



Fire Board SPECIAL Meeting
Tuesday February 27, 2024 4:30PM

Big Lake Fire Department • 20243 County Road 43 NW • Big Lake, MN 55309

The Big Lake Fire Board met on Tuesday February 27, 2024, at the Big Lake Town Hall, located at 21960 County Road 5, Big Lake, Sherburne County, State of Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Bruce Aubol at 4:30PM and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited.

Joint Powers Board Officials present were Chair Bruce Aubol, Dean Brenteson, Paul Knier, and Kim Noding. Additional attendees: Fire Chief Seth Hansen, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Hedstrom, City Administrator Hanna Klimmek, City Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, Town Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, and Fire Lieutenant Eric Rosa.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to approve the presented agenda by: Knier/Noding. Approved by Aubol, Brenteson, Knier, and Noding. Opposed: None. Motion Prevailed.

Business

BLFDRA Benefit Increase Request

The Big Lake Fire Department Relief Board members reviewed the relief fund liability with its financial advisor and found it to be funded at approximately 110% - provided a 5% return on investments. During their annual meeting of members, the Relief Association voted to increase the benefit by \$400.00. The total benefit for retiring members would become \$5,800.00 per year of service. This would leave the Relief funded at approximately 101% (provided a 5% return on investments). Board members asked how the increase could affect the City and Township regarding the entity's obligation for payment if the fund is unable to fulfill the increased benefit amount. Deb Wegeleben explained that *if* the fund balance drops below 86% of the obligated amount, the City and Town would be responsible to contribute to relief fund to the point of bringing it above the 86%. She noted that it would be highly unlikely that this would occur. Situations such as all of the members retiring at the same time OR the department dissolving would be events which would cause the balance to dip under the 86% mark. Board members also asked when the Relief Association has requested and received increases to their pension. A printout of the base pay beginning in 2008 and the last increase done in 2022.

There were no concerns from the board, on the requested increase.

Motion/Second to recommend approval of increasing the Big Lake Fire Department Relief Association pension base benefit by \$400.00 to the City of Big Lake and Town of Big Lake. The total benefit for retiring members would become \$5,800.00 per year of service. by: Knier/Brenteson. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Knier, and Noding. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Reschedule March Regular Meeting

Due to the Township holding its Annual Meeting on Tuesday March 12, 2024, the regular joint powers board meeting needed to be rescheduled for a different date. Board members discussed

alternative dates and determined to hold the March Regular Joint Powers Board meeting on Wednesday March 20, 2024, at 5:00PM.

Motion/Second to hold the Regular March Joint Powers Meeting to Wednesday March 20, 2024, at 5:00PM by: Knier/Brenteson. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Knier, and Noding. None opposed. Motion Prevailed.

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn by: Knier/Noding. All present Board Members Approved. Motion prevailed. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk

Accepted this 20th day of March 2024, by the Big Lake Fire Board.

Bruce Aubol, Chair

Attest: _____
Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk