



Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday October 12, 2022 6:00 PM

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday October 12, 2022. The meeting was held at the Town of Big Lake Town Hall, located in the Big Lake Township's Lions Park Community Center - 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. Supervisor Larry Alford, Supervisor Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Norm Leslie, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk Jayme Cannon, Sergeant Austin Turner - Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski, 10 people, and a news reporter were in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented Agenda by: Hedstrom/Leslie. Approved by: Alford, 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 on 09/28/2022. B) Approve List of Claims & Payroll paid 09/29/2022 – 10/12/2022. Motion/Second to Approve consent agenda by: Brenteson/Alford. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom, and Leslie. None Abstained. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Sheriff's Report

Sherburne County Sergeant Austin Turner reported to the Board an increased number of calls to perform security checks, theft of delivered packages was up, and Sherburne County Deputies assisted Wright County with a search warrant. *Statistics reports for August and September will be retained as part of the official minutes and available in the clerk's office.*

Open Forum

Bret Collier - 22549 172nd St. NW, Big Lake MN 55309 was present to address the Board. He had previously sent information about election integrity including a video from a Linwood Township (Anoka County) board meeting. He asked if the supervisors were able to view the video prior to the poster removing it. None of them were able to view the video as it had been removed before they tried to access it. Bret briefly described the information in the video. He mentioned that Linwood township's clerk stated during the meeting that election judges do not have the ability to verify the results that are printed on the Dominion tabulator reports that are generated when the polls are closed. Bret stated he is a Big Lake Township election judge, and he would be unable to sign tabulator tapes when working the polls, due to the statement made by Linwood Township's clerk.

Regular Business

Occasional Special Event – Horse Events IUP Request – 20395 County Road 73. NW (PID 10-302-1200)

Andy and Jolene Thelen were present to answer any questions pertaining to their IUP Application. They brought with them an updated sketch plan of the planned layout for their events. The board had a few questions for them. Supervisor Brenteson inquired about dust control. He stated that watering the sand may not be adequate in keeping dust levels down that the soils may need to be amended for that purpose. Andy stated the soils are adequate for riding but will need to be regraded to have level surfaces. They will look into amending the soils or using other methods to control dust if needed. Brenteson asked about noise from any speaker systems or starting apparatus. Jolene said announcements for staging of events will be done, but initially the events will be for English events and noise will be at a minimum, since the horses are sensitive to noises. Supervisor Alford wondered about the available parking and traffic in and out of the property. Attendees and event participants will likely come and go as the events continue, since most people come for a particular event and leave when it is finished. The County is requiring the Thelens to pay for a new right-turn lane into the property, as part of the CR 73 reconstruction project. The additional turn lane will help with traffic flow on the county road, which is where the only entrance to the property is located. Supervisor Aubol asked what kind of materials will be used to fence the arenas. Andy stated the fences will have wooden posts with either PVC tape or 3-rail vinyl cross-sections. A member from the audience was called upon for comment. She stated if the IUP is granted; local 4-H groups may be able to use the facility for some of their horse events. Jolene mentioned that the current zoning of the property (General Rural) does not allow for overnight camping. She stated many who participate in these events travel quite a distance and either bring a camper or have sleeping accommodations in their horse trailers. Current zoning ordinances would be violated if camping occurred. She wondered if the town board had any jurisdiction over the county ordinance. Supervisor Alford stated the township is in partnership with the county planning and zoning department and deferred the Thelens to the county on the matter of overnight camping on their property.

Motion/Second to send comments and recommendation for approval of the Occasional Special Event – Horse Events to county planning and zoning by: Alford/Hedstrom. Approved by: Alford, Brenteson, Hedstrom, Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Fire Fighters Years of Service Recognition

Seth Hansen, Big Lake Fire Chief was at the meeting with members of the fire department who were recognized for their years of service. Eric Burleigh – 5 years of service, Joshua Matich – 5 years of service, Eric Rosa – 5 years of service were present. Chris Brezinka who retired with 10 years of service, Doug Novak – 10 years of service, and Lee Schroeder – 5 years of service, were unable to attend the meeting. Lee Schroeder is actively serving with the Minnesota National Guard. The Board thanked the members for their dedication to the community.

