reminded all that the tour is open to the public and the committee has room for one additional passenger, in the vehicle they use for the tour.

Supervisor Updates

Supervisor Aubol reminded all to take the county planning and zoning survey regarding the update to the county's comprehensive plan.

Supervisor Hedstrom noted the first community ed meeting is slated for October 11th. He will have a report for the board after that meeting.

Supervisor Leslie informed all that he signed the paperwork for Liam Royce's Eagle Scout pollinator garden project. The seeds have germinated and are growing nicely. He is preparing to get the park "put to bed" for the winter and will be working with Aaron Schiemann of Legacy Landscaping, on the things that need to be accomplished before the ground freezes and snow falls.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ken Warneke informed the board that the town has spent roughly \$136,000 more than it's received to date, but the next tax settlement will bring the balances back up to where he expects everything to be in good shape. General fund balance as \$230,822.60. Road fund balance as \$ 793,482.00. BL Fire Fund is on target at \$65,583.28 and all other funds are in line. Total Town treasury ending balance (less escrows) as of 09/27/2022 is \$,281,774.99. Escrow balances are \$432,430.69. Total amount in the treasury (including escrows) equals \$2,714,115.68. *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: Leslie/Hedstrom. Approved by: Alford's, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None opposed. Motion prevailed.

Ken encouraged the supervisors to attend the MAT business meeting. He reminded all that there were some MATIT and MAT board concerns brought to the attention of attendees at the last SCAT meeting. The meeting will be give them an opportunity to ask questions and gain some additional information about these entities.

Announcements

~ November 8th General Election information:

- Absentee Voting began Friday, September 23rd. All Absentee Voting is coordinated through the Sherburne County Auditor's Office.
- Public Accuracy Testing of election equipment Scheduled for November 1, 2022 @ 1PM
- ~ Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge WILDLIFE FESTIVAL – Saturday October 1, 10AM – 2PM @ Oak Savanna Learning Center, 16797 289th Av. NW, Zimmerman
- ~ Hazardous Waste & Problem Materials Collection Events:
 - HAZARDOUS WASTE Friday 10/07 from 2PM – 5PM AND Saturday 10/08, from 9AM – 2PM @ Co. Public Works Building – Zimmerman
- ~ Big Lake Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum: Monday, October 10th – County and State Candidates Forum. Will be videotaped by the Sherburne Wright Cable Commission and will play back on the City of Big Lake's Government Channel and on Demand from the Chamber Website.
- ~ SCAT Meeting Wednesday 10/05 Dinner@ 6PM, Meeting commences at 7PM @ Sherburne County History Center, 10775 – 27th Avenue SE, Becker
- ~ Next town Board meeting Wednesday October 12 @ 6PM
- ~ MAT Annual Conference Friday October 14 – 15 at River's Edge Convention Center, 10 4th Ave S, Saint Cloud
 - MAT Business Meeting on Saturday @ 8AM

Adjournment

Motion/Second to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:45 PM by: Leslie/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None opposed. Motion prevailed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk

Accepted this 12th day of October 2022, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Aubol, Chair

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk