

**Bridgewater Township
Town Meeting on Incorporation
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
February 27, 2019
Official Minutes**

Call to order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call: John Holden, Glen Castore, Gary Ebling, Frances Boehning, Larry Alderks, and approximately 37 residents.

- Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Larry Alderks.
- Incorporation Study Presentation.
 - The Township slide show was presented by Glen Castore.
- Questions following first half of presentation
 - Question – Would the township owe money to the cities for land that was annexed?
 - Question – What is the cost to the township for the incorporation application process?
 - Question – We had voted years ago to be an urban township. What is the difference between that and being incorporated?
 - Question – Does the Northland Securities report give a recommendation?
 - Question – We have an annexation agreement with Dundas, does this break the agreement? Is there any issue with breaking that agreement?
 - Question – What is a summary of the Dundas and Northfield Annexation agreements?
 - Question – During a recent meeting, Peter Tiede was cautious about incorporation. Should we be concerned about this?
 - Question – In the annexation agreement with Northfield, does Northfield have zoning authority over Timberland and Farrel?
 - Question - What about the current residents in Timberland and Ferrel? Could the ALJ transfer them to Northfield against their wishes? Will they have any say in this?
 - Question – What about water and sewer in large housing areas and industrial? The MPCA does not seem to approve any additional septic systems.
 - Question – How will the township determine the residents wishes? Why is the township not holding a vote on this?
 - Question – How do citizens stay on top of what is happening?
 - Question – How can we sign up to speak at the public hearings with the ALJ.
 - Question – We are mainly a rural township. If we add housing that will eat up all of the ag land.
 - Concern – Northfield and Dundas will take over Timberland and Ferrel without the residents' approval.
 - Question – Is there anything happening in the neighboring townships that we should be concerned about?
 - Question – In the proposed budget, we seem to be using all of the extra revenue. Will this cause problems if we have no money on hand in case of emergencies?
 - Question – Would there be any changes to the zip code, city name, mail service, garbage service, or police and fire response?
 - Question – Regarding the budget, are there any ramp up costs? Could savings be found by reducing costs?

- Question – Would Rice County still have jurisdiction over the landfill? Could the landfill expand without city approval?
- Question – Would property tax revenue change if we were a city?
- Question – Would the landfill host fee change when we become a city?
- Question – Would there be any change for the school district?
- Question – How do we get competent people elected? Would there be any bonding or debt limits for the city?
- Question – How do you handle adding houses to just anywhere in any quantity? How could we avoid filling up the river banks with all houses? The river should stay wild and scenic.
- Question – How do you define “land not suitable for farming”?
- Question – How do you define zoning areas?
- Question – How does increasing housing clusters preserve ag land.
- Question – People want acreages when they move here – not suburban areas. Will incorporation make the housing restrictions too loose? How will we keep people from placing houses randomly?
- Question – If housing is next to farm land, how do we keep people from complaining about the farm and trespassing?
- Question – Have we retained any professional developers to develop certain areas?
- Question – The Bob Gill conservation easement was mentioned. How will this change if we become a city?
- Question – Will TDRs survive if we become a city?
- Question – Has there been any discussion of the Met Council expanding down here?
- Question – Why are more townships not becoming cities?
- Question – Will we know in advance which judge we will be assigned?
- Question – What kind of industry would we have in the area?
- Question – What is the timeline after the March 2nd meeting and prior to the April decision?

Adjourn