ARPA Fund Suggestions for Projects

Supervisor Hedstrom brought forth some ideas for ARPA fund projects in response to the requests made for them by Treasurer Warneke. Hedstrom learned that Becker township is using a portion of their funds to replace all of the E911 signs within the township. He thought this would be something that could be done for Big Lake township, as many of the existing signs are quite faded and worn. Funds could also be used from the road and bridge fund, since citation fines are placed in that fund and are to be used on roads. An updated “Welcome to Big Lake Township” sign at the entrances to the township could also be done. Hedstrom thought the township could provide logo polo shirts to board members and staff which would be worn when attending events and external meetings such as community ed or CMRP to show township pride and promote the township. Several updates and enhancements to the town hall, community center. He noted staff has been gathering information and obtaining quotes for many of these potential town hall projects. They include updating and refreshing the interior of the building (paint, flooring, etc.), additional audio/visual equipment – possible future broadcast or taping of meetings, add photos of board members and staff with bios to website, new board & staff tables, board

& staff boardroom chairs, create a an area in the boardroom where people can stand to make meeting presentations – more formal and professional for possible future broadcasting of meetings. Clerk Maas asked if ARPA funds were being considered as a source for the installation of swing-away mailboxes throughout the township. Supervisor Leslie agreed there are many upgrades and improvements that can be made in the town hall and community center. He noted the security system should be considered to be placed on the list of items for upgrading. The suggestions will be added to the list of possible uses for the remaining ARPA funds.

Roads

Supervisor Brenteson stated the fall road tour was completed the previous week. The road committee is working on its winter project list. During the tour they noted there are many areas where the tree canopy is of concern and will need to be added to the winter project list. Summer project work is wrapping up. Supervisor Alford said the roads in Knick Knack Knoll and Rivercrest Farms will need maintenance and will be part of the 2023 summer pavement projects. The committee will continue to do as much annual summer bituminous maintenance as possible, with the funds available to them through the approved levy amounts.

Supervisor Updates

Supervisor Leslie informed everyone the roof replacements have begun. The townhall is done and shelters have been started.

Supervisor Hedstrom attended the first community education meeting of the school year. Stephanie Hillman, the new Community Ed. Director was at the meeting. It was reported there are 250 kindergartners this year, 242 Little Learners, Liberty Elementary is at full student capacity, ECCE conducted 14 classes summer of 2022 – two of them were outdoor classes with sensory areas. The summer registrations were a record at 3200 registrations from 1700 individuals.

Chair Aubol reported there will not be a Planning & Zoning Advisory meeting in October due to no new business. Bruce and Norm met with the MATIT assigned underwriter to review the town owned buildings, to ensure the insurance coverage is adequate. They also met with several of the volunteer Cemetery Board members to discuss the placement of the new columbarium. It was decided to place the new columbarium in line with the existing one and to the south of the existing one. All attendees of the meeting agreed the popularity of columbarium interment is increasing. The expected end of construction of the new columbarium is November 18, 2022, and plans are to have the foundation and columbarium installed shortly after construction is complete. .

Supervisor Brenteson updated the board with information on discussions and work being done by the CMRP Joint Powers group. The group is researching the benefits and drawback of switching from a Joint Powers entity to a non-profit organization. Doing so would allow for businesses to join the group and increase the funding potential. Big Lake Township, and other current local governing agencies, will be contacted for their input, as part of the data collection process.

Treasurer's Business

Treasurer Warneke reviewed the Treasurer's Report and financial with the Board. Ken reminded the board the 3rd settlement of any given year is received early in the following calendar and fiscal year. Those funds are then accrued into the correct (previous) year's budget. He reported the trimming and brushing budget spending is over budget, due to the additional work being done this season as the crew catches up on 2021 work, as well as completing 2022 work. The canopy trimming and brushing will continue until snowfall and snow depths slow the crew down. All other fund balances and budgets are in line with his expectations. All other fund balances are where he expects them to be, at this time

of the year. Ending balances reported: General Fund \$221,686.69; Road & Bridge \$758,420.95. The town treasury ending balance (less escrows) as of 10/12/2022 was \$2,235,964.94. Escrows totaled \$432,764.35. Total town treasury \$2,668,729.29. *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/Brenteson. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hedstrom and Leslie. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Announcement

- ~ Big Lake Community Food Shelf distribution Monday October 17, 2022 from 3:30PM – 5:30PM at the Town's Lions park.
- ~ 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 November 1, 2022 at 1PM in Maple Rooms A & B at the Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Dr., Elk River MN 55330.
 - ~ Office Closed Wednesday October 19, 2022. Clerks conducting offsite training.

Adjournment

Motion/Second to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:03 PM by: Leslie/Alford. All Supervisors present approved. Motion Prevailed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk

Accepted this 26th day of October 2022, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Alford, Aubol, Chair

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk