

**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 21, 2016**

**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, Duane Langsdorf and Scott Marotz. Seth Hansen arrived at 6:08 p.m.

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

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

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

Sherburne County Board Member present: Ewald Petersen.

Also present: City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Finance Director Deb Wegeleben, Deputy Clerk Tamara Lantz, Big Lake School District Superintendent Steve Westerberg, Big Lake Township Clerk Laura Hayes, Big Lake Deputy Clerk Samantha Peterson, Township Treasurer Ken Warneke, Sherburne County Administrator Steve Taylor and Assistant Administrator Dan Weber.

#### **4. PROPOSED AGENDA**

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

#### **5. BUSINESS**

##### **5A. County Topics**

Steve Taylor discussed the 2016 Levy for Sherburne County, the future expansion of the existing government center and possible future tenants that will relocate to their facility. Taylor also discussed the County's efforts to improve Broadband countywide. Taylor reviewed the Kaizen events being used to review processes and make changes at the County to become more efficient in daily tasks.

Commissioner Ewald Petersen discussed the \$45 million Sherburne County Government Center expansion including technology updates, court room size, providing absolute security for all employees, removal of the retention pond, conserving the atrium area, and the possibility of a Federal court room to be included in the new addition. Petersen also noted that the 10th Judicial District headquarters will be moving to the expansion area after it is complete.

Dan Weber discussed the county's approval of a revolving loan fund for gap financing. Weber also noted that Big Lake business Acucraft has been awarded a forgivable loan from MNDEED, that residential valuations are expected to increase by 3%, Commercial valuations are expected to remain the same, with Industrial valuations increasing 1-3%. It was also noted that average lot sales in Big Lake are approximately \$30,000.

##### **5B. Big Lake Township Topics**

Chair Bob Hofer discussed interest in solar expansions and introduced new Township Deputy Clerk Samantha Peterson.

Ken Warneke discussed Township budget needs.

Norm Leslie shared the status of the ball park which is now complete. The soccer field is done and equipment is on site. Leslie explained that the garage on site will be used for storage of equipment at the ball field. Leslie also noted that the new Verizon cell tower is up and running.

### **5C. Orrock Township Topics**

Bob Hassett discussed various challenges Orrock Township has faced and past practices of the Town Board. Hassett discussed land owned by the MN Fish and Wildlife Service and the MNDNR and noted that Representative Newberger has drafted legislation to allow more local control over these types of land. Hassett discussed logging that was approved without Township consent and the need for Townships to have more say in activities that affect the Township and their roadways. Hassett discussed partnering with various agencies for the betterment of the area.

Brenda Kimberly-Maas discussed upcoming developments underway in Orrock Township, and noted that the Township has completed a Road Maintenance Plan. Due to the logging issues, the township has restricted several roads to 5 ton limits. Maas thanked Sherburne County for allowing the update of election equipment. It was also discussed that the township would like to move from a March board election to a November election with a four year term.

### **5D. School Topics**

Chair Mark Hedstrom discussed new employees at the school.

Superintendent Westerberg discussed the newly approved Operating and Technology levies. Westerberg also discussed strategic planning efforts of the district, facility improvements, deferred maintenance bonds, possible grade configuration changes in the elementary schools, enrollment figures, the schools focus on lowering class sizes, and school enhancements. Westerberg also reviewed overall staffing levels, class offerings, and extra-curricular activities available to students.

### **5E. City of Big Lake Topics**

Mayor Danielowski discussed the hiring of City Administrator Clay Wilfahrt, Community Development Director Hanna Klimmek, and new City Planner Michael Healy. Danielowski also discussed the Norland Park 2nd Addition that will be platted in the coming months, and noted that single family home construction is increasing.

Clay Wilfahrt discussed the 2015 Annual Overview that included information on various City Departments. Wilfahrt also reviewed anticipated 2016 projects that included the Kwik Trip project, Norland Park 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition, residential housing, Northern Star Apartments, and the build out of the County Road 5 trail. Wilfahrt also discussed the upcoming CentraCare purchase of the former Police building, the \$10,000 Blandin Grant awarded to the City for the install of Wi-Fi at Lakeside Park, the \$50,000 lake conservation grant awarded to the City, discussed the Coal Reliant Communities presentation, and the region wide approach to Economic Development in Sherburne County.

Big Lake City Council, Big Lake and Orrock Townships, Big Lake School District, and  
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**6. OTHER** – No other.

**7. ADJOURN**

Town Chair Hofer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by School Board Member Hayes. Unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder

01/27/16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved by the Big Lake City Council