



SPECIAL Board Meeting
Wednesday December 04, 2023 6:00 PM

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in special session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday December 04, 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 discuss broadband expansion support for DEED grant applications for Midco and Charter Communications, ratification of 2024 IRS QSEHRA rates, and support for County application for LRIP grant for County Road 30 improvement projects.

The meeting was order by Chair Bruce Aubol and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Vice-Chair Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Laura Hayes, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas were in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented Special Meeting Agenda by: Hayes/Brenteson. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. Motion Prevailed. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the presented agenda.

Broadband Expansion Support

Midco approached the town looking for support in their 2024 expansion project Midco requested a letter in support for their border-to-border DEED grant and a contribution of \$5,000 from Big Lake Township. Clerk Maas had prepared a letter of support for the board to review. The project will allow Midco to offer service to an additional 244 residents in the areas not yet served by Midco. Midco is also working with Sherburne County on a financial contribution toward this project. Estimates on Midco's border-to-border project included the total project cost of \$1,595,700, Midco's contribution will be \$917,400, Midco's DEED grant request will be for \$638,300. Board members were in favor of sending a letter of support for Midco's DEED grant application packet. But not in favor of giving financial support to Midco for this expansion project, as the request for financial support was unprecedented.

Motion/second to send the presented letter of support for Midco's DEED grant application for their border-to-border broadband expansion project by: Hedstrom/Hayes. All supervisors in attendance approved. Motion prevailed.

David Larson, Director – State Government Affairs at Charter Communications approached the town looking for support of their DEED grant application, for their 2024 expansion project. The project will allow Charter to offer service to an additional 373 residents in the Big Lake Township and Elk River areas, not yet served by Charter. No financial support was requested. Clerk Maas had prepared a letter of support for the board to review.

Motion/second to send the presented letter of support for Charter Communication's DEED grant application for their border-to-border broadband expansion project by: Hayes/Brenteson. All supervisors in attendance approved. Motion prevailed.

Board Ratification of IRS 2024 QSEHRA rates

During the September 13, 2023, meeting, the Board authorized continued participation in the 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. At that time the 2024 QSEHRA rates had yet to be released by the IRS. The QSEHRA 2024 were released by the IRS after the board met on November 13, 2023. Benafica has expressed their need to have the Board authorize participation at the 2024 QSEHRA rates which were released, prior to the next regular board meeting scheduled for December 13, 2023. There was no change to the monthly \$5.00 per enrolled employee and \$30.00 plan administrative fees, which will be effective on January 1, 2024, as was approved during the September 13, 2023 meeting.

Table for 2023 and 2024 QSEHRA contribution limits.

Key Indicators	Frequency	2023 Rates	2024 Rates	Increase Amount
Self only Coverage – Full-time Employee	Annual	\$5,250	\$6,150	\$900/annually
Self only Coverage – Full-time Employee	Monthly	\$437.50	\$512.50	\$75/monthly
Self only Coverage – Part-time Employee	Annual	\$2,625	\$3,075	\$450/annually
Self only Coverage – Part-time Employee	Monthly	\$218.75	\$256.25	\$37.50/monthly

Motion/second ratifying the 2024 QSEHRA rates released by the IRS by: Hayes/Hedstrom. Approved by Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion prevailed.

Request for Support Letter - Sherburne County Improvements LRIP Application

Assistant County Engineer, Wes Davis contacted staff with a request of a letter to support County Public Works Local Roads Improvement Project (LRIP) grant application for the county's planned County Road 30 realignment and improvements project. Clerk Maas provided a letter of support for the board to review. The project will eliminate a 90° corner by realigning the road to travel northbound through parcels 10-135-3104, 10-135-3103, and 10-135-2400. A round-about is planned at the junction of the realigned County Road 30 and County Road 14.

Supervisors Aubol and Brenteson and Ken Warneke met with Public Works on Friday December 1, 2023 to discuss the proposed project and learned that the section of county road 30 remaining west of the realignment will be milled and overlaid. Supervisor Brenteson and Ken Warneke informed David Roedel, County Assistant Public Works Director/Deputy County Engineer, that the town is not interested in a turn back of the section of County Road 30.

Motion/second to send the presented letter of support for Sherburne County's LRIP grant application for their proposed County Road 30 improvement project by: Hedstrom/Brenteson. All supervisors in attendance approved. Motion prevailed.

Adjournment

Motion/Second to adjourn the Special Meeting at 5:51PM by: Hayes/Hedstrom. All Supervisors present approved. Motion Prevailed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk

Accepted this 13th day of December, 2023 by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Aubol, Chair

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk