

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
CITY OF BIG LAKE, BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP, ORROCK TOWNSHIP, BIG LAKE
SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND THE SHERBURNE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

JANUARY 15, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Danielowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Big Lake City Council Members present: Mayor Raeanne Danielowski, Nick Christenson, Duane Langsdorf, and Mike Wallen.

Big Lake Township Board Members present: Chair Bob Hofer, Bruce Aubol, Norm Leslie, and Steve Pfliegaar.

Orrock Township Board Member present: Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas.

Big Lake School Board Members present: Chair Tom Pietrzak, Tim Hayes, Mark Hedstrom, and Tonya Reasoner.

Sherburne County Board Member present: Ewald Petersen.

Also present: Interim City Administrator Joel Scharf, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Big Lake School District Interim Superintendent Crystal Thorson, Big Lake Township Clerk Laura Hayes, Big Lake Deputy Clerk LaDonna Braun, and Sherburne County Assistant Administrator Dan Weber.

4. PROPOSED AGENDA

Council Member Christenson motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda. Seconded by Council Member Langsdorf, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

5. BUSINESS

5A. County Topics

Dan Weber discussed road projects on CR 14 and CR 5, reviewed the Broadband project, the proposed Rail Park project, valuation trends, and membership on the County EDA.

Commissioner Ewald Petersen discussed the Area Transportation Partnership/MNDOT meeting where they discussed upcoming state road projects. Petersen noted that there are limited funds available and that likely 2 out of the potential 16 will be selected for funding. Discussion was held on how the Broadband Coalition will affect the basic user, and that some of the issues Windstream customers face is due to inadequate infrastructure.

5B. Big Lake Township Topics

Chair Bob Hofer discussed sealcoating, overlay, striping, and patching of township roads, the drainage issue in the Camp Cozy area, Township attendance at the Legislative Conference, and increased snowplowing costs from last year. Hofer noted that one of the highpoints in the Township in 2014 was the purchase of land adjacent to Town Hall where they plan to construct a softball field and a soccer field. Hofer also noted that they may consider putting in a bird watchers tower in the future. Discussion was also held on joining their walking trails to the City trails in coordination with Sherburne County along CR 5. Discussion was held on the upcoming Verizon Tower Project at the Town Hall Building. Council thanked the Township for their annual contribution towards the Big Lake Public Library.

5C. Orrock Township Topics

Township Supervisor Brenda Kimberly-Maas discussed county roads located in Orrock Township noting that they recently installed hi-def road signage and that the Township will do a township wide crack-fill project next year.

5D. School Topics

Chair Tom Pietrzak thanked everyone for working together. Crystal Thorson discussed the importance of the combined efforts of all jurisdictions during the CR 5 project restriping project this past fall. Thorson noted that the new Glenwood Avenue trail is getting usage and that the school will be looking at lighting improvements along the trail. Thorson also discussed that the district is continuing to make great progress academically, but that some programs will have to be eliminated due to the district having to look at cutting \$1.2M due to the referendum not passing. Board Members indicated that they will be coming back out to the voters this year. Board Members also discussed the need to have quarterly meetings in a subcommittee format to discuss sharing resources and discussed the Schools for Equity in Education drive. Community leaders and other local Boards will be invited to participate in a trip to the Legislature to ask for fair funding throughout Minnesota. Representative Nick Zerwas and Senator Mary Kiffmeyer have been working diligently on our behalf on this Legislation as we are among one of the lowest funded districts in the State. Thorson reminded everyone that Thriving Schools equals a Thriving Community. Mayor Danielowski expressed that we need to keep the pressure up, indicating that we aren't asking for more, we are only asking for equal funding. It was suggested that the Legislature meeting be held at the Kelly Inn due to the current construction at the Capitol.

5E. City of Big Lake Topics

Mayor Danielowski discussed 2014 new home construction counts which totaled 42 single family residential homes, a large apartment complex (phase I of II), noted that the Hudson Woods remaining vacant lots were purchased through tax forfeiture this past fall, and informed the group that the City will be relooking at our lot size requirements in the near future. Danielowski also discussed the Council's recent request to have representation on the County EDA, discussed new businesses that have moved into the community, noted the City's efforts to continue to market our old police building and expressed that 2015 is expected to be a growing year for the City. Discussion was also held on the City's Executive Search for a qualified City Administrator and Finance Director, the decline in foreclosures and the increase in property values, and discussed the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad second track and how that will affect some of the commercial properties in this area. Joel Scharf informed the group that there is an upcoming meeting on January 20th with BNSF and that according to BNSF the biggest impact will be west of the City limits and west of CR 17, and it was noted that the second track construction is expected to start this spring. Scharf also announced that the City of Big Lake is now officially a Quiet Zone as of January 5th. The Quiet Zone only consists of three crossings located in the City limits.

6. OTHER – no other.

7. ADJOURN

Council Member Langsdorf motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Christenson. Unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Recorder

01/28/15
Date Approved by the Big Lake City Council