

# Bridgewater Township Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

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## **ELECTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING**

The Township Annual Election and Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Bridgewater Town Hall at 500 Railway Street, Dundas. The Polls will be open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. On the ballot will be four of the five Supervisor positions and the position of Treasurer. Unless postponed by the Board of Supervisors, the Annual Township Meeting will begin at 8:15 pm in the Town Hall following the election.

Absentee voting is available for the Township election. An absentee ballot can be requested through Rice County by applying at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/> Please keep in mind mail times if you choose to vote by absentee. If you have any questions, please call the Rice County Elections department at: 507-332-6104.

***Below are the candidates for the positions of Supervisor.***

## **GLEN CASTORE (Position "A" – 3-year term)**

My wife, Barbara Zaveruha, and I moved to Bridgewater in 2004. Shortly after that I became involved in discussions about locating an ethanol plant in the Township. That led to my becoming a supervisor from 2006 through 2012. I spent the next several years helping to organize the Northfield Area Fire and Rescue Service. In 2018 I was again elected to the Board. I will work to see the Township: (1) maintains its rural character, (2) supports improvements in land management, (3) broadens its tax base.

## **ANDY EBLING (Position "B" – 1-year term)**

My name is Andrew Ebling, and I'm a 6th generation Bridgewater Township resident. My educational & professional background is in Business Operations & Financial Management, with a degree from the University of St Thomas in St Paul in 2006. My family and I live on a farm west of Dundas on County Road 1, where we've resided since buying Dick & Frank Sommer's old place in 2010. Bridgewater Township is at the confluence of a number of issues that will continue to require thoughtful and methodical attention from our leaders. I believe that anyone in this elected position should develop an all-encompassing view of regional issues and an understanding of the makeup of our residents to best serve them. The following is the core of my goals and what I seek the chance to represent: 1) Maintaining & Efficiently Sustaining Our Road System and Infrastructure Needs into the Future. 2) Providing A Paramount Focus Towards Agriculture, Where We're Rooted. 3) Standing Up for Fairness in Relations With our Neighboring Cities and Townships. 4) Helping to Preserve and Working with Residents to Curate the Rural Values That We Enjoy Today. 5) Working at Developing Growth Opportunities for the Township to Stay Financially Relevant in the Future. 6) Making Sure That Township Residents Have a Say About Controlling Their Destiny. Thank You for your consideration.

**NATHAN MENGE (Position “B” – 1-year term)**

Being a local lifelong resident of Minnesota, a graduate of Minnesota State University- Mankato with a Bachelor’s of Science in Construction Management with a minor in Business Administration and a property owner here in Rice County, I care deeply for our area and its infrastructure. I have applicable, well rounded knowledge of the Township, County and our State Laws. As well as, how the laws directly affect our community and way of life. I bring with me almost 20 years in the heavy civil construction industry. In the 20 years, I have worked in estimating and project management of building, maintaining and repairing roads, bridges and parking lots. With this knowledge and experience, I am able to effectively assist in the maintenance and cost management of our township’s infrastructure. My education and experience bring value to the township and community to better our area. I invite any questions, and discussions. Please feel free to email me at: [nmenge83@gmail.com](mailto:nmenge83@gmail.com).

**MIKE LITTLE (Position “D” – 3-year term)**

Hi I'm Mike Little and I'd like to be a Bridgewater Supervisor. I have lived in the area my entire life and became a resident of Bridgewater Township 18 years ago. My wife, Kim and I moved on to a family farm in 2004 with our boys our, Cole and Ethan. Shortly after we had two daughters, Ava and Kailee. When we are vacationing, we like to hike, camp, and spend time at Kim's family cabin.

For the last 25 years I have worked at Daikin Applied in Faribault, most recently as a Teamlead on a production line. When I am not there, you can find me helping at one of the farms, volunteering with 4-H, or care taking at a cemetery our family helps care for. I have been the president of the Daikin Applied employee's club, I am the co-leader of the Full O Pep 4-H club, as well as the treasurer for the Cannon City Cemetery Association.

I would like to keep Bridgewater a rural township with any development happening near the city limits or on the major highways running through our township.

Thank you for your consideration  
Mike Little  
3741 130th street east  
Dundas Mn 55019  
507-581-6253

**TRACY JONKMAN (Position “D” – 3-year term)**

I was elected last May to our Township’s Board and so have served for just a short time. In that short time, I have learned much about how townships are run, the make-up of our Township itself, and developed a working relationship with my fellow board members that I’d like to continue to grow. I also established a relationship with Cannon River Watershed Partnership to address water quality with local farmers, working on a project we hope to continue for years to protect our land and water. I moved to Bridgewater Township 8 years ago with my husband Nate Watters and two children to continue with our vision of sustainable land use by starting an organic orchard and farm. We have invested a lot of ourselves in this region and love it here. We have found a wonderful place to grow

food, make cider, and raise our children. I have a lot to offer the Township as a physician in Emergency Medicine, a small business owner, organic farmer, and mother. I respect the depth and wisdom of those who have been around longer but also understand the need to adapt to ongoing changes we face as a community focused on maintaining our strong identity in farming and respectful land use. I grew up on a diverse farm in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with rural small-town values and a strong sense of community. Although I've traveled to and lived in many parts of the world, I consider the Midwest home. Experiences elsewhere have strengthened my ability to see the big picture while maintaining core values. Keeping the rural values and characteristics of Bridgewater Township while adapting to ensure long term viability is important. These upcoming years will be challenging for the Township's identity, and I will continue to work hard to protect it. Thank you for your consideration!

