

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
March 10, 2021
Official Minutes

Call to order – 7:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Lori Williams, Mike Little, Andrew D.

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

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Lori Williams expressed concerns regarding the resiliency of the Township. The main areas of concern included:

1. Concern regarding Sheriff Troy Dunn’s support of the 2nd amendment and if he is willing to uphold the oath he took.
2. Concern regarding the change in tax laws that prevent family farms from being passed to the next generation.
3. Concern regarding supply chain disruptions.
4. Expressed an interest in forming a strong towns committee as promoted by Chuck Moran – www.strongtown.org

Ms. Williams requested that educational information be added to the upcoming newsletters regarding these topics.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- March Claims - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve the March claims, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
- February 10, 20, March 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes – Andy Ebling made a motion to approve the minutes in total, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer’s Report – Debbie Salaba reviewed the current bank balances for the Township. She requested and received approval to transfer the funds from the CD at Merchants Bank to the savings account at Frandsen.
- IRS Reporting – Glen Castore requested that the IRS printout be provided at next month’s meeting.

Clerk's Report-

- Mail - None
- Schedule the Re-Organizational meeting – The Township Re-Organizational meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 24th, at 7:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall.

New Business

- Road Policy –
 - Andy Ebling reviewed the current status of the Bridgewater Township Road Policy. He suggested the creation of a road committee to work on updating the road policy.
 - Thomas Hart made the suggestion that the committee utilize the current Road Policy information available from the Minnesota Association of Townships as the basis of our new policy.
 - Kathleen Kopseng requested that the Minnesota Association of Township format be laid out along side the current policy and determine what needs to be added.
 - Glen Castore agreed with the suggestion of the creation of a road committee. He requested that the committee work on the new policy and look at the possibility of improving 140th Street.

- Annexations
 - Glen Castore noted that Nate Sparks (City of Dundas Zoning Administrator) presented at the last Dundas Planning Commission meeting that the City is looking at annexing land next to Bridgewater Heights.
 - Mr. Castore reviewed that per the current annexation agreement, land can not be annexed from the Township until all current annexed land is developed. A letter regarding this will be sent to the City of Dundas.
 - A short discussion was held regarding the possibility of opening discussions with the City of Dundas to review the current annexation agreement.

Old Business

- Non-compliant properties
 - Mike Groth looked at the properties in question and stated that the work requested had not been completed.
 - Andy Ebling suggested sending a registered letter to the property owner requesting resolution of the ordinance violation.
 - Glen Castore stated that the Planning Commission will review Mr. Jacobson as he has an Interim Use Permit.
 - Andy Ebling stated that the Township needs to be clear in what we are requesting and enforce the ordinance fairly.
 - The Clerk will follow up with Cindy Nash regarding the Sjulstad property.
 - The issue will be added to the April Board of Supervisors agenda.

- Re-zoning Industrial Area
 - Glen Castore reviewed that Cindy Nash and Trent McCorkle had held discussions regarding the re-zoning.
 - Mr. McCorkle agreed that creating a new industrial zone would be sensible. Cindy Nash would take the lead on writing the new ordinance to create the zone, then it would be sent to the Rice County Planning Commission for review, followed by review by the County Commissioners, then back to the Rice County Planning Commission who would make a final recommendation to the Rice County Commissioners. Following this, it would come back to Bridgewater to create a Township ordinance.

- A recommendation was made to scale down the current red line map of the proposed zone.
 - Glen Castore reviewed that the Township can not be less restrictive than the County. The Township ordinance will be written to provide the best possible outcome for the Township within the confines of the County ordinance.
 - The Engineering company Bolten & Menk are looking the possibility of improving 140th Street.
- Roads – Right of Way Ordinance
 - Andy Ebling reviewed the fact there were two policies. These are being combined by Peter Tiede and will be presented at a public hearing in April during the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Issues for future meetings – None

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	