



Bridgewater Township Newsletter

May 2019

Assessments for Storm Damage

The storms on September 20, 2018, caused considerable damage in the Township and the cleanup was extensive. The cost to the Township was \$430,453. On May 2, the Township received a check from the State for \$322,840 reimbursing 75% of the cleanup cost. This leaves the Township to cover \$107,613. The Township will cover 25% or \$26,903 of this expense from the general fund and assess the balance of \$80,710. Taking into account comments and suggestions from many residents, the Board of Supervisors has decided to assess all residents of the Township for the cost of recovery from storm damage. The basis for this approach is that we believe we should respond as a community when a significant portion of the community has suffered damage. This means a fairly small contribution from each of us to insure support for all of us.

The assessment will be approximately \$120 at 0% interest spread over 2 years (\$60/year). The Rice County Assessor's office will determine the precise amount. In June you will receive a letter specifying the amount of the assessment and setting a date for a public hearing.

Incorporation Study

The Board of Supervisors is continuing to explore the pros and cons of incorporating as a city. Common questions that have come up during meetings have been recorded and answered on our new website: www.bridgewatertp.org. A public meeting will be held in June to review where we are in the process and what the next steps will be. A Frequently Asked Questions section has been added to the Township's website coverage of the incorporation study.

Neighborhood Meetings on Incorporation

Neighborhood meetings have begun. These are informal meetings with your neighbors and a Board Supervisor. They will cover incorporation and answer any questions that you have. If you are interested in hosting a meeting of your neighborhood to discuss incorporation, contact Frances Boehning, the Township clerk, at clerk@bridgewatertp.org or 507-645-1656. She will arrange for a supervisor to participate.

Comprehensive Plan

The Township's Comprehensive Plan is undergoing a thorough revision. Whether Bridgewater remains a township or becomes a city, this plan lays out how we will deal with future areas identified as cluster or subdivision in nature and about to become urban and suburban, agriculture, industrial development, commercial enterprises, and green space. If any of these issues matter to you, plan to participate. **The next meeting has been moved to Saturday, June 1st**, and will cover Parks & Recreation and Environmental Resources. The final meeting covering Transportation will be held on Saturday, June 29th. These meetings begin at 9:00 am and end at 11:00 in the Bridgewater Town Hall at 500 Railway Street, Dundas.

Building Permits

Permits for remodeling and new building are required in the township. Permits are available online at our website: bridgewaterwp.org. Planning and Zoning questions can be answered by calling Jim Braun, Zoning Administrator, at 1-800-851-3383. For Septic permits and inspections, please contact Darrel Gilmer at Cell: 651-775-6118 Email: dgilmerexc@yahoo.com.

Roads

In an effort to keep our gravel roads in the best shape possible, we are continuing with our three-year rotation of adding gravel to select township roads. The gravel is placed on the roads and then after sufficient rainfall, the gravel is shaped and compacted. By waiting for rainfall, we are better able to work with the gravel with minimal loss. When the road is compacted, we contract with a company to place dust control on the road. If dust control is placed prior to the gravel being laid or compacted, the dust control will be ineffective.

Noxious Weed Control

Bridgewater Township is continuing to work on controlling the spread of wild parsnip and other noxious weeds in the township. This will be accomplished by mowing and spraying according to the schedule developed by MnDOT. If you do not want a specific ditch mowed or sprayed, "Do Not Spray/Mow" signs are available for \$5 by contacting the Township Clerk. Residents requesting signs will be required to sign a contract agreeing to maintain the spread of weeds by alternative methods.

Updated Website

The Bridgewater Township website has been updated. We have included sections on Incorporation and Permits. Please let the Clerk know if you have any suggestions for improving the site.

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