**THOMAS HART (Position "E" – 2-year term)**

I have enjoyed being a resident of Bridgewater Township since 1988. I am married and live with my wife of 32 years, Kathy who retired as a Special Education teacher. We have two grown children, one in Minneapolis and one in Ottawa, Canada. I worked first for Land o' Lakes, Inc., Ag Services for 27 years ending my career in the corporate office and as a Feed Ingredients Merchandiser. After leaving Land O' Lakes, I took a job with Cabela's Inc. in Owatonna, MN. I retired from Cabela's as the store Inventory Manager.

I am a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era. I served 4 years in the Air Defense Command, two of the years stationed in Germany.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Business Administration from the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture, graduating in 1972.

I am very active in the Northfield American Legion Post 84 and currently hold the positions of Adjutant and Finance Officer. I have co-chaired the Memorial Day Program in Northfield for the past several years. I proudly serve in the Legion Color Guard, performing Military Rites at veterans' funerals.

I was elected to the Bridgewater Township Supervisor position when they expanded to a 5-person Board of Supervisors in June of 2020. I have been active in developing policy to maintain the rural atmosphere of our Township into the future. I live in one of the platted developments within the township and can use my experience to represent the residential interests of the current developments and any future residential developments. I would appreciate your vote to ensure the positive future and financial stability of our Township.

**ROGER HELGESON (Position "E" – 2-year term)**

Hi, my name is Roger Helgeson, I'm employed by Northfield Schools, I've been a resident of Bridgewater township living on Decker Ave for 51 years. During that time a lot has changed in the township. While some changes are inevitable, I think we need to carefully control the sprawl of Dundas and Northfield into our township as much as we can. We need to negotiate a viable agreement with them that allows sensible growth and also preserves our farmland as much as possible. Farming is our heritage here, and we need to advocate for and look after the stewards of the land as much as possible.

## **Snow Removal**

We would like to remind Bridgewater Township residents that it is unlawful to deposit snow onto public roadways or to push snow across public roadways per Minnesota Statute 160.2715. Snow deposited or pushed onto the road can create hazards to the public and snow removal operations. Citizens that violate this statute could face misdemeanor and/or civil penalties if the snow creates a hazard that contributes to an accident. The Township snow removal/sanding trucks will be out as soon as possible following a 2" snow event.

## **Bridgewater Township Road Right-of-Way**

Along all Bridgewater Township roads is a strip of land legally established for public road purposes. This road right-of-way is much wider than the top of the road and includes ditches and cleared space to allow for safety and visibility. This space on both sides of the road separates the resident's property from the road and provides space for utilities, drainage, road construction and maintenance.

Bridgewater Township's road right-of-way exists to facilitate safe transportation. On most roads, this right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center line on both sides of the road. By having a clear right-of-way, the driving public is protected from striking close stationary objects when they leave the roadway. According to state statute, the right of way may be used by motorists, bicyclists, ATV's, snowmobiles, and pedestrians. Placement of barricades that prevent safe passage is not permitted.

In Bridgewater Township, the following are permitted in the road right-of-way:

- Your legal mailbox setting
- Permitted drainage culverts and driveways
- Permitted utilities (public or private)
- Signage to keep the highway safe

The following are not permitted:

- Over-designed mailbox settings such as stone pillars
- Constructing or reconstructing an access without a permit
- Plowing snow across the roadway
- Constructing landscape retaining walls
- Placing fences, boulders, posts, trees and shrubbery within the right of way
- Unpermitted signs

The Township has the right and obligation to remove any items that may constitute a potential safety hazard. Safety hazards includes trees and brush. The Township will be taking steps in mitigate these hazards. Overhanging large branches and dead trees have been responsible for damage to trucks, vehicles, and in some instances, have prevented emergency vehicles from providing timely assistance. When possible, the Township will notify residents of plantings that need to be moved.

## **Bridgewater Contact Information**

Email: [board@bridgewaterwp.org](mailto:board@bridgewaterwp.org)

Township Website: [www.bridgewaterwp.org](http://www.bridgewaterwp.org)

Email: [clerk@bridgewaterwp.org](mailto:clerk@bridgewaterwp.org)

Phone: 507-645-1656

