



Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday April 08, 2026 6:00 pm

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday April 8, 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 Treasurer Becky Guthrie, Sargeant Derek Barrett - Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski, City of Big Lake Engineer, Layne Otteson, and Don Bellach - Patriot newspaper reporter were in attendance when the meeting commenced.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented meeting agenda by: Brenteson/Hayes. 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 03/25/2026. B) Approve claims and payroll submitted between 03/25/2026 and 04/08/2026.

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

Sherriff's Report

Sergeant Derek Barrett reported 267 calls in the township for the month of March 2026. Sergeant Barrett informed the board there have been broad fraud complaints in the county. One of them was an impersonation of a deputy looking for payment of a citation. Sgt. Barrett reminded the board and audience; the sheriff's department will not call for payments. He also mentioned that many banks and credit card companies will no longer reverse fraudulent payments when a customer agrees to or submits payments via text or call. He said if these types of communications are received the consumer should hang up or not reply until they have made direct communication with their bank, credit card company or actual institution which supposedly reached out by using the direct dial phone numbers of those entities.

Town Business

Joint improvement project - 172nd St.

The town's Road committee identified a section of 172nd St. lying between US HWY 10 and Prairie Drive, as a road in need of repair and widening. Parcels adjacent to this section of road are both township and city properties. The town's Road committee has been working with city staff to define the construction project, identify each agency's construction

responsibilities, and how the project will be funded, and payment/reimbursement specifications for the joint project.

The items addressed and agreed upon are for the town to provide the project's survey and design and at the conclusion of the project, will reimburse the city for the town's pro-rated cost share amount, less sanitary and watermain costs. The city will advertise, manage, and provide construction observation, pay for any and all costs related to sanitary and watermain work, will enter into contract with the lowest responsible bidder, and provide payment to the contractor.

Total construction costs were estimated at roughly \$160,000 and would be pro-rated between the agencies based on adjacent frontage within their jurisdiction. The pro-rated calculations were 59% for the town and 41% for the city. The city's cost-share amount was estimated at \$68,550 (\$63,550 + \$5,000 for watermain work. The town's 59% cost-share amount of the project was estimated at \$91,450, which will be funded by 2026 road levy.

A joint powers agreement was drafted to reflect these provisions and was reviewed and approved by both agencies' legal counsel.

The Road committee recommended the board approve the project plans, enter into the presented joint powers agreement presented, and authorize the city engineer to seek bids and enter into contract with the lowest responsible bidder.

Chair Aubol asked for discussion and questions. Hearing none he stated that he agreed with the Road committee's recommendations.

Motion/second to approve 172nd St. from US Hwy 10 to Prairie Drive construction plans; enter into JPA with City of Big Lake for 172nd St. from Hwy 10 to Prairie Drive construction project; authorize City Engineer to advertise for sealed bids for 172nd St. from Hwy 10 to Prairie Drive joint construction project: Aubol/Brenteson.

Supervisor Hedstrom requested discussion after the motion and second occurred. He stated he recognized the desire to bring the road up to the town's standards, but he had objection to spending \$100,000 on a section road which serves seven town parcels, yet there has been no action or money allocated for new address signs, which for him is a huge problem. He opined the section of road is used more heavily by city residents who live in the Prairie Meadows development, as well as increased traffic for the transportation of Liberty Elementary students. Additionally, he noted the city has sewer and watermain infrastructure the whole length of the right-of-way. He suggested the town should consider giving the road to the city. He also asked if the road committee and city staff had drafted any language to address other shared roads and each agency's responsibilities for them.

Supervisor Hayes cautioned of setting precedent for future road JPAs and voiced her concern that the city might require the town parcels adjacent to the road be annexed into the city.

Supervisor Brenteson asked Treasurer Warneke if the town were to give the road to the city would the parcels – and residents, be required to annex into the city. Treasurer Warneke said it would be up to the city if they would annex the parcels, should the road be transferred. He also said the road needs to be fixed and the town residents whose property is adjacent to the road pay property taxes to the town and deserve to have the road repaired and brought up to standard.

Supervisor Brenteson informed the board the condition of the existing pavement was similar to that in Aspen Hills. For this reason the improvement plans call for reclaim and installation of new bituminous. He also stated many township and non-township residents use

172nd St. and other township roads. His opinion is the road is part of the township's transportation system and should be considered the same as all other township roads.

