



Regular Board Meeting  
Wednesday April 23, 2025, 6:00 pm

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday April 23, 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 Larry Alford, Supervisor Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Laura Hayes, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Treasurer Becky Guthrie, Chief Seth Hansen - BLFD, County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski, newspaper reporter, and one guest were in attendance.

#### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented meeting agenda by: Hayes/Brenteson. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, 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 04/09/2025, local board of appeal and equalization meeting minutes and claims and payroll presented.

Motion/Second to approve the consent agenda as presented by: Hedstrom/Alford.

Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

#### Big Lake Fire Department Report – February & March

Chief Seth Hansen reported the department responded to a total of 103 calls in the months of February and March. The call breakout was City of Big Lake 67, Big Lake Township 26, Orrock Township 4, and mutual aid calls 6. Calls of interest included nine (9) fires – 5 grass, 2 building, and 2 vehicle; two (2) motor vehicle accidents (MVA), nine (9) hazardous conditions, and six (6) medical assists. Members participated in personal protective equipment (PPE), self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and wildland fire training. Part of the training included going through the pumps and wildland apparatus. The probationary firefighters have completed their FF1, FF2, and HAZMAT training and passed their exams. Graduation was on April 9, 2025. They are responding to non-medical incidents and will be able to respond to medical calls after completing their EMR training and passing the EMR exam. The new platform ladder truck – dubbed Tower 1, has been delivered to the station. Pierce conducted hands-on training for all fire department members on April 15 – 17, 2025. Chief Hansen expressed his thanks to the Town Board for their support of the department and its mission to protect the residents of the communities the department serves. He also extended a formal thanks to the cable commission for their generous donation of equipment and time to install it, in the department's training and conference rooms. He stated the new technology is a welcome enhancement to the department and their online/in-house training modules. Lastly, he mentioned we are in severe weather season. Which was kicked off by severe awareness week - April 7-11.

## Regular Business

There was no regular business, on the agenda.

## Roads

Supervisor Brenteson reported the road committee completed the spring road tour and overall, the roads are in pretty decent shape. Supervisor Alford said the areas which have been trimmed back are starting to show the benefit of doing this work. There was less cracking on the roads which he attributes to the reduced ice buildup. The committee will be working on compiling lists of summer work including crack filling, pothole repair, shouldering work, trimming, and sign replacement. They will also be looking at possibly adding some overlay and sealcoating work this season.

## Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates

Supervisor Hedstrom attended battery fire training for his role as a firefighter. At the training he learned there will be two battery collection facilities in Sherburne County. One at the county's public works building in Becker and the other will be at Sherburne County Government Center. He also learned the composition of lithium batteries is changing from the current lithium ion to a more stable lithium iron phosphate composition. The new lithium iron phosphate batteries use fewer precious metals, have a thermal runaway of 480° - versus the current 175°, and will be used at Sherco generation stations.

Supervisor Hayes mentioned she, Supervisor Hedstrom, and Clerk Kimberly-Maas attended the recent SCAT meeting. She offered her opinion that the meetings have improved. There is more coordinated information, which is well presented. During the SCAT meeting, Kathleen Heaney, retiring County Attorney was honored and her appointed replacement, Dawn Nyhus was introduced. Dawn has been in the County Attorney's office for 17 years and looks forward to her new role.

Supervisor Aubol attended a planning & zoning advisory board meeting where the first cannabis microbusiness IUP was discussed. The business is being planned as an addition to an existing business in Livonia Township. The owner's desire is to modify an existing prep-kitchen space into a grow house. No retail cannabis sales will be conducted.

## Treasurer's Business

Treasurer Warneke informed the Board that the 2025 Elk River fire district contract was paid as part of the claims approved earlier in the meeting. It was less than anticipated leaving a good balance in that fund. The general fund has a couple of insignificant accounts which are over the budgeted amounts. He had no concerns with the fund balances.

## 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 (\$386,285.77), Elk River fire fund (\$8,947.64) and road fund (\$1,338,970.93). After payment of approved claims, the town funds ending balance (less escrows) is: \$2,267,703.24; escrow funds balance: \$134,916.77. The total town treasury balance: \$2,402,620.01.

Motion/Second to approve the treasurer's report by: Aubol/Hayes. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, 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

Resident Bret Collier inquired if the roads will be swept as he has quite a bit of residual ice-control sand on the road where he lives. Supervisor Alford told Bret they paid special attention to the

amount of sand remaining on the roads and didn't think sweeping was necessary. They will revisit the road but believe a couple of heavy spring rains will take care of the small amount of sand they saw during road tour.

Announcements

- BLFD JPB Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at the Big Lake fire station, commencing at 5:00PM.
- Big Lake Township Regular Meeting – Wednesday May 14, 2025, commencing at 6:00PM.
- 2025 Recycle event on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Gates open 8:00AM – 1:00PM at the Big Lake Township maintenance building.

Adjournment:

Motion/Second to adjourn Regular Board meeting at 6:21 by: Hayes/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion prevailed.

Accepted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 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