Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday August 26, 2026 6:00PM

The Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors met in regular session, at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday August 26, 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, Supervisor Mark Hedstrom, Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Deputy Treasurer Becky Guthrie, Deputy Clerk Debbie Workman, Captain Nick Christenson – Big Lake Fire Department, County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski, and Don Bellach - Patriot newspaper reporter were in attendance. Treasurer Ken Warneke was absent.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion/Second to accept the presented meeting agenda by: Hayes/Hedstrom. 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) Minutes; Regular meeting of 07/22/2026 and Joint Powers Board meeting 08/03/2026. B) Town claims and payroll and Big Lake Fire Department claims paid between 07/22/2026 and 08/26/2026.

Motion/Second to approve the minutes of regular town board meeting held on July 22, 2026; joint powers board meeting held on August 3, 2026; Town claims and payroll submitted since the July 22, 2026, meeting; fire department claims submitted since the July 22, 2026, meeting by: Brenteson/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Fire Department update

Captain Nick Christenson reported the department has responded to a total of 247 calls for service this year. One hundred fifty-eight (158) in the City of Big Lake; sixty-six (66) in Big Lake Township; twenty (20) in Orrock Township, and three (3) mutual aid calls. In the month of July, the department responded to three (3) fires – 1 boat, 1 trash, 1 one other outdoor fire; six (6) motor vehicle accidents, eight (8) hazardous conditions, and three (3) smoke or carbon monoxide detector alarms. The firefighters participated in water tender and water supply as hands-on training and ventilation operations in an online setting. Captain Christenson informed the group the department had tested and interviewed applicants and has made conditional offers to four candidates. Two of the candidates accepted the offers and had been added to the department's roster earlier in the day.; Night to Unite was a success with the department visiting seven parties; annual hose testing was performed and two of the hoses failed, they will be replaced; the old grass rigs (G/U14 & G16) were sold to the Clear

Lake Fire Department and BLFD had purchased a 2017 Tahoe from the Little Canada FD, which is outfitted as a command vehicle. It has been put into service. The sale of the two grass rigs covered the cost of the new command vehicle; and the Relief Association is currently selling raffle tickets for their annual fundraiser. Captain Christenson mentioned the department will be participating in a "Touch a Truck" event on August 27th. The event will be held at Patriot Detailing business in Spanky's Corner, from 5 – 7PM.

Town Business

Elections

Clerk Maas informed the Board that the primary elections, held on Tuesday August 11, 2026, saw all three precincts busier than past primary elections. The average turn out for primary elections is 10% of the registered voters. This election the turnout was 24% at precinct 1; 18% turnout at precinct 2; and 21% turnout at precinct 3. There were no significant incidents reported.

There were three Affidavits of Candidacy filed for Town Board. Seat 1 – Dean Brenteson; Seat 2 – Larry Alfords and Marcelo Varela Quintanilla

General updates

Clerk Maas informed the Board the IRS increased the mileage reimbursement to 76¢/mile. This increase went into effect on July 1, 2026,

She also told the Board the Town received its SCORE grant reimbursement for recycle day. The grant covered all the town's recycle day-related expenses.

Roads

Supervisor Brenteson reported the wear courses had been laid in Aspen Hills and on 215th Ave. in Wild Run. Shouldering is done on 215th Ave. but a bit more needs to be done in certain areas in Aspen Hills to accommodate for the increased height and ditch slopes. Seeding will be done later.

The base course is scheduled to be laid on the 172nd St. joint project later in the current week. There is roughly one-half day of paving to get it laid.

Crack filling and other maintenance continues on township roads.

Supervisor updates

Supervisor Hedstrom reported that the new fire recruits will be added to their roster by September 1st, with fire academy training beginning on September 2. Chief Hansen will be driving the new duty officer/command vehicle when not being used by the duty officer during their scheduled week or by members when going to out of town training. The Ford F150 command vehicle will be driven by the Assistant Chief/Supervisor Hedstrom.

Supervisor Aubol attended the County Board of Adjustment meeting where the Sparks septic and Munsell new construction setback variances were discussed and approved. At the planning and zoning planning commission meeting, an IUP for a haunted trail in Orrock township was discussed. The Joint Powers Board meeting held on August 3rd was held to discuss and determine if the elected officials from the City and Town were responsive to having a cannabis grow and processing facility in the Big Lake Industrial Park East plat. The consensus was positive and the applicant will likely continue to pursue the opportunity.

Supervisor Brenteson reported he will be attending a CMRP meeting the following day. The meeting will be a virtual attendance meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Treasurer Guthrie reported that Treasurer Warneke reviewed the proposed 2027 budget and levy and had felt it was appropriate to leave as was presented to the electorate at the March Annual Meeting. Deputy Treasurer Guthrie informed the board that Treasurer Warneke wanted to point out that the fire capital improvement plan/budget is projected out 6 years and calls for some large purchases in 2029 and2031. The 2027 levy for the fire capital fund is fine, but some increases will need to be made in 2028 and 2029 to ensure the town has the funds available for the projected capital purchases. Copies of the 2027 proposed levy were distributed to the Board for review, ahead of the reconvening of the annual meeting.

Deputy Treasurer Guthrie reported that Treasurer Warneke reviewed the claims and financial reports with her. Deputy Treasurer Guthrie reviewed the reports with the Board. She reported the balances in the general fund did not reflect SCORE grant or payments from the City of Big Lake or Orrock township, in the recycle day account. The balance included payroll for the primary elections. The road fund balance reflected the first payment for the 2026 overlay project and per Treasurer Warneke, the Big Lake fire fund and Big Lake fire capital funds were included in the report. This information was provided as additional information for them to use as they reviewed the 2027 levy and plan for future fire capital expenses. Balances in the general fund: $ 419,042.78; road fund: $ 1,744,076.11; fire fund: $ 194,677.45; fire capital fund: $ 554,413.90.

July 22, 2026, cash balance report ending balances (less escrows) after payment of approved claims, town funds: $ 3,384,308.63; escrow funds balance: $ 125,992.93; total town treasury balance: $ 3,510,301.56.

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

- Dog & cat vaccination clinic and well water nitrate testing - Saturday August 29th 9AM - Noon
- BLFD JPB meeting Tuesday September 1, 2026 @ 5PM in Big Lake Fire Department conference/training room
- Office Closed Labor Day - Monday September 7, 2026
- Town Annual Meeting RECONVENES Wednesday September 9, 2026 @ 6PM – to set & certify 2027 Town Levy – Town Regular meeting to follow
- Sherburne County Household Hazardous Waste collection Tuesday, September 15th from 2-5pm
- Local Candidate forum, Thursday, September 24th at Big Lake High School – time TBD

Adjournment:
Motion/Second to adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 6:26PM by: Hayes/Alfords. Approved by: Alfords, Aubol, Brenteson, Hayes, and Hedstrom. None Opposed. Motion carried.

Approved this 9th day of September 2026, by the Town of Big Lake Board of Supervisors.

Recorded by Brenda Kimberly-Maas, Town Clerk

Bruce Aubol, Chairman