Supervisor Alford was able to connect via telecommunications at 6:12PM as allowed by Minn. Statute Stat. 13D.02.

Supervisor Alford was brought up to speed on the discussion. He echoed the sentiments of Supervisor Brenteson stating the road is 50:50 ownership and responsibility of maintenance and costs.

After all discussion, Chair Aubol reminded the board there was a motion and second on the floor and called for a roll-call vote. Motion approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Solicit sweeping quotes

Supervisor Brenteson informed the board that township roads have a significant amount of residual ice control sand on them. The road committee determined all but the 2.71 miles slated for improvements should be swept. Treasurer Warneke suggested a few more roads be added to the sweeping exclusion list and will work with Clerk Maas to update the sweeping map which will be sent to the vendors. The vendors will be instructed to conduct sweeping operations the week of May 20th, which will give the road committee time to perform the spring road tour and make any adjustments to the sweeping map. The estimated sweeping cost was under \$25,000. The road committee requested authorization to solicit quotes from four vendors who have expressed interest in the past. Quotes will be due by Tuesday April 21st, to allow the road committee time to review ahead of the April 22nd meeting, when a recommendation to award the work, will be given to the board.

Motion/second authorizing the solicitation of sweeping quotes as outlined by the road committee by Aubol/Hedstrom. Approved by: Alford, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

2026 gopher bounty reimbursement

The County Board of Commissioners annually considers reimbursing gopher bounties to local governing agencies. This year, the county board authorized \$1.00 per pair of front gopher feet for 2026 harvested gophers, to local governing agencies. The reimbursement amount is unchanged from 2025. The township's approved bounty for 2026 is \$3.00 per pair of front feet. Every year the town clerk submits a reimbursement request to the county, for the number of pair of front feet harvested in the prior year. The township submitted reimbursement for the 104 pair of front feet harvested in 2025 and received our \$104.00 reimbursement on March 13, 2026. The board was given the letter received from Loraine Rupp, County Auditor/Treasurer, and Sherburne County Resolution No. 031726-AD-3278 - Gopher Bounty effective for 2026.

No action was required.

Roads

Supervisor Brenteson reported the vendor will be done tree trimming by April 17th, for the spring season. The committee is waiting to hear on the 2026 overlay pre-con meeting and construction schedules.

Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates

Supervisor Hedstrom reported the fire department's newest fleet vehicle, grass rig 2, had been received, fully outfitted, and is ready for use. The firefighters will be training on the

equipment on the fourth Tuesday of April and again on the second Tuesday in May. After which the rig will be placed in service.

Supervisor Hayes informed the board that a change in her plans resulted in her ability to attend the April 22, 2026, board meeting.

Chair Aubol will be attending the County Board of Adjustment meeting on April 9th and the County Advisory Board meeting on Thursday April 16th.

Supervisor Alford said he plans to head home the week following this meeting. He said he plans on being at the next town board meeting. He also excused himself from the remainder of the meeting and logged off the virtual connection.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Warneke informed the board that the Interim Financial Report reflected large positive budget balances in the audit and recycle day accounts. Those balances will "catch up" once those activities are performed and billed. Fund balances of reported were general fund (\$ 433,131.47) and road fund (\$ 1,529,395.87).

April 7, 2026, cash balance report ending balances (less escrows) after payment of approved claims, town funds: \$ 3,032,424.12; escrow funds balance: \$ 124,615.14; total town treasury balance: \$ 3,157,039.26.

Motion/Second to approve the Treasurer's report by: Hedstrom/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

- Local Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting commences at 9:00AM, on Thursday April 9, 2026, in the Town Hall Board Room.
- SCAT meeting Wednesday April 15, 2026, Sherburne History Center – meal at 6:00PM and warning siren update; regular meeting commences at 7:00PM.
- Next Town Board meeting Wednesday April 22, 2026, commencing at 6:00PM.
- Garden-themed swap event & Plate-to Garden compost event Saturday April 18th @ Sherburne History Center.

Adjournment:

Motion/Second to adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 7:40PM by: Hayes/Hedstrom. Approved by: Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

Approved this 22nd day of April 2026, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Bruce Aubol, Chairman

Recorded by Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk