



Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday September 13, 2023 6:00 PM

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday September 13, 2023, 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 Alford, Supervisor Laura Hayes, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Treasurer Assistant Becky Guthrie, Sergeant Austin Turner, and news reporter were in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented Agenda by: Hedstrom/Hayes. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. 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 08/23/2023. B) Approve List of Claims & Payroll presented. Motion/Second to Approve consent agenda by: Alford/Brenteson. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Sherburne County Sheriff's monthly

Sergeant Austin Turner reported in July 2023, the department had 237 calls in the township. Sergeant Turner said the number of calls remains consistent. The trend of thefts and suspicious activity continue. He had no other significant items to report.

Open Forum

NONE

2024 QSEHRA benefit Selections

The HSA benefit known as QSEHRA is currently offered to staff who work full time (31 hrs/week) and half-time (15 hr/week). The HSA program is administered by Benafica.

The Board has been participating in the single employee plan offering full-time staff (clerks) the max current allowable contribution by employer (\$437.00/mo - \$5,250 annually) and part-time (treasurer) at ½ the max allowed contribution (\$218.75/mo - \$2,625 annually).

It is expected that the Federal Government will announce the 2024 employer contribution limits, in November 2023. The speculation is the 2024 QSEHRA maximum employer

contribution limits will increase slightly from the 2023 limits (\$5,850 (\$487.50/month) for single employees and \$11,800 (983.33/month) for families.

Beginning January 2024, the at \$5.50 per eligible enrollee /per month will remain the same. But there will be an additional flat \$30.00/month administrative fee. In 2023, three employees were eligible and opted to enroll in the program. Using those numbers, the monthly **administration fees** will be \$46.50 (3 x \$5.50 + \$30.00) or \$558.00 annually.

Benafica will close employer enrollment period for 2024, on 09/15/2023 and Clerk Maas would like to know if the Board would like to continue to offer the benefit and if so, at what level(s).

The Board felt the HSA benefit should continue to be offered. Full-time staff should receive the full benefit amount set by the Federal Government and half-time employees should receive 50% of the full benefit amount set by the Federal Government.

Motion/Second to continue to offer QSHERA HSA benefit, with full-time staff receiving the full single benefit amount set by the federal government, half-time staff to receive 50% of the single benefit amount set by the federal government, and have the plan administered through Benafica by: Hedstrom/Hayes. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Roads

Maintenance

Supervisor Alfords stated that summer road maintenance is progressing with Jeff Rhodes' crews beginning to crack fill. Additional crack filling material was delivered the previous week. Supervisor Hayes mentioned a couple of areas on 221st Ave, where routed cracks were missed or the fill material pulled out. Supervisor Alfords will review the areas.

Overlay & UTBWC Update

Wes Davis reported shouldering will begin the week following the meeting. Vegetation remains on hold for a bit longer, until the weather cools and precipitation is forecasted. Ultra-thin bituminous wear course work will tentatively begin the third week of September.

Supervisor Updates

Supervisor Hedstrom announced Engine 22 - the new fire engine, has been given its final inspection. Thirty-six minor items were found during inspection and are being corrected. The truck will be delivered in time for the fire department's annual open house. The fire department had 18 applicants during its recent hiring campaign. The department will hold an informational meeting with the applicants in the next week or so.

Supervisor Hayes met with Chair Aubol to sketch out a plan for the garbage enclosure to use for estimates. She also had been in communication with a Girl Scout liaison about moving their shed. The liaison informed Supervisor Hayes that there have been mice in the shed and there's a leak in the roof, but if the town would like to have the shed, it will be gifted to the town. Both Supervisor Hayes and Chair Aubol believe the shed is of value and the liaison was informed that the town would welcome the donation. A letter of donation is yet to be received.

Supervisor Aubol is meeting with and seeking additional contractors for the garbage enclosure and slab under the dog park shelter. He will be attending a planning commission meeting at the county, on Thursday of the following week. Meadow Estates North and South PRELIMINARY plats are on that meeting's agenda.

Supervisor Brenteson informed the Board that the CMRP group has hired Bolten and Menk to perform a PEL study. The first step in showing that another river crossing is necessary. The technical advisory committee gave a brief overview, stating the biggest hurdle they face is getting more residential involvement.

Treasurer Business

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Warneke presented the cash balance statement and interim financial reports for the General, Road, and Big Lake Fire funds. Ken noted that the CMRP fund balanced is significantly reduced to pay for the PEL study which is being administrated by Wright County highway department. He pointed out that escrow accounts have been created for Meadow Estates North and South. Wes Davis is working on getting numbers for the developer's agreements. The town treasury ending balance (less escrows) as of September 12, 2023 equaled \$2,675,343.79. Including escrows, the total town treasury was \$2,768,748.69
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: Hayes/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Announcement

- ~ Last Big Lake Area Food Shelf produce distribution of 2023, will be on Monday September 19th from 3:30PM – 5:30PM in the community center's attached garage. All are welcome.
- ~ Next Regular Town Board meeting on Wednesday September 27, 2023 commencing at 6:00Pm.

Adjournment

Motion/Second to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:37PM by: Hayes/Alfords. All Supervisors present approved. Motion Prevailed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk

Accepted this 27rd day of September, 2023 by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Aubol, Chair

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk