

**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 16, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Danielowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. ROLL CALL

Big Lake City Council Members present: Mayor Raeanne Danielowski, Dick Backlund, Nick Christenson, and Mike Wallen. Seth Hansen was absent.

Big Lake Township Board Members present: Chair Bob Hofer, Bruce Aubol, Norm Leslie, and Steve Pflgebraar. Larry Alfords was absent.

Orrock Township Board Member present: Mike Meier. Chair Jeff Jones, Shane Berg, Ron Dolly, and Michael Eisinger were absent.

Big Lake School Board Members present: Chair Tim Hayes, Mark Hedstrom, Dan Nygaard, Tony Scales, and Amber Sixberry. Tom Pietrzak was absent.

Sherburne County Board Members present: Chair Ewald Petersen, Bruce Anderson, and John Riebel. Rachel Leonard and Felix Schmiesing were absent.

Also present: City Administrator Todd Bodem, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Finance Director Jessica Green, Police Chief Joel Scharf, Big Lake Township Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Big Lake Township Clerk Laura Hayes, Big Lake Deputy Clerk LaDonna Braun, and Sherburne County Administrator Steve Taylor.

4. PROPOSED AGENDA

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

5. BUSINESS

5A. County Topics

Steve Taylor discussed changes in the County Economic Development structure and noted that County Assessor Dan Weber will be the main point of contact for economic development inquiries. The County is in the process of hiring an Economic Development Consultant also. Taylor informed Board Members that Health and Human Services Director Ken Ebel is retiring after 35 years of service. Taylor also noted that the County Board approved a -1% tax levy decrease for 2014. Commissioner Ewald Petersen discussed funding procured for transportation grants. Petersen also discussed County transportation and enhancement projects coming up in 2014. Petersen also noted that Sherburne County population is poised to explode in the near future and that we need to balance our tax base with more commercial and industrial projects. Petersen also discussed the local hockey association that has started to meet again and explained that the property they own does have back taxes that need to be brought current. Commissioner John Riebel discussed County volunteer programs that have helped them keep the number of new employees down. Riebel also discussed the new Wheelage Tax and how that will benefit the County. Commissioner Bruce Anderson discussed the importance of economic development in the County and also informed Board Members that the County is in the process of removing themselves from the River Rider program and potentially working with Tri-CAP to provide public transportation in the County. Anderson also noted that foreclosures are down in the County, and that market values are expected to start rising again. Discussion was held on if the County will incorporate cities into their economic development efforts. Taylor explained that they have already included cities in their discussions on the hiring of the new economic development consultant, and they are in the planning stages of discussion on how cities will be involved in the County economic development efforts. Discussion was also held on the need to replace a crossing light at the intersection of CR 43 and Glenwood Avenue for the safety of students crossing at this intersection. Board Members also discussed the need for more internet providers in the area.

5B. Big Lake Township Topics

Chair Bob Hofer discussed the realignment of 211th Avenue and the need for improved bike lanes on County roads. Board Members also discussed the new police services agreement in joint City/Township areas that the Township will be helping to financially

support, and the Townships continued contribution towards the Big Lake Public Library. Board Members discussed the newly purchased 11 acre site that the Township recently purchased near Township Hall. This area could possibly house a future softball field and some hiking trails. Discussion was also held on possibly connecting the trail along CR 5 to the Township.

5C. Orrock Township Topics

Township Supervisor Mike Meier discussed county roads located in Orrock Township and the deterioration of CR 10. Meier noted that the Orrock Township Board is working at being more transparent and to make information more easily accessible to their residents. Meier also reminded the Board Members that Township elections will be coming up in March.

5D. School Topics

Chair Tim Hayes informed the group that Big Lake High School and Independence Elementary School have been recognized by the State of Minnesota as being among the highest performing schools across the state, and noted that the district is focusing on student progress in the classrooms. Hayes also discussed the STEM program implemented in the elementary schools. Tony Scales discussed the 5 year referendum plan that comes to term next year. Scales noted that the district is hoping to push the referendum out to 6 years. Scales also explained that 75% of the schools funding comes from the State and that their student population (ADM) has been declining in recent years which could affect their funding. Scales also discussed the schools positive cash flow position and that all day/every day Kindergarten will now be funded by the State. Board Members discussed the Safe Routes to School Grant. Todd Bodem noted that the School Board has agreed to cover 50% of the expense to make a fourth attempt at securing grant dollars and asked the Township and County if they would be interested in participating in helping cover any of the costs of the application.

5E. City of Big Lake Topics

City Administrator Todd Bodem provided an update on City projects and activities in City Departments. Mayor Raeanne Danielowski discussed potential growth in the area and noted that the City's infrastructure is built and ready for future projects. Mayor Danielowski also informed the Board Members that the City appreciates the joint collaboration of all the Boards. Joel Scharf reviewed how the police department is utilizing the newly purchased commercial property at 790 MN Avenue and that the additional police presence near the school campus is a benefit to the schools. Jessica Green discussed the City's levy increase in 2014 which was due to the City's debt obligations. Green noted that the City hasn't been setting its levy appropriately in the past and indicated that we are on a better path now.

Big Lake City Council, Big Lake and Orrock Townships, Big Lake School District, and
Sherburne County Joint Meeting Minutes

Date: January 16, 2014

Page 4 of 4

6. OTHER – no other.

7. ADJOURN

School Board Chair Hayes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by
County Commissioner Riebel. Unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck
Recorder

01/22/14
Date Approved by the Big Lake City Council