

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
March 11, 2020
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kathleen Kopseng, Glen Castore, Gary Ebling, Debbie Salaba, Jim Braun, Frances Boehning

Introduction of Guests: Nate Menge, Kyle Plescourt

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

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- Kent Ross reviewed the importance of the 2020 Census.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- March Claims – Gary Ebling made a motion to approve the March claims, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
- February 12, 12, 26, March 4, 5, Meeting Minutes – Glen Castore made a motion to approve the minutes in total, Gary Ebling seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - The Treasurer reviewed the current bank balances. It was noted that there were two separate accounts for "Equipment Savings". The Board of Supervisors gave approval for the Treasurer to combine these two accounts.
 - A request was made by the Board of Supervisors for the Treasurer to highlight any budget line item that appears to be going over budget.

Clerk's Report-

- Mail
 - The clerk reviewed the mail received over the past month.
 - A notice was received from Jaguar Communications regarding a recent buyout from MetroNet. The company will continue to work with the Township in the same manner. They requested that a resolution be signed by the Township approving the change in control.
 - Gary Ebling made a motion approving Resolution 2020-03, Approving the change of control of Jaguar Communications, Inc., Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule – The Clerk reviewed the upcoming list of meetings.

Planning & Zoning

- Staff Report
 - Jim Braun reviewed the current permits issued over the last month.
 - The bond was received from SMC. A request was made to have the clerk check if the Melpause pit bond is still current.
- Update on compliance letters
 - Mr. Braun reviewed copies of the letters being sent to non-compliant residences. It was noted that house next to the Ripple residence, was hooking up the septic to the neighboring house until spring when a new septic could be installed.

- A discussion was held regarding the properties that need to be cleaned up and the expected timeline.
- House on 1st Timberlane
 - Jim Braun has requested that plans be submitted by the end of April 2020 with a permit acquired by the end of May 2020.
- Praver Community Solar culvert agreement – certified letter.
 - Jim Braun will bring this to the board next week during the Wednesday work session.
 - It was noted that the stumps at the back of the new Praver solar garden have been removed. A request was made to have the company replace the silt fence.
- Stock Yard
 - A call was received by Jim Braun regarding the possibility of permitting a farm with free range hogs. Mr. Braun will talk to Rice County regarding current state and local regulations.
- Praver Lot Split
 - A discussion was held regarding the lot split for the farm land and homestead and the requested easement for a driveway through the homestead. The Board of Supervisors would prefer to not allow this type of easement as it could cause future problems. Jim Braun will talk to Paul Smith regarding this.
- Future Opportunity
 - Jim Braun reviewed the possibility of a future business in the township. A bus company is potentially looking at expanding into the township. Mr. Braun will talk to the company and see if they are willing to meet with the Board of Supervisors.
- Baseline construction
 - Jim Braun mentioned that a few people are bidding for the construction project on Baseline. The bidders are looking for places to dump the spoils from construction. Mr. Braun stated that the Township should require a \$50,000 bond to cover any clean up from this placement of spoils.

New Business

- Results of Township Election and canvass of votes
 - The results of the Township Election are:
 - Total votes = 63
 - Supervisor
 - Kathleen Kopseng – 58 votes
 - Erik Schrader – 1 vote
 - David Albers – 1 vote
 - Non-vote – 3 votes
 - Ballot question “Shall option A, providing for a five-member town board of supervisors, be adopted for the government of the town?”
 - Yes – 57 votes
 - No – 6 votes
- Meeting date for re-org meeting – The date for the reorganization of the Town is March 25th, at 1:00 pm, in the Bridgewater Town Hall.

Old Business

- Central Pond Lawsuit – Report on meeting with Sauro on mediation process

- Glen Castore reviewed the current settlement amount of \$85,000 offered by the insurance company. The different scenarios of continued legal work to obtain a higher settlement versus additional legal cost was discussed. It was determined that the offer of \$85,000 was the best outcome for the township
- Roads
 - Intersection of township road and resident’s driveway
 - Gary Ebling will work to obtain an individual that is capable of producing a drawing to be used in an application. When drawings are available, instructions and an application will be created.
 - Policy for residents that do not meet driveway standards
 - This will be created after the application referenced above.
 - Wett Driveway
 - Gary Ebling reviewed the work to date. Barr Engineering with working on obtaining permits for the project. Glen Castore recommended reviewing the current guidelines regarding waterways as they have changed in the last year.
 - Dust Control
 - Debbie Salaba asked when dust control would go on this summer. Mike Groth replied that it would be dependent on the weather. A short discussion was held regarding the need for additional dust control on the road to Keepsake Cidery.
- Plow and Grader driver – update – Mike Groth is talking to prospective applicants.
- Equipment – status of truck delivery – The truck is being built. A firm delivery date has not been set.
- Update on fines for unlawful depositing of snow – this will be discussed in a later month.
- Residential Mailboxes
 - Gary Ebling reviewed the possible swing away mailboxes available.
 - It was suggested that a newsletter be sent out about this issue along with a special meeting to allow residents a say and to discuss possible options.
 - Debbie Salaba suggested that the Township also provide contact information to contractors that could install the mailboxes.
- Miscellaneous
 - A short discussion was held regarding the Hong lawsuit. It was reviewed that the lawyers will answer Mr. Hong’s lawyer and that the Township does not know Mr. Thorson’s position.

Adjourn – Gary Ebling made a motion to adjourn, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Chair	
Clerk	