



Regular Board Meeting  
Wednesday May 13, 2026 6:00 pm

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday May 13, 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 Larry Alfords, Supervisor Dean Brenteson, Supervisor Laura Hayes, Vice-chair Mark Hedstrom, Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Treasurer Becky Guthrie, Deputy Clerk Debbie Workman, Sargeant Derek Barrett - Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, Don Bellach - Patriot newspaper reporter, and one member of the public were in attendance when the meeting commenced.

#### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented meeting agenda by: Hayes/Brenteson. Approved by: Alfords, 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 209 calls in the township for the month of April 2026. Sergeant Barrett informed the board of a theft in the 19700 block of 200<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW. The theft occurred at an HVAC company over a week span. Copper and plumbing supplies were taken out of a trailer on the premises. Chair Aubol asked if there were any bear sightings reported to the department. Sgt. Barrett hadn't heard of any.

#### Town Business

##### Petition to vacate right-of-way easement

Clerk Maas presented the Board with a petition she received on April 26th, for the vacation of the platted, right-of-way easement between Lot 1, Block 1 and Lot 10, Block 2 of the Revised Plat of Eagle Lake Park. She informed the Board she had used the 2024 election roster and land records to verify the signatures on the petition, as belonging to town voters who live within a 3-mile radius of the easement. She found that only one of the signatures met the criteria. The other seven signatures on the petition were from people who own land within a 3-mile radius of the easement but were not resident voters of the Town of Big Lake. Therefore, the petition did not meet the criteria necessary to be considered a valid petition. Though the petition should be acknowledged as presented to the Board, it needed to be

rejected as a valid petition. It was also brought to the attention of the Board that the right-of-way being petitioned for vacation is abutting public water and additional steps are required for this type of vacation request. The easement has also been previously designated as fire lane.

Supervisor Alfords noted this and other designated fire lanes have a lot of items stored on them and often have vehicles parked in front of them. Supervisor Hayes requested the clerk get a listing and locations of all the fire lanes to the road committee so they could review the easements and report findings of unauthorized storage occurring on them. She also requested that once the road committee has a report of their findings, the clerk send letters to landowners in the area; reminding them of the fire lane designations and informing them that storage of private property and blocking of the fire lanes is not allowed.

Motion to acknowledge presentation of the petition for vacation of the platted, right-of-way easement between Lot 1, Block 1 and Lot 10, Block 2 of the Revised Plat of Eagle Lake Park by: Aubol/Alfords. Approved by Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to reject the petition for vacation of the platted, right-of-way easement between Lot 1, Block 1 and Lot 10, Block 2 of the Revised Plat of Eagle Lake Park, as it does not meet the requirement set forth by MN Statute Minn. Stat. § 164.07, subd. 1 by: Aubol/Brentson. Approved by Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### Cooperative agreement with the City of Big Lake

The City OF Big Lake received a petition for annexation of approximately 115 acres. The owners of the property requested the annexation in connection with the potential development for light industrial purposes. The purpose of the annexation is to provide the site with municipal utilities, without which the proposed development could not occur. The Town of Big Lake was notified of the requested annexation ahead of the public hearing on April 15, 2026.

The proposed development of the Property will require the preparation of a mandatory environmental assessment worksheet (EAW). The owners of the Property do not intend to finalize the annexation into the City unless and until the EAW has been completed. If for any reason the proposed development of the site does not move forward, the owners of the property intend to withdraw their petition for annexation – halt the annexation proceedings.

The Cooperative Agreement was sent to Peter Tiede, the town's attorney, for review and comment. Peter noted by signing the agreement, the town would abdicate it's responsibility of performing the EAW. Because Sherburne County Planning & Zoning serves as the town's authority for planning and zoning, the cooperative agreement was forwarded to the County Planning and Zoning Department to discuss with the County Attorney. Peter also recommended language be added to the agreement stating the property owners waive any arguments regarding the responsible governmental unit (RGU), claims or damages related to the RGU, and will not challenge the terms of the cooperative agreement.

No action was taken as the agreement was still under review by the County Attorney's office.

#### Roads

Supervisor Brenteson reported the road tour was completed, and the roads are in good

condition. Supervisor Alford's noted some crack filling will need to be done due to cracks coming through overlays. There are some areas where shouldering is needed. There are a couple of places where four-wheelers and/or dirt bikes have caused damage to the rights-of-way, which need to be addressed. There wasn't much plow damage. Shouldering and plow damage repairs will begin the week following the meeting.

The bid date for the 172<sup>nd</sup> Street joint project was postponed until June 8<sup>th</sup> due to some design changes made by the City, for the city's segment of the road.

Sweeping activities have been completed and the roads look really good.

The 2026 overlay pre-con meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM, at the town hall.

#### Business from the Board – Committee Reports/Updates

Supervisor Hedstrom reported he attended the Community Education meeting. The summer class catalogue was reviewed. The Community Ed. department will be focusing on finding out the needs of the community for future classes. The high school's fitness center will reopen for public use after some research was done. The fee schedule was changed to reduce the financial burden of being open to the public to the non-using tax payors. There were some departmental organizational changes. The other news-worthy matter was the middle school's pool will remain closed for the first round of swimming lessons. The renovations being made are meant to last 20+ years.

Supervisor Hayes attended the Sherburne County Association of Townships (SCAT) meeting. Ahead of the SCAT regular business, a discussion regarding the outdoor early warning system sirens, occurred. County officials would like each township to relay their intentions on acceptance or rejection of transferring ownership of the sirens to their respective town. She inquired when the Board will be considering acquiring the sirens located in the township. Clerk Maas told the board discussing the topic matter is planned for the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair Aubol will be attending the County Board of Adjustment meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> and the County Advisory Board meeting on Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup>. He also informed the Board he will be absent for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Warneke informed the board there were no major variances in the general fund. He noted the Interim Financial Report reflected large positive budget balances in the parks and recycle day accounts. The recycle balance will "catch up" once the event takes place and invoices are paid. Fund balances reported were general fund: \$ 402,894.97) and road fund: \$ 1,407,804.99.

May 8, 2026, cash balance report ending balances (less escrows) after payment of approved claims, town funds: \$ 2,826,047.84; escrow funds balance: \$ 124,946.28; total town treasury balance: \$ 2,950,994.12.

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

- Recycle day – Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Gates open 8AM – 12PM
- Office closed Memorial Day – Monday May 25<sup>th</sup>
- Next regular town board meeting – Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup> 6PM
- Big Lake Area Food Shelf produce distribution – Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> 3:30PM- 5:30PM
- Memorial Day services will be held at the veteran's memorial at 9:00AM and the Big Lake Cemetery at 10:00AM. Lunch to be served following the last service, at the Township's Lions Park. Seating will be available indoors and outdoors.

Adjournment:

Motion/Second to adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 6:32PM by: Hayes/Hedstrom. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

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Bruce Aubol, Chairman

Recorded by Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk