

Bridgewater Township Newsletter

March 2019

Assessments for Storm Damage

The storms on September 20, 2018 caused considerable damage in the Township. The cost to the Township was \$430,453. The State is expected to reimburse the Township for \$322,840 leaving the Township with the expense of \$107,613 for storm damage cleanup. The Township's responsibility is to clean the road and the road right-of-way which usually extends 33 feet from the centerline of the road. It is the responsibility of the resident to deal with the storm damage on their property. Consequently, the Township will absorb 25% or \$26,903 of this expense and assess the balance of \$80,710.

The Township engaged Aspenwall Tree Service to remove debris from the roads and road right-of-way. As the cleanup progressed, many residents hauled debris from their property into the right-of-way. To facilitate the cleanup, the supervisors directed Aspenwall Tree Service to make additional passes through the neighborhoods to pick up debris that had been moved into the right-of-way. Throughout this entire process, Aspenwall kept a record of the loads picked up at each address and whether it was material originally in the right-of-way or had been moved there from elsewhere.

The assessment will be apportioned to parcels based on how many loads were picked up at each parcel. The assessment will be spread over two years. Each property owner will receive a letter stating the amount being assessed. We anticipate that assessment notices will be sent in April. There will then be a public hearing. Following the public hearing and any adjustments to assessments, the assessments will be sent to the Rice County Assessor's office and will show up on 2020 property tax statements.

Incorporation Study

In February and early March, the Township held three public meetings to explain what incorporation could mean for Bridgewater and to gather questions, concerns, and opinions on whether this is a possibility worth exploring. The Supervisors are in the process of getting answers to questions that were raised and clarifying what the pros and cons are of becoming a city. We expect to begin engaging in discussions with Northfield and Dundas in March. In April, the Supervisors will decide whether to proceed with looking into the feasibility of incorporation or whether issues and facts have come to light which indicate this is not a feasible or wise course of action.

There will be a town meeting Saturday, April 13, at 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Little Prairie Church, at which the Supervisors will discuss issues raised in the February public meetings and present more information on incorporation. Little Prairie Church is located at 2980 130th Street East, Dundas.

Neighborhood Meetings on Incorporation

If you are interested in having a meeting of your neighborhood to discuss incorporation, contact Frances Boehning, the Township clerk, at clerk@bridgewaterwp.org or 507-645-1656. She will arrange for a supervisor to participate.

Comprehensive Plan

The Township's Comprehensive Plan is undergoing a thorough revision. Whether Bridgewater remains a township or becomes a city, this plan lays out how we will deal with rural residential development, agriculture, industrial development, commercial enterprises, and green space. If any of these issues matter to you, plan to participate. There will be four two hour meetings at which the Planning & Zoning Commission will gather comments and information. The meetings are organized by topic.

Meeting Schedule

| Date | Time | Location | Topics |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| March 30th | 9:00 am | Bridgewater Town Hall | P&Z: Land Use and Economic Development |
| April 13 | 1:00 pm | Little Prairie Church | Incorporation |
| April 27th | 9:00 am | Bridgewater Town Hall | P&Z: Parks & Recreation, Environmental Resources |
| May 25th | 9:00 am | Bridgewater Town Hall | P&Z: Housing, Industrial, and Agriculture |
| June 29th | 9:00 am | Bridgewater Town Hall | P&Z: Transportation |
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Building Permits

Permits for remodeling and new building are required in the township. Permits are available online at our website: bridgewaterwp.org. Planning and Zoning questions can be answered by calling Jim Braun, Zoning Administrator, at 1-800-851-3383. For Septic permits and inspections, please contact Darrel Gilmer at Cell: 651-775-6118 Email: dgilmerexc@yahoo.com.

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