

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
December 9, 2020
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Brad Pfahning, Nate Sparks, Jenelle Teppen, Ervin Swartwoudt, Andrew D.,

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

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items –

Mr. Swartwoudt (12100 Baseline Ave.) is involved in a lawsuit against Rice County regarding right of way along Basline Ave. He stated that during the recent court hearing, Bridgewater employee, Mike Groth, committed perjury when he testified that the Township had mowed the right of ways prior to 2018. Mr. Swartwoudt claimed that as the Township had not purchased a mower until 2018, the ditches could not have been mowed.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- December Claims – Andy Ebling made a motion to approve the claims, Tracy Jonkman seconded, all approved.
- November 11, 2020, Meeting Minutes – Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve the minutes, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the current bank balances.
 - The budget meeting was set for Saturday, January 9th, at 9 am in the Bridgewater Town Hall. The budget worksheet was supplied to the Supervisors.
 - The Treasurer stated that she will be using Reese Winter to assist with the W2's in January.
 - Glen Castore asked that \$9,000 be moved from operating funds to the Gary Ebling disaster relief fund as was discussed during last year's annual meeting.
 - The General Fund savings at Merchants of \$6,797.26 will be moved to the Equipment Savings fund at Frandsen Bank.

Clerk's Report-

- The Clerk reviewed the positions open for upcoming March election.

Planning & Zoning

- City of Dundas/Dundas ARD changes
 - Nate Sparks reviewed the information presented during a recent Dundas PCARD meeting held on November 19th. There is a request to further define the zoning in the ARD and create a fee for plan reviews on building permits in the ARD.
 - Dundas requested that final comments be submitted to Dundas by January 14th.
 - Cindy Nash asked what the process would be for collecting the fees. Nate Sparks replied that the fee would be charged when the application is submitted.
 - The Supervisors will review the information and respond in writing to the City of Dundas.

- Fee Waiver regarding land transfer
 - The history of the Edgebrook field berm on Mr. Gills property was reviewed along with the stub road vacation. When the Township created the field berm to prevent flooding, a small triangle of land was cut off from the agricultural field. This property has been maintained by the adjacent landowners since then. The adjacent property owners would like to combine this small triangle (.064 acre) with their property.
 - Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve the wavier of the lot split fee for the transfer of ownership as the triangle was created by the Township, Andy Ebling seconded, all approved.
- Hong Lawsuit
 - Glen Castore reviewed the history of the Hong lawsuit. Mr. Thorson has agreed to move the shed that is the item of contention in the suit. Andy Ebling made a motion to approve sending a letter from the township to Mr. Thorson requesting the shed be moved per the request of the township attorney, Tracy Jonkman seconded, all approved.

New Business

- Ordinance Amending 2020 Fee Schedule
 - Cindy Nash reviewed the recommended changes to the fee schedule. She reviewed that for items requiring an escrow, an estimate is provided to the applicant at the beginning and a final accounting at the end.
 - A public hearing will be held in January to present the ordinance.
- CRWP
 - Tracy Jonkman noted that the CRWP grant for expanded cover crop program had been approved. They are waiting to hear what the amount will be. She will continue to work with the program and provide updates.
 - The Township has agreed to contribute \$10,000 per year for three years in conjunction with this grant.
- Names to submit to Dundas for PCARD
 - The Supervisors will submit names to the Clerk to provide to Dundas.
- Miscellaneous
 - Glen Castore reviewed the upcoming meeting with the City of Northfield and possible future meetings with Rice County regarding possible changes in zoning.

Old Business

- Baseline Road Contract
 - Glen Castore reviewed a recent conversation with Dennis Luebbe regarding Baseline Road. A letter had been sent to Rice County terminating the contract as the road had deteriorated due to the lack of gravel and was not able to be property maintained. An agreement was reached that Bridgewater would continue to work under the contract with the following conditions:
 - Gravel would be added to the road in the spring
 - The road would be paved
 - The contract would be terminated if one of the other two options were not completed.

- During the conversation with Dennis Luebbe, Glen Castore was informed that Rice County is looking at competing an engineering study of Decker Avenue.
- Road right of way policy update – Thomas Hart and Andy Ebling will provide a draft at the January meeting.
- Tree Trimming – Mike Groth reviewed the work to date. Everything is looking good.

Issues for future meetings - None

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	