

**Bridgewater Township
Town Meeting on Incorporation
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
March 2, 2019
Official Minutes**

Call to order at 9:00 am

Roll Call: John Holden, Glen Castore, Gary Ebling, Frances Boehning, Larry Alderks, and approximately 22 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 – What the pros and cons of being with the City of Northfield versus the City of Bridgewater? Do I get a say in which city my developed is placed in?
 - Question – Can the ALJ decision be appealed?
 - Question – How likely is it that the adjacent cities will work with Bridgewater?
 - Question – Do we have any protection from cities annexing us? Can we object to an annexation?
 - Question – Is it a risk that the City of Dundas will annex our land and the Township will lose tax base? Can the City just take land from us while we are in this process?
 - Comment – Resident noted that our borders are more secure if we become a city. We will no longer be in danger of being annexed.
 - Comment – We would like to continue being a good neighbor by working with the cities to allow them to expand. We do not want to strangle the cities.
 - Question – Have there been any discussions with Northfield regarding extending the annexation agreement?
 - Question – Do we reduce the risk of having land handed over to the cities by having a plan in place to work with them?
 - Question – Are the current developments critical to the financial health of us being a city?
 - Question – If our population has declined, do we have less residents or less houses?
 - Question – How does Bridgewater Township plan to preserve the current neighborhoods as part of Bridgewater?
 - Comment – A resident pointed out the differences between the annexation agreements for Bridgewater and Waterford.
- Five minutes break
 - Comment – There is concern regarding how septic systems would work with Bridgewater as a city.
 - Question – If the Rice County Landfill were to close in 20-25 years, will it make any difference if we are a Township or a City?
 - Question – Does the Landfill host fee change if we are a city?
 - Question – Will our address change?
 - Question – How much do we get in taxes from the current gravel pits?
 - Question – How would the Cannon River Wilderness area change if we are a City versus a Township?

- Comment – As we move forward, it would make sense to have some sort of provision to have land around the cities that would allow them to expand.
- Question – A resident has farmland in Northfield and is charged a storm sewer fee. As a city, will we have to charge a storm sewer fee also?
- Question – What is the status of the sewer line from Dundas to the new car club?
- Question – What will happen to the Gill and Praver lands in the future?

Adjourn