



Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday March 26, 2025, 6:00 pm

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday March 26, 2025, 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. Supervisor Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Treasurer Becky Guthrie, Deputy Clerk Debbie Workman, newspaper reporter, and one guest were in attendance. Supervisor Larry Alfords and Supervisor Laura Hayes were absent.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Supervisor Hedstrom requested the removal of agenda item 5 – Big Lake Fire Department report, as there was no department representative in attendance to make a report. Motion/Second to accept the amended meeting agenda by: Hedstrom/Brenteson. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, and Hedstrom. Motion carried. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the amended agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of approval of regular meeting minutes from 03/12/2025 and approval of claims and payroll presented for payment.

Motion/Second to approve the consent agenda by: Brenteson/Hedstrom. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Regular Business

Establish 2025 Deputy Treasurer pay rate

The Treasurer is responsible for recommending the Deputy Treasurer's pay compensation rates for the Board's consideration. Treasurer Warneke based the proposed increase on Deputy Treasurer Guthrie's performance, the cost-of-living increase given to the treasurer and clerk, and review of Sherburne County townships deputy treasurer pay rates and other compensation, for comparison. Treasurer Warneke proposed the board set the deputy treasurer's hourly rate at \$31.20/hour – a 4% increase and make the increase retro-active for hours worked between January 1, 2025 – March 26, 2025.

Motion/second to set the deputy treasurer's hourly rate at \$31.20 retro-active from January 1, 2025 – March 26, 2025, by: Hedstrom/Brenteson. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

Central Mississippi River Partnership

Letter in support of PEL study

Members of the Central Mississippi River Partnership coalition were asked to consider sending a letter in support of the PEL study conducted by Bolten and Menk. The PEL study was performed to assist the coalition in selecting possible new locations for a bridge to cross the Mississippi River connecting Highway 10 in Sherburne County and I-94 in Wright County. Supervisor

Brenteson informed the Board PEL study will be complete in early April and the next step to be taken is to perform an environmental study.

The study will be used in the Federal funding application process. A letter of support was drafted by the town clerk and presented for the Board's consideration.

Motion/second to send the presented letter of PEL study support by: Brenteson/Hedstrom. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

Joining the Central Mississippi River Partnership Advocacy Organization

The Central Mississippi River Partnership is a non-profit organization which aims to advance regional infrastructure and development priorities through collective action and advocacy. Admission to the organization is done by adopting a resolution at the township level and submitting it to the CMRP Board of Directors, for consideration. The submission must be approved by ¾ of the Partnership's Board of Directors to be admitted to the organization. Once admitted to the organization, the Town board will need to appoint one designated representative to serve on the Partnership's Board of Directors. 2025 annual dues have been set at \$500.00 for township partners. It is anticipated township annual membership dues will remain at \$500.00 in 2026.

Supervisor Brenteson informed the Board that the Central Mississippi River Partnership Coalition will remain active until the funds are depleted.

Clerk Kimberly-Maas presented Resolution 2025-13 Town of Big Lake Resolution to Join the Central Mississippi River Partnership Non-Profit Advocacy Organization, for the Board's consideration.

Motion/second to adopt Resolution 2025-13 Town of Big Lake Resolution to Join the Central Mississippi River Partnership Non-Profit Advocacy Organization by: Aubol/Hedstrom. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

Transfer of Early Warning Sirens to Local Governing Agencies

The Town Board was notified of two matters regarding Early Warning Sirens. First was a request made by Xcel Energy to FEMA, for the ability to decommission their Early Warning Sirens and move toward a digital notification system. As part of the process, Xcel is offering to transition these sirens to interested local governing agencies. Second is that Sherburne County Board of Commissioners also decided to transition the county-owned sirens to local governing agencies. There are 14 Xcel owned sirens and zero county owned sirens in Big Lake Township. As of the meeting date, Xcel's request had not been approved by FEMA.

The County Board approved the temporary acceptance and maintenance of the 48 Xcel sirens being decommissioned to assist in the transition to local governing agencies. And the county will maintain the Xcel and county owned sirens through 2025. Townships will need to consider which sirens, if any, they wish to keep in inventory and make plans for maintenance and service for those sirens beginning in 2026. Sherburne County is offering to maintain the sirens at a cost of \$60/siren/month or \$10,800 annually for the 14 sirens, in Big Lake Township.

