

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
June 12, 2019
Official Minutes

Call to order at 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: John Holden, Glen Castore, Gary Ebling, Deb Salaba, Jim Braun, Frances Boehning

Introduction of Guests: Brad Ness, John McCarthy, Sam Wilmos, Jim and Lynn Olds, Brandon Sheehy, Ryan Johnson

Approval of Agenda: Glen Castore made a motion to approve the agenda, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- June Claims
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the June Claims, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.

- May 8, 14, 20, 24, 28, June 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the minutes presented, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

1. Treasurer's Report
 - The Treasurer reviewed the bank balances to date.
 - A request was made to transfer money from the General Fund to Frandsen Bank Landfill Host Fee Holding and Operating accounts. Money had been transferred out of these accounts to pay for storm damages last fall. As the Township has received money back from the state to cover some of this expense, that money will be transferred back to the original accounts.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the transfer of \$180,000.00 from the General Operating fund at 1st National to the Frandsen Bank Landfill Host Holding Account, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the transfer of \$142,840.12 from the General Operating fund at 1st National to the Frandsen Bank Landfill Host Operating Account, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the transfer of \$42,292.73 from the 1st National General Operating Fund to Frandsen Bank Landfill Host Holding Account (represents 25% of the 2019 Landfill fee received from Rice County), Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.
 - Three checks were voided this month due to errors; check numbers 8761, 8777, 8755.
2. Bank reconciliation - completed by the Treasurer
3. PERA forms - completed by the Treasurer
4. IRS Update/EFT form – completed by the Treasurer
5. Quarterly reports for solar project - none due at this time
6. Outstanding Indebtedness Report – complete until 2020
7. Year-end report for Secretary of State – complete until 2020

Clerk's Report-

1. Mail
 - The Clerk reviewed the mail including the M.A.T. government official cards that were sent out.
 - The updated census was received from the MN State Demographic Center. Current estimated population is 1,819 while the estimated households are 694.
 - A letter from the Federal Census was received requesting information on new construction. It was decided to direct them to Rice County for the information.
2. Rental License Ordinance – A letter was received from a resident requesting information on our rental license ordinance. Jim Braun responded to the resident noting that the township does not currently have a rental license ordinance.

Planning & Zoning

1. Staff Report
 - Jim Braun reviewed the permits to date.
2. Rice County C.U.P authority update
 - No information has been received from Rice County regarding this.
3. Update on nuisance properties
 - Jim Braun will meet Rice County next Wednesday regarding their responsibility to take care of solid waste from nuisance properties.
 - A discussion was held by Jim Braun and the owners of the property on Cty Rd 1 where the outbuildings are falling down. He recommended calling the fire department and asking them to possibly burn the buildings as practice thus removing the potential hazard and nuisance.
 - It was discussed that the house on 1st Timberlane has not been properly secured. Jim Braun will work with the owner to get this secured. It was stated that if the township would need to secure it, the cost could be charged back to the homeowner.
4. 12425 Ebel Ave Easement
 - Jim Braun spoke with the neighbor's attorney regarding the easement. A survey has not been completed yet. The attorney noted that 12425 Ebel Ave would be able to continue using the driveway without an easement. Jim Braun reviewed that there were two other houses on Ebel Ave that he was going to send clean up notices to.
5. C.U. Ps
 - Jim Braun reviewed Resolution 2019-09 for a variance for Brandon and Alicia Sheehy to change the setback from 35' to 21' from Fox Avenue. Gary Ebling made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-09, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
6. Misc.
 - Jim Braun had a conversation with Keith Johnson regarding his daughter building a house on the old Johnson gravel pit. As the property in question still has a C.U.P, Jim Braun requested that the pit be reclaimed first.

New Business

1. Discussion with Ryan Johnson regarding tax analysis
 - Ryan Johnson (resident of Wendwood) reviewed a tax analysis that he had done. He noted how an increase (of double or triple) in taxes would negatively affect his family. Mr. Johnson explained that if the Township incorporated, we would be better able to affect positive lifestyles and priorities for residents. In addition, an incorporated township would be able to better manage cost of living and the possibility of generating income. Glen Castore noted that there is a meeting regarding affordable housing scheduled for June 26th at 1:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall.
2. Guard Rail on 115th Street
 - Gary Ebling reviewed what is currently happening with 115th Street and how it was used last summer during the construction on Cty Rd 1. Bridgewater Township will work with Dundas regarding the possibility of keeping the emergency back entrance from 115th into Bridgewater Heights.
 - Discussions will continue at a later date regarding which type of guard rail will be used to replace the broken on currently on 115th.

Old Business

1. Storm Damage Property Assessment Meeting
 - Glen Castore reviewed the storm damage from last year's tornadoes and that the total cost for clean up from the event was over \$430,000. As a result of the severity of the storms, Mn State provided 75% reimbursement for the expenses incurred. The remaining \$100,000 would need to be covered by the township. After review and discussion on different approaches and feedback from residents, it was decided that the remaining amount would be covered by the township and not assessed to residents.
 - Gary Ebling made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-07 for the Creation of a Natural Disaster Fund for the township to assist in covering future disasters, John Holden seconded, all approved.

- Gary Ebling noted that between now and the Annual Meeting next March, work will need to be done to establish this fund.

2. Strategic Plan

- Next Steps
 - Following feedback from residents and research, the Board of Supervisors decided to move forward with developing a petition to incorporate. Gary Ebling made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-08 to approve development of a petition to incorporate Bridgewater Township, John Holden seconded, all approved.
- Neighborhood Meetings
 - Glen Castore reviewed the recent meetings with individual neighborhoods. Only one Supervisor attends these meetings. Additional meetings will be set with remaining neighborhoods over the summer along with landowners and farmers.
 - Jim Olds requested information regarding when these meetings take place.
- June Meeting – meetings will take place with individual neighborhoods in June.

3. Comprehensive Plan Update

- Glen Castore reviewed past meetings and the upcoming transportation meeting that will occur on June 29th at 9:00 am in the Bridgewater Town Hall.

4. Central Pond Project

- Updates – no updates at this time
 - Gary Ebling noted that a project on the intake for the pond will occur later in the summer.

5. Roads

- Turn back of Decker to Rice County – no new information
- Highway 3 and CR8 intersection project – no new information
- Baseline/59 turnback to Rice County – no new information
- Gravel operations – no new information

6. Equipment – not discussed.

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	