

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
August 9, 2017
Official Minutes

Call to order – 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: John Holden, Kathleen Doran-Norton, Gary Ebling, Jim Braun, Frances Boehning

Introduction of Guests: Dennis Brown, Alan Kraus

Approval of Agenda: Gary Ebling made a motion to approve the agenda, John Holden seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

1. Alan Kraus from the Cannon River Watershed Project presented a project they are working on to encourage farmers along the Rice Creek Watershed to plant cover crops. This project would assist in improving the quality of the watershed and also improve soil quality. Mr. Kraus reviewed current practices and the changes they would like to promote. The CRWP is working on obtaining a grant to assist with this project and would like participation from the township.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

1. August Claims – John Holden made a motion to approve the August claims, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved. Included in the claims was one from EOR related to expenses for the Solar Farm on the Praver land, this will be scanned and sent to Carolyn Braun.
2. July 12, July 24, July 27 project meeting, July 27 joint meeting, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 - o John Holden made a motion to approve the July minutes, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

1. Treasurer's Report – Brad Pfahning was not present at the meeting.
2. A request was made for an update regarding the total net worth of the township. In addition, the Board would like an estimate made regarding the value of the assets owned by the township. Gary Ebling will work with Dennis Brown to obtain these estimates.

Clerk's Report-

1. Update on FEMA invoice request – this is to be completed by the next Board meeting.
2. Dundas Tax Repayment update – Kathleen Doran-Norton will meet with the accountants next Tuesday regarding the review of the repayment.
3. Letter head – the clerk will work on this.
4. Permit application – the clerk is working on creating these in Adobe.
5. Boy Scout sign update – the new sign will be built on August 19 starting at 8am.

Planning & Zoning

1. Staff Report –
 - a. John Holden made a motion to approve the purchase of the most recent inspection code books for \$426.20, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.
 - b. Jim Braun noted that the lot split forms for Pinc and Albers was given to John McCarthy in Dundas.
2. Update on Joint Powers with Rice County
 - a. Peter Tiede is continuing to work with Rice County.
3. Update on records from Benny Svien
 - a. Jim Braun spoke with the Department of Labor regarding the lack of paperwork for past inspections. He was told to make sure we have paperwork going forward and to correct past paperwork where possible.
4. Transfer simple permit activity to Clerk –
 - a. The clerk will follow up with the building inspector to obtain necessary paperwork. The clerk will complete the paperwork necessary for the Certificate of Occupancy and final inspection with input from the building inspector.

- b. The clerk will meet with Jim Braun to transfer simple permits to the clerk in late August.
5. Discuss new comp plan parameters
 - a. John Holden made a motion to request Carolyn Braun provide a proposal to give to the Planning Commission regarding the creation of a new Comp Plan, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.
6. Kluver property – Jim Braun will check on the Kluver residence regarding the sale of firewood.
7. Swenson property – Jim Braun will continue to check on the property.
8. Internet service to the township residents.
 - a. Jim Braun will bring this up with the Planning Commission. A suggestion was made to have Northfield WIFI come in to discuss the possibilities of providing service to the residents.

New Business

1. Updates from District Meeting – moved to a later meeting
 - a. Annexation
 - b. Road Closures

Old Business

1. Flood Mitigation Projects
 - a. Signs per DNR grant agreement – Gary Ebling is working on sign creation.
 - b. Gary Ebling spoke with Johnson Scoville regarding payment of part of the cost of their error. Gary Ebling will keep the Board updated if they are will to cover part of the cost.
2. Roadside vegetative management
 - a. Mike Groth and John Holden reviewed the road ditches for wild parsnip.
 - b. John Holden spoke with a representative from Carleton regarding methods of identifying noxious weeds at different stages of development.
 - i. Options include note cards that can be carried with or a phone app.
 - c. John Holden is working with Mike Groth to look at different options for building a sprayer for Bridgewater Township.
 - d. A suggestion was made that if the county and state are agreeable; the township would spray all of the roads in the township in an effort to contain the spread of the noxious weeds.
 - e. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of fall spraying.
 - f. Gary Ebling requested contacting Scott Bailey to spray the township in the fall.
 - g. Members of the Board discussed past communications in relation to spraying.
 - h. A heated discussion followed.
3. Roads
 - a. Discuss purchase of roller for Grader – moved to a later meeting.
 - b. Discuss state statute regarding speed limits in rural areas and signage – moved to a later meeting.
4. Project Meeting – note that there are two scheduled for this month

Goals& Projects for the Year

- Town Code (Planning and Zoning)
- Update of the Comprehensive Plan
- Rice County Planning and Zoning requests
 - Roads
 - Cluster Housing
 - Senior Housing
 - Commercial/Industrial Opportunity
- Northfield Annexation
- Formal study of city versus township
- Road History – which cartways to keep and cemetery roads
- Complete Timberlane project
- Talk about Township L&R process for government funding for township roads
- Work with Northfield and Dundas on Flood Mitigation Projects.

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Supervisors meeting, September 13, 2017, 7pm Bridgewater Town Hall
- Project Meetings, Monday, August 14 at 1:00pm, Bridgewater Town Hall
- Project Meetings, Monday, August 28, at 1:00pm, Bridgewater Town Hall
- Planning and Zoning meeting, August 31, 2017, 7pm Bridgewater Town Hall

Adjourn – 9:10pm