



Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday February 11, 2026 6:00 pm

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:08 PM, on Wednesday February 11, 2026, 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 Laura Hayes, Vice-chair Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Clerk Debbie Workman, Deputy Treasurer Becky Guthrie, Sargeant Derek Barrett - Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski, Scout Vincent Kaczor, and three individuals were in attendance. Supervisor Larry Alfords was absent, due to telecommunication difficulties.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented meeting agenda by: Hayes/Brenteson. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda presented.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of: A) Approval of Minutes; Regular meeting of 01/28/2026. B) Ratify claims and payroll paid between 01/28/2026 and 02/10/2026.

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

Sherriff's Report

Sergeant Derek Barrett reported 194 calls in the township, for the month of January 2026. Calls of interest was a personal injury accident at 221st Ave and 180th St when a vehicle turning lost control and slid into another vehicle, causing it to rollover. Another vehicle went into a slide on County Road 11, south of Highway 10 and rolled over. The final call of interest was a fire in an attached garage in the 20400 block of County Road 15, potentially caused by a kerosene heater.

Town Business

Eagle Badge Proposal – Archery Range

Scout Vincent Kaczor, SPL for Troop 93, was in attendance to discuss an opportunity for the Board to partner with him on his Eagle Badge project. He informed the Board that among other things; to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout must complete a project that benefits the community in some way. For a scout to complete their project, they must first find a beneficiary, get their project approved by an Eagle Board, and fundraise to afford the project. Vincent Kaczor is planning to complete his project this summer. His proposed project is

to build a public archery range for people in the community to use their archery equipment safely and effectively.

Vincent proposed adding an archery range as another amenity, in the township's Lions Park, and requested the project be funded in part or whole by the Town.

Board members discussed the project and its viability in the Township's Lions Park. All Supervisors appreciated the presentation and agreed an archery range may be well used by the public. They had hesitations with adding it to the Township's Lions Park. Safety of the park visitors was the main concern. Supervisor Hedstrom suggested Vincent contact the City of Big Lake, which was contemplating the addition of an archery range to their River Oaks Park. Clerk Maas will send contact information for city staff to Vincent, so he can follow up on this possible location.

Vincent expressed his thanks to the Board for their consideration and assistance with finding a different location for his project.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments

The Board was presented with possible amendments to the current zoning ordinances and subdivision standards for lot soil separation, lot size and 75% wooded requirement. The topics were discussed at length at the January 15th Planning Commission meeting, and the County Planning & Zoning Department was now seeking township feedback on the required soil separation for subdivided residential properties, minimum residential platted lot sizes, and 75% Wooded requirement. Board feedback included if the soil separation resulting in more septic systems which is less of a concern to Supervisor Brenteson than the ability for structure footings closer to the water table. Should soils settle the result could mean water issues in basements and/or crawl spaces. In a slab home the closer water table could cause cracking in the slab. Regarding smaller lot sizes the Board was split. Supervisors Hayes and Hedstrom wanted the minimum lot size to remain at 2.5 acres and Chair Aubol and Supervisor Brenteson believed reducing the lot sizes to 1.5 acres would allow to increase the inventory of lots in the county, especially in Haven, Palmer, and Santiago townships.

The board members had more questions about all the proposed revisions which were not answered in the information sent to the Board. They requested the presence of Mitch Glines, County Planner and Craig Wensmann, Widseth (previously Bogart, Pederson & Associates) for clarification on their questions. Clerk Maas will request their attendance at an upcoming meeting.

Item tabled.

Recycle Day Grant Application

The 2026 SCORE Grant funding amount is \$12,500, a \$6,200 decrease from the 2025 Recycling Day funding amount. If eligible costs exceed grant amounts, the city or township can request reimbursement for the remaining eligible expenses that exceed their grant amount only if other cities and townships have not requested reimbursement for the full amount of their initial grant amount. Each city and township must submit all invoices to the County to be considered for reimbursement for all fees associated with recycling eligible items, event advertising, and costs associated with administering the recycling event. MSW delivered to a landfill, construction/demolition waste, day of event labor, food/beverage, and supplies are ineligible costs. Chair Aubol and Supervisor Hayes met with the town's recycle day vendor to discuss rates and credits for the 2026 event. He will be lowering some of his recycle rates and equipment charges, as well as increasing metal credit to decrease the overall costs of the 2026 event.

