

Bridgewater Township Farm Meeting
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
August 24, 2019
Official Minutes

Call to order at 9:00 am

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

Guests: 14 township residents, Brad Ness, and McCarthy

- Overview of potential incorporation
 - Glen Castore reviewed the current situation between the townships and the City of Northfield. Also discussed the reasons behind looking into incorporation.
 - Glen Castore and Gary Ebling presented the latest presentation.
 - The question was asked by the Supervisors: “would you as residents be interested in ag related businesses in the township and rail lines business?”
- Residents responses:
 - A resident mentioned that the township could have had an ethanol plant on his farm. This would have provided an industrial base. However, the township chose to turn this down in 2007. The farmer does not feel that he will be able to sell his land for a profit. As the DNR has taken the west side of the rail line he does not know if he can use that land again. He does not have family to inherit.
 - Road improvements seem to help cities more. Farmers can drive on gravel roads.
 - The intersection of Hwy 3 and Cty Rd 8 needs to be improved.
 - What is the timeframe for deciding to go with the three-year extension of the OAA with Northfield? (answer was by the September).
 - If we incorporate, who gets to determine the zoning?
 - There seems to be a strong desire from the cities to grab land from us. We need to be ready to fight. Please move forward with incorporation.
 - There were some questions regarding the requirements in the 3-year agreement extension with Northfield.
 - Could any entity drop out of the agreement anytime? (between Bridgewater and Northfield). What would the ramifications of leaving the agreement be? Could Northfield sue us?
 - What influences the Administrative Law Judges?
 - How far out are you from submitting a petition for incorporation?
 - Will Faribault sneak up on our southern border to annex land?
 - Could we negotiate a new full annexation agreement with the City of Northfield?

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	