

**Bridgewater Township
Comprehensive Plan Meeting #2
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
Bridgewater Town Hall
April 27, 2019
Official Minutes**

Call to order at 10:00 am

Roll Call: John Holden, Glen Castore, Gary Ebling, Frances Boehning, Jim and Carolyn Braun, Larry Alderks, 7 township residents, John McCarthy.

- Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Glen Castore.
- Comprehensive Plan Presentation.
 - The Township slide show was presented by Glen Castore.
- Questions during/following presentation
 - Question –What is happening with the Hoover Dump? What can be done with it?
 - Question – Would the city receive more in taxes if it provided services (i.e. sewer & water)
 - Question – Is Rice County opposed to industrial in the township?
 - Question – Would staying as we are be an impediment to obtaining industrial and commercial?
 - Question – How many homes could be built in the township under the current zoning?
 - Comment – Kathleen Doran Norton reviewed the current Rice County Housing study.
 - Question – have the Supervisors and Planning Commission identified the areas that can not be developed in the future?
 - Question – Would we look at putting houses in wooded areas? How would we protect the wildlife areas? Can we identify wildlife areas to protect?
 - Comment – a resident noted that there is a push to develop more concentrated housing closer to the city centers.
 - Comment – a resident felt that there will be a number of wealthy families that will want land in the country.
 - Comment – other cities around us are looking at increasing densities.
 - Question – where is our population loss coming from?
 - Comment – a resident commented that farmers will need to continue to pay the taxes if they want to maintain the roads. If big farms are no longer profitable, then perhaps small CSA types will be.
 - Comment – the citizens need to be more engaged to tell the county what the township would like to see. Perhaps a number of township could band together to convince the county to change the zoning.
 - Comment – there is a great need for “workforce” housing.
 - Question – Do other townships have commercial zoning? Does Rice County have commercial zoning in any township? Note – the landfill should be zoned commercial.
 - Comment – Kathleen Doran-Norton stated that there are some historical commercial areas in the township (Cty Rd 8 and Hwy 3). The County has commercial areas along Baseline.
 - Comment – Kathleen Doran-Norton there are things that the county allows that Bridgewater chose not to allow when they took over zoning.
 - Question – if we are agriculture focused, where do housing developments stand?
 - Question – does taxes drive agriculture?

- Question – Why is the county opposed to cluster housing?

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	