

**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 17, 2013

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: Raeanne Danielowski, Dick Backlund, Nick Christenson, Seth Hansen and Mike Wallen.

Big Lake Township Board Members present: Bruce Aubol, Norm Leslie, and Steve Pleghaar.

Orrock Township Board Member present: Mike Meyer.

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

Sherburne County Board Members present: Chair Ewald Petersen, Bruce Anderson, and John Riebel.

Also present: City Administrator Todd Bodem, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, City Engineer Brad DeWolf from Bolton and Menk, Inc., Big Lake Township Treasurer Kenneth Warneke, Big Lake Township Clerk Laura Hayes, School Superintendent Jonathon Miller, School Secretary Roxanne Weidner, Sherburne County Administrator Brian Benson, Sherburne County Public Works Director John Menter, and Sherburne County Attorney Kathleen Heaney.

4. PROPOSED AGENDA

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

5. BUSINESS

5A. County Topics

Sherburne County Commissioner Ewald Petersen provided information on Sherburne County foreclosure numbers, green acres properties, and Sherburne County economic development efforts. Petersen also noted that Sherburne County approved a zero percent tax levy increase for 2013. Commissioner John Riebel discussed conversations the County has had with local legislatures and recognized efforts of Sherburne County employees to keep costs down for taxpayers. New Commissioner Bruce Anderson introduced himself to the various board members and encouraged boards to partner with each other for the benefit of the whole county. Brian Benson discussed the significant portion of the business and industrial tax bill that gets allocated to the State of Minnesota. John Menter reviewed various road projects in the Big Lake area.

5B. Big Lake Township Topics

Big Lake Township Supervisor Norm Leslie introduced their two new members.

5C. Orrock Township Topics

Orrock Township Supervisor Mike Meyer discussed the Township elections coming up in March and encouraged citizens to get involved in their communities. Meyer also noted that their new snow plowing process is going well.

5D. School Topics

Big Lake School Board Chair Tim Hayes discussed their school board restructure and noted that they will be gearing up for an operating levy election as their current levy that was approved five years ago is coming to an end. Hayes noted that enrollment has dropped in the last five years but that it seems to be leveling off. Hayes also discussed security efforts of the district, and explained that the monies owed to the school district from the State will not help their budget; it will only make their cash flow whole again. Board members also explained that they will be looking at televising options for their board meetings and that they will be researching what options will best serve the majority of the school district. Discussion was also held on the Safe Routes to School grant program and whether or not the City and School District should jointly file a grant application. John Miller explained that staff has started working on the application, but clarified that the grant must be geared towards the Middle School and the Elementary Schools. John Menter explained

that there is not sufficient room along CR 5 south of Glenwood to install sidewalks without obtaining additional right of way. Miller detailed security efforts the school has undertaken. Miller also discussed the need for the Boards to continue to work together for the benefit of the Big Lake Community.

5E. City of Big Lake Topics

Mayor Raeanne Danielowski introduced new Council Members and reviewed projects the City has seen develop recently, and reviewed the availability of undeveloped lots ready when needed. City Administrator Todd Bodem provided an update on City projects. Bodem also discussed the possible implementation of a collaborative 501.c3 group that would be made up of community members for the benefit of community needs. Danielowski informed members that the Spud Fest Board will be hosting a community meeting on January 29th at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. School Board Member Tony Scales asked for clarification on the build out of the new River Oaks Park. Mayor Danielowski noted that the Parks Board will be reviewing concepts for the new Park, but that no decisions have been made yet.

6. OTHER

Mayor Danielowski thanked everyone for being part of this collaborative meeting and reminded members of the upcoming Chili Feed being held at the Big Lake Fire Hall on January 19th.

7. ADJOURN

Mayor Danielowski adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Gina Wolbeck
Recorder

01/23/13
Date Approved by the Big Lake City Council