

Bridgewater Township
Annual Meeting
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
March 12, 2019
Official Minutes

- ❖ Convene the meeting – The meeting was convened at 8:25 pm following the closing of the polls.
 - The pledge of allegiance was recited.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to nominate Leif Knect as the moderator for the evening, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved. Leif Knect accepted the position of moderator.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the agenda, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.
 - The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were distributed.
 - Dennis Brown made a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.
 - Barb Z. made a motion to set next year’s meeting for March 10, 2020 at 8:15pm, John Holden seconded, all approved.

- ❖ Treasurer reports – Brad Pfahning
 - Brad Pfahning reviewed the Treasurer’s report including the ordinary income versus expenses. The total expenses were discussed including the road versus storm expenses. A question was asked regarding why there was an increase in facility cost. Gary Ebling noted that the increase is due to the need to replace some of the cement floor in the shop area due to erosion from salt.
 - Brad Pfahning reviewed the Board of Audit and financial standing of the Township. The opening balance in January 2018 was \$313,163.41 while the ending balance in December 2018 was \$341,204.03. A review of the Landfill operating account versus the Landfill holding account was discussed.
 - A review of the Profit and Loss budget for 2019 was conducted.

- ❖ Fire Association – Paul Liebenstein
 - Paul Liebenstein reviewed the finances of the rural fire services, fire equipment replacement schedule, fund drive for the rescue squad, and the fire station renovation.
 - It was noted how well the Fire Board is managing their money and taking advantage of savings where ever possible.

❖ Township Roads

- Gravel Plans – Gary Ebling reviewed the township maps showing which roads are township owned and the rotation for placing gravel. He also reviewed the budget and expenses for township roads. This past winter was especially difficult due to numerous storms and both pieces of equipment breaking down. A photo was shown of the road grader when it slid part way off the road.
- Equipment – Gary Ebling reviewed how the machinery purchased since last year is being used. The packer is used to compact the gravel to help in holding the road together longer. The mower allows the township to mow as needed without waiting to be placed on a schedule. The contributions of Rice County, Bolten & Menk, and Aspenwall were noted.
- Storm Damage – Glen Castore reviewed the storm damage from the September 2018 tornadoes. He reviewed the \$430,000 spent for clean up in the road right of ways. 75% of this amount will be covered by the state while 25% will be the responsibility of the township. A portion of the township responsibility will be assessed to the residents in the developments. The assessment will be spread over two years and a public meeting will be held prior.
- Roadside Vegetation – John Holden reviewed what was done with the Minnesota Department of Ag grant that was received last year. This grant assisted in getting the township road ditches mapped and sprayed for noxious weeds. Mr. Holden noted that signs are available from the township office requesting that the homeowners ditch not be sprayed. There is an agreement that will need to be signed prior to posting the sign. Leif Knecht reviewed how wild parsnip spreads in the area and how to fight it. He also noted that in an effort to be a good neighbor, the township tried to help both Rice County and Dundas with spraying.

❖ Incorporation and Land Use Discussion –

- Glen Castore reviewed the start of looking into the idea of incorporation and other avenues that were explored. Past meetings were reviewed along with future meeting dates and times. It was stated that the Supervisors were listening to the residents prior to making any definite decision to move forward with incorporation. The incorporation timeline was reviewed. The final decision to apply for incorporation will not be made until September 2019. Mr. Castore reviewed the role of the Administrative Law Judge. He also noted that a meeting has been set with Northfield, Rice County, and Dundas for Tuesday, March 26th, at 10 am in the Northfield City Hall. The next township public meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at 9:00 am in the Little Prairie Church.

❖ Planning and Zoning –

- John Holden reviewed the permit activity for the past year. The increase in permit activity was due to the tornadoes in September 2018. The overall increase in value to the township was in excess of \$3,000,000. Much of the increase was due to the Rice County Landfill Transfer Station, The Cidery

expansion, and the Fireside Properties expansion. It was noted that the Town Code was updated and a copy will be posted on the website.

- ❖ Levy – Brad Pfahning reviewed the past levy increases. A proposal was made to increase the levy 3% for the next year. This would result in a levy of \$337,652.
 - Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve the 2020 levy increase of 3%, Barb Z. seconded, all approved.

- ❖ Announce Election Results
 - There were 54 voters today.
 - Supervisor
 - Gary Ebling - 52 votes
 - Jeff Johnson – 1 vote
 - Non vote – 1 vote
 - Treasurer
 - Debbie Salaba – 52 votes
 - Non vote – 2 votes

- ❖ Website Changes – The Clerk noted that a new website was being created for the township and should be available within a month.

- ❖ General announcements and community direction to the board.
 - There were no announcements.
 - There were no directions given to the board from the community.

- ❖ Adjourn – Larry Alderks made a motion to adjourn at 9:52 pm, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.