Becker Township Clerk, Lucinda Messmann reached out to Brenda, Big Lake Township Clerk, to see if Big Lake Township Board would like to work with Becker Town Board to research alternative options to Sherburne County's offer for maintenance of the decommissioned sirens.

The Board discussed if they were obligated to take the sirens over and if they decide not to take them, who would be responsible for their decommissioning and removal. They would like to get information on alternative methods of communicating emergencies to residents with Kyle Breffle, Director of Emergency Management, in Sherburne County. They decided to have a conversation with Becker Township Board on other options for communication and or siren

maintenance companies, after speaking with Director Breffle. An ad-hoc committee consisting of Supervisor Brenteson and Supervisor Hedstrom will be involved in this project.

Roads

Supervisor Brenteson reported there are 6 plan holders for the 2025 overlays. The plans include overlaying roads in Knick Knack Knoll and a mill ad overlay on 180th Ave. in Sleepy Hollow South. He noted the bid package includes 5' of existing driveways will be removed and replaced to help with the transition of the additional 1" of bituminous, in Knick Knack Knoll. Bid opening day is slated for Tuesday April 1, 2025, at 10:00AM in the town hall.

Crews continue to trim trees the full width of road right-of-ways and will discontinue trimming hardwood trees – such as oaks, in one week.

Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates

Supervisor Hedstrom attended the Community Education meeting where the new catalogue of programs was discussed. He said there are many programs geared for older children as well as adults.

Supervisor Aubol attended the Sherburne County Planning Advisory Board meeting where the CUP to build a storage building without a primary residence on parcel 10-00401-1240 in the Revised Plat of Eagle Lake – denied by the Town Board, was approved by the Planning Advisory Board and Planning Commission. And several solar farm IUP's were reviewed and approved, as the solar companies either change ownership or the building permits expired.

Supervisor Brenteson attended the Highway 25 Corridor meeting. This group is different than the CMRP groups and is in the initial phases of looking for alternatives and ways to improve traffic flow on Hwy 25 between Monticello and Big Lake.

Treasurer's Business

Treasurer Warneke informed the board that the county has sent out 2025 property valuation notices. Agricultural land increased 20%. He learned there were 11 comparable sales in 2024 which were used to make this adjustment. Sales for solar farm use were not included in the comps. Treasurer Warneke noted there are few agricultural parcels of 30 acres or more and when he inquired which parcels sold in 2024 that were used in the evaluation, the Assessor's office was unable to give him the parcels.

The Board requested a letter be sent to the County Assessor requesting a listing of the eleven ag parcels sold in 2024, which were used as the comparisons and resulting increase.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Warneke reviewed the Treasurer's Report and financial statements with the Board. The funds highlighted in the report included the general fund (\$419,164.83) and road fund (\$1,426,803.57). He noted the CMRP fund balance was approximately \$119,000. After payment of approved claims; town funds ending balance (less escrows) is: \$2,414,793.54; escrow funds balance: \$134,493.10; total town treasury balance: \$2,549,286.64.

Motion/Second to approve the Treasurer's report by: Brenteson/Hedstrom. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion Prevailed. *Financial Reports are retained as part of the Official Minutes, which are available in the Clerk's Office.*

Open Forum

NONE

Announcements

- 2025 Overlay Bid Opening on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:00AM, at the Big Lake Town Hall.

- Big Lake Township Regular Meeting on Wednesday April 09, 2025, commencing at 6:00PM.
- Local Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting, Thursday, April 10, 2025, commencing at 9:00AM, at the Big Lake Town Hall.
- Sherburne County Association of Townships meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Supper at 6:00PM and meeting commencing at 7:00PM.

Adjournment:

Motion/Second to adjourn Regular Board meeting at 6:40PM by: Hedstrom/Brenteson.
Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion prevailed.

Accepted this 9th day of April 2025, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Recorded by: Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk

_____ Bruce Aubol, Chairman	Attested by: _____ Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Clerk
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