

Bridgewater Township Work Session
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
January 31, 2019
Official Minutes

Call to order at 9:00 am

Roll Call: Jonathon Reppe, Gary Ebling, Glen Castore, John Holden, Peter Tiede, Jennifer Green, Rusty Fifield, Frances Boehning

Guests: Jim Olds, John Klockemen, Rhonda Pownell, Phillip Weyhe, Mitze Baker, Glen Switzer, Paula Callies, John McCarthy

- Incorporation Strategy.
 - Glen Castore reviewed the history of petitions for incorporation.
 - The list of public meetings scheduled was reviewed along with the Annual Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, March 12th at 8:15 pm.
 - The current timeline for the incorporation study was reviewed.
 - Rusty Fifield, Northland Securities, noted that the timeline was realistic.
 - Glen Castore noted that Bridgewater would operate as a city while the judge determines the final decision.
 - Rusty Fifield commented that Bridgewater was looking at becoming a Charter City. He suggested that this be studied over the summer and that a parallel committee be created to look into this and make recommendations.

- Annexation Agreements
 - The current annexation agreements with Dundas and Northfield were reviewed.
 - Per Dundas, the current annexation agreement survives even if Bridgewater incorporates.
 - Peter Tiede reviewed that cities cannot annex land from each other per state laws.
 - Discussions will need to be ongoing to determine the future of the current annexation agreement with Dundas.
 - Glen Castore noted that there are only two cases where the judge moved the boundary in an incorporation case.
 - Peter Tiede reviewed the current state statutes regarding annexations between cities.
 - Rusty Fifield reviewed the Forest Lake Township Case.

- Land Transfer Agreement
 - Glen Castore reviewed the fact that the Bridgewater Township Supervisors were looking at moving some land to the cities through a process called detachment and annexation. Peter Tiede suggested submitting a map to the ALJ showing what will be moved to the cities.
 - Jonathon Reppe noted that there is the possibility of asking the ALJ to leave part of the township unincorporated in order to transfer that land to the city.
 - Paula Callies noted that she did not believe that the cities could currently detach and annex land.
 - Glen Switzer stated that he felt that the south side of Bridgewater Township could be serviced by Faribault.
 - John Klockemand asked how part of the township could be unincorporated while the rest incorporated.
 - Glen Castore noted that this would need to be looked into further over the summer.
 - Peter Tiede and Rusty Fifield did not feel leaving part unincorporated would be a viable option.

- Rusty Fifield stated that there are multiple ways to move some land between cities.
- Land Use Planning
 - Glen Castore reviewed the current land use planning restrictions. The Township has made requests to Rice County requesting permission to expand land use planning. Gary Ebling reviewed the current cluster housing issue.
 - Glen Castore noted that the citizen input is important to this. Conserving the rural nature of the area was also important.
 - John Klockemen reviewed the concern regarding rising agricultural land prices. It is important to have other sources of tax revenue as a hedge to preserving agricultural land.
 - Gary Ebling reviewed the current population along with the road system and tax structure built on a small population base.
 - Rusty Fifield noted that land use planning is important. A current comp plan is needed that reflects our vision of the future. Our current comp plan is just about the smallest he has ever seen.
 - Glen Castore asked how all of the information is obtained by the ALJ?
 - Rusty Fifield noted that some places provide the information on line while others provide written reports. When the 13 facts are addressed in the petition, we should provide findings of fact to back this up.
 - John Klockemen brought up the Hoover dump site as a Superfund Site.
 - This industrial area is remote and not really available for city services. In order to resolve this site and make it useable, we would need to be a city to obtain funds for clean up. As a Township, we are not eligible for clean up funds.
 - Glen Castore stated that land use maps would be created over the next few months.
- Next Steps
 - Rusty Fifield suggested that we create an organizational chart detailing what we need to know and who is responsible for providing the information.
 - Jennifer Green suggested further meetings with neighboring cities.
 - Gary Ebling asked if an outline presentation along with the comp plan should go to the ALJ, Rusty Fifield suggested an executive summary would be fine.

Adjourn at 10:05 am