

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
August 12, 2020
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Andy Ebling, Glen Castore, Kathleen Kopseng, Thomas Hart, Tracy Jonkman, Debbie Salaba, Jim Braun, Mike Groth

Introduction of Guests: Dennis Luebbe

Approval of Agenda: Thomas Hart made a motion to approve the agenda, Andy Ebling seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: Jim Olds reviewed the contributions Gary Ebling had made to the townships, his commitment to helping others, and maintaining roads. He requested that if possible, the Township name a road in his honor.

Joe Thibideau requested that in the future more attention be paid to the placement of septic systems. He is concerned about a new septic system on the Bob Gill property. The system was placed in a waterway and there is concern that the drain field will wash away.

Presentation by Dennis Luebbe regrading Roads

- Dennis Luebbe reviewed the projects that he was working on with Gary Ebling. He requested that the Bridgewater Clerk continue to assist in finding information from the township regarding certain roads.
- An interchange at Cty Rd 9 and I35 is being considered by Rice County. It is included in the 5-10 year plan. Mr. Luebbe asked if the Township would like to be included in a cost share to review plans and impacts of this change.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- August Claims - Tracy Jonkman made a motion to approve the August claims, Andy Ebling seconded, all approved.
- July 8, 15, 2020, Meeting Minutes – Andy Ebling made a motion to approve minutes from July 8th, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved. Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve minutes from July 15th, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the work being done to transfer bank accounts from Merchants to Frandsen.
- Thomas Hart made a motion to approve the transfer of \$300,000 to cover this month's claims, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Clerk's Report-

- The Clerk requested that Darlene Larson and Cherie Albers be thanked for weeding the front of the town hall.

Planning & Zoning

- Staff Report
 - Jim Braun reviewed the permits issued to date.
- Update on compliance letters
 - Mr. Braun reviewed the non-compliant properties and noted that a number of them were now in compliance.
 - The house on 1st Timberlane was discussed. Glen Castore noted that Peter Tiede would be drafting a note to the owners that detailed how the property could be transferred to Habitat for Humanity.
- 2020-04 Amendment to Ag Tourism Ordinance – Tracy Jonkman requested that the decision regarding this ordinance be postponed to September, Andy Ebling seconded, all approved.

- Praver Solar Garden – Jim Braun reviewed the Certificate of Completion for the solar garden.
- Jim Braun reviewed an email regarding two parcels on Telemark. Due to zoning concerns, the properties are not buildable and an email detailing this was sent the person inquiring.

New Business

- Northfield Annexation Agreement negotiations
 - Glen Castore reviewed a conversation with Ben Martig regarding setting up a meeting in September to resume discussions.
 - The history of the negotiations was reviewed.
- 2020-03 Ordinance Amending 2020 Fee Schedule – moved to next month
- Residential mailboxes
 - Mike Groth reviewed that older mailboxes fall over from the weight of the snow coming off the plow. He suggested that the Township request residents to replace older mailboxes with metal swing away ones.
 - It was suggested that the township could buy a number of swing away posts and resell them to residents at the bulk price.
 - Glen Castore will draft an ordinance and bring to the next Board of Supervisors meeting in September.
- CRWP Water Quality Project
 - Tracy Jonkman met with Alan Kraus and reviewed the current grant project involving cover crops and improving ground water quality. She reviewed that if the Township were to take over the cost when the grant runs out, would be about \$9,000. There is the possibility of grant money being available to the township.
 - A number of local farmers are involved. Suggestions are also being made to diversify crops and promoting increased yields.
 - A discussion would need to be held with local farmers to gauge their continued interest in this program and if the program should be expanded.
 - Tracy Jonkman noted that a meeting will be held on September 2 at Dave Legvold's farm to talk about the program. Future dates will be communicated by Tracy as she receives them.
 - Tracy Jonkman will look into the possible grants available for this program.

Old Business

- New Plow Truck – The Truck has been delivered.
- Roads
 - Plow and Grader driver
 - Mike Groth reviewed that Scott Glende, Dennis Menge, and a third person would be willing to be back up drivers.
 - Chip Seal Asphalt – This was completed on August 3rd.
 - Post Weights on Asphalt Roads –
 - Mike Groth is waiting for a couple of locates so he can straighten the posts, then he will finish.
 - It was noted that the sign on Endwood needs to be repaired.
 - Intersection of township road and resident's driveway – application and policy for those that do not meet standards
 - This issue regarding some new driveways being too high was reviewed. This issue will be dealt with on an as needed basis.
 - Paint the road grader
 - Mike Groth reviewed that the grader was missing some paint and was developing some rust. A quote from Ziegler for the work was \$13,000.

- Andy Ebling noted that as we will be keeping the grader it is in the best interest of the township to properly maintain it.
 - Mike Groth will get a second quote from a place in Faribault.
 - Glen Castore requested the quotes be presented in September and the Board will review the budget.
 - Tree Trimming in road right of way
 - The issue with trees in the right of way was reviewed.
 - Mike Groth has spoken with Brad Sanford, who has the equipment to remove the trees. Mr. Sanford indicated that he would be willing to help.
 - Glen Castore stated that as we have \$5,000 in the budget, Mr. Groth can begin with trimming trees.
 - Mike Groth will also proceed with spray some of the smaller brush to kill it off.
- Misc.
 - Tracy Jonkman asked if it would be possible to invite the candidates for County Commissioner to an upcoming meeting.
 - Strategic Plan
 - Glen Castore reviewed the future plans of the township, as presented in prior presentations, and how Cindy Nash would fit into these plans.

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	