

Bridgewater Township Work Session
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
May 24, 2019
Official Minutes

Call to order at 1:00 pm

Roll Call: Gary Ebling, Glen Castore, John Holden, Frances Boehning,

Guests: none

- 10563 1st Timberlane.
 - A request was made by a neighbor to secure 10563 1st Timberlane against intruders. He has had to chase teenagers out of the house and is concerned about potential injuries. He asked when the house would be rebuilt.
 - A call was made to Jim Braun for clarification regarding this house. He noted that the owners are working with Johnson/Reiland and will demolish the current house and rebuild a spec home.

- Recent road issues
 - Gary Ebling reviewed a recent conversation with John Powell from the City of Dundas. Dundas would like the road between Bridgewater Heights and 115th opened for traffic. Gary Ebling will talk to Dundas and let them know that per the agreement, a road policy is needed first. Dennis Luebbe will also need to be consulted as there is the belief that the County may want the material back from this jump road.
 - Gary Ebling met with David Wett (Decker Avenue) regarding his driveway and culvert. The area would need to be surveyed prior to any work. Gary Ebling spoke with Bolten & Menk, who will determine the possibilities available for this project.
 - It was stated that the township does not currently have a fund for culvert maintenance that is necessary due to normal wear and weather events.
 - John Holden noted that the weather dictated excess expenses this past year. He also noted that the \$350,000 that the township received from HSEM was from all public taxpayers.
 - Gary Ebling reviewed that the township residents pay substantially less in taxes than neighboring cities. A new fund is needed to cover the expenses of managing roads during emergencies such as major snow events and tornadoes.
 - Assessment for Road Clean-up
 - Glen Castore received a list from Rice County of all the parcels in the township. He reviewed how the list could be divided and alternative assessment structures.
 - It was stated that the township should look at creating a fund for emergencies.
 - Gary Ebling reviewed recent conversations, emails, and letters regarding the proposed assessment.
 - Glen Castore will go through the parcel list and bring to the June 12th meeting to determine a strategy then.

- Planning and Zoning
 - Inspectron Contract
 - The new contract with Inspectron was reviewed. Changes will need to be made to state that the Township issues the permit and determines the value. The changes will be sent back to Inspectron for them to correct the contract.

- Incorporation

- Following a conversation with Peter Tiede, Glen Castore reviewed the information that is available at the historical society regarding the incorporation of Grant and Columbus. The information includes the background of the decision. Glen Castore will review the information available at the historical society.
 - Information from Couri & Ruppe regarding the pros and cons of incorporation was reviewed.
 - John Holden reviewed the option of holding a straw vote. It was noted that Peter Tiede advised against this as typically only a small percentage of the population votes. It was decided that the best venue to gain public input was through public meetings.
 - Glen Castore will talk to Edgebrook neighborhood in May and Wendwood in June.
 - Talking points were reviewed for next week's interview on KYMN.
 - Gary Ebling reviewed recent communication with Ludesher and Doug Jones. He will see if they would like to talk to the Board during an upcoming meeting.
 - Glen Castore suggested adding the following to future agendas:
 - Upcoming public meetings including neighborhood meetings.
 - Set a meeting with area farmers.
 - Possible meeting with non-residential landowners
 - A future meeting regarding affordable housing was suggested for the summer.
- Flood Mitigation
 - Glen Castore reviewed legal action regarding Adam Parker. Additional discussion will be held at the June meeting.
 - Noxious Weeds
 - John Holden is putting together a noxious weed group including a Carleton intern.
 - Steve Albers would like to work for the township spraying weeds. He will be paid \$20 per hour.
 - John Holden will speak with Dennis Luebbe regarding having Steve Albers spray county roads in the area also. It was requested that if Dennis Luebbe approves, that he places this in writing.
 - A request was made to have Steve Albers submit hours every two weeks.
 - Ims Conditional Use Permit
 - A discussion was held regarding the conditional use and TEPP permit forwarded by the Planning Commission for Doug Ims.
 - It was suggested that a letter be requested from the Steam & Gas committee granting access to the road until July 31, 2019.
 - Other possible access routes to the pit were reviewed.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-06, Doung Ims Conditional Use Permit for Mining, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.
 - Incorporation
 - Gary Ebling suggested talking to adjacent township regarding the possible Bridgewater Township Incorporation. The Board agreed that these meetings should take place over the summer.

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	