Motion/second to approve Recycle Day SCORE Grant application in the amount of \$12,500 by: Aubol/Hayes. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Hearing - US Solar project on PID# 10-00113-1300

The Town Board discussed the US Solar project proposed for PID# 10-00113-1300 during their October 22, 2025, meeting. The Board provided comments regarding the applicants' requests to amend the County's Comprehensive Land Use map, for a 40-year IUP, and a variance to the solar screening requirements, at our October 22, 2025, meeting.

Supervisor Hayes requested the Board sent the official minutes from that meeting into the record of the Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday February 18, 2026.

Motion/second to submit the official minutes from the October 22, 2025 meeting into the record of the Public Hearing for the US Solar project proposed for PID# 10-00113-1300, to be held on February 18, 2026, by: Aubol/Hedstrom. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Roads

2026 Road Improvement Projects

The Road Committee identified 2.51 miles of town roads in need of overlay or reconstruction. The roads of 149th, 150th, and 151st streets, and 202nd, 203rd, and 204th Avenues in Aspen Hills need to be reclaimed prior to being overlaid. The reclaimed asphalt will be added to the existing road base to stabilize it before it is repaved. The west end of 215th Avenue in Wild Run was overlaid in 2025 and the east end is planned for mill and overlay in the 2026 improvements. William Tessmer, the town's engineer, provided engineering plans and an estimate of \$736,526.02. There will be the ability to add more roads to the project list in a second contract depending on how the bids come in. The Road Committee is recommending the Board authorize letting for bids for the 2026 road improvement projects.

Motion/second to authorize letting of bids for the 2026 road improvement projects by: Aubol/Hayes. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenteson reported the Road Committee met with members of the City of Big Lake's road committee to discuss improvements to 172nd St. north of Highway 10. The town's engineer drew up the plans which included widening of the road to meet the 24' standard. Our engineering firm will also provide surveying of the road. The city will be bidding the project and providing inspections. The project is split 40% in the city and 60% in the township. The city held public hearings for the project as required when properties are assessed for road projects.

Additional meetings with the city of Big Lake will be planned to discuss maintenance agreements for other shared roads.

City Engineer Layne Otteson will be attending the next regular meeting to give the Board information about a proposed road project in the jointly owned industrial park.

Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates

Chair Aubol asked Supervisor Hedstrom if the school is offering a spring play production. Supervisor Hedstrom was unsure. However, Vincent Kaczor was able to report the spring play production will be The Sound of Music and will be held the last weekend of April. Chair Aubol will be attending the Planning and Zoning Planning Commission and Planning Advisory Board meetings on February 19th.

Supervisor Brenteson reminded the board members he will be absent for the February 25th meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Warneke highlighted balances from interim financial report. The general fund (\$477,957.45) and road fund (\$ 1,630,792.52). the 2026 gas tax in the amount of \$73,000.00 was scheduled to be deposited in the town's bank at the end of the meeting week. The amount was \$5,000 less than the 2025 amount and \$8,000 lower than the highest amount the town had ever received. The claims approved in the consent agenda included the 2026 Elk River fire contract and bill for 2025 calls of service to fire district #1 (taxing district #8). The 2026 bond principal payment of \$45,000 was made in January, resulting in a positive variance in the fund. However, the fund balance will only see one more expense during the year, when the interest payment is made late in the summer. The full year's budget of \$24,000 in the general fund's assessing account will be reduced by roughly 90% when the bill is received in the next couple of months. These nor other reported variances were of concern to Treasurer Warneke.

February 11, 2026, cash balance report ending balances (less escrows) after payment of approved claims, town funds: \$3,208,799.50; escrow funds balance: \$123,957.63; total town treasury balance: \$3,332,757.13.

Motion/Second to approve the Treasurer's report by: Hayes/Brenteson. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports are retained as part of the Official Minutes, which are available in the Clerk's Office.*

Open Forum

NONE

Announcements

- Town Hall will be closed Monday February 16, 2026, to observe President's Day.
- Next Town Board and Local Board of Audit meeting on Wednesday February 25, 2026, commencing at 6:00PM.

Adjournment:

Motion/Second to adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 7:26PM by: Hayes/Aubol. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

Approved this 25th day of February 2026, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Aubol, Chairman

Recorded by Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk