

Bridgewater Township Newsletter

February 2020

Northfield Annexation Agreement Negotiations

Representatives from Bridgewater and Northfield have started discussions on a new annexation agreement. In September 2019, Northfield and Bridgewater signed an agreement which extended the current Orderly Annexation Agreement for three years while the terms of a new agreement are negotiated. The groups will meet at least quarterly. The Board continues to explore incorporation as an alternative means to gain control over zoning and development.

Joint Discussions with the City of Dundas

The Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors have agreed to open quarterly discussions with the City of Dundas regarding zoning and development.

Moving to a 5-member Board of Supervisors

After much discussion, the Board of Supervisors decided in November that the Township would benefit from having a five-person Board rather than the current three-person Board. The question will be on the ballot in March. The voters will decide whether we make this change. The major disadvantage of the three-person Board is that since two supervisors constitute a quorum, the Open Meeting Law requires a three-day notice and that a meeting be public for most situations. Also, it means two supervisors cannot discuss township issues outside a public meeting. Supervisors are currently paid \$4,650 per year so approving this change will add \$9,300 to the annual budget which is about a 1.5% increase in the annual budget which is roughly \$600,000.

Elections and Annual Meeting

The Township Annual Election and Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th. The Polls will be open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. On the ballot this March is one 3-year term Supervisor position and the question "Shall option A, providing for a five-member town board of supervisors, be adopted for the government of the town?". Following the election, the Annual Township Meeting will begin at 8:15 pm.

If the Town Question passes, a special election will be held on Tuesday, May 12th. The timeline for the special election is short. Candidates wishing to run for the two open supervisor positions will be able to file between April 21st and May 1st. If you have any questions or if you wish to run for an open position, please contact the Clerk.

Pre-Election Open House

The Township will host an open house to meet the candidate for Supervisor and to answer any questions regarding the upcoming election ballot. The open house will be on Thursday, March 5th, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall.

Snow Removal and Mailboxes

We would like to remind Bridgewater Township residents that snow removal/sanding trucks will be out as soon as possible following a 2" snow event. The Township is not responsible for any damage resulting from snow thrown in the road right-of-way. Mailboxes damaged during snow removal operations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mailboxes located and installed in compliance with MN State Statute 160.072 and MN Rule 8818.0100, and damaged by direct contact with township equipment will be repaired at the Township's expense.

Building Permits

Permits for remodeling and new building are required in the township. Permits are available online at our website:bridgewatertp.org. Building inspections are being handled by Inspectron. If you need an inspection for a current building project, please call 651-322-6626 to set up an inspection time.

Planning and Zoning: Jim Braun – 1-800-851-3383 (or bridgewaterpermits@gmail.com)

Septic: Darrel Gilmer – 651-775-6118 (or dgilmerexc@yahoo.com).

Meetings

The Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors meets on the second Wednesday monthly at 7:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall at 500 Railway Street, Dundas. The Bridgewater Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall. These meetings are open to the public. Any additional meetings will be posted on the bulletin board at the town hall.

Bridgewater Township Board – Contact Information

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