

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
January 12, 2022
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kathleen Kopseng, Thomas Hart, Debbie Salaba, Mike Little, Glen Castore, Andy Ebling,

Introduction of Guests: Finley Family, David DeLong, Galen Malecha, CC Lindstroth

Approval of Agenda: Glen Castore made a motion to the approve the agenda, Tom Hart seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- None.

Discussion with Galen Malecha: Elder Issues

Galen Malecha, Dave DeLong, and CC Lindstroth were present to talk about Northfields Age Friendly Community designation. Dave and CC are part of the steering committee. It's not a part of the city , but have received some sort of funding. They explained with the Age Friendly Community project is, where it originated, some of the sources they have developed for the community of Northfield, they are trying to raise awareness of issues affecting older adults (i.e., chairs and benches with arms, bigger font sizes, limited internet availability/skills, etc.) One new program is "Live well at home." a project they are working on with Habitat from Humanity.

Galen is asking the Township to add a link to age friendly websites to it's website. They are working to update the Resource Guide/Telemedicine guide. They have been working with the County Health and Human Services. The legislative arm is looking to cut the red tape for services for seniors, Broadband availability, filling the gaps in the resource manual.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- December Claims
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the January claims, Andy Ebling seconded, approved 5:0.
- December 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes
 - Andy Ebling made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 8th, 2021, Mike Little seconded, approved 5:0.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the Treasurer's report.
 - IRS reporting is done for the year.
 - It was asked if any of the Dundas annexation fund money had been transferred. Andy will ask Mike to get a list of time and materials spent on Decker and 115th to move over.
- Close on budgets

Clerk's Report-

- There was one person who filed for the March election.

Planning & Zoning-

- Glen and Andy: There is a need for a change in the Accessory Buildings Ordinance. (Later on the agenda)
- Industrial Zone: Lots of discussion with a need for an updated Comprehensive Plan. Then an ordinance can then be brought forward.
- Regarding enforcement of Ordinances, it will be messy due to past practices by the building inspector, and the Board will need to figure out how to enforce them.

New Business

- Finley IUP : The Finley family is requesting an IUP for a traveling sawmill business that's been running since June 2020, who have a need for a building to house the sawmill in the winter. Hours of business were noted. No other issues were presented. Glen move to approve IUP. Andy second. Motion passed 5:0.
- Accessory Building Ordinance: Glen reviewed the origin of why it was changed. (Not in a platted area.) Glen move to pass Ordinance 2022-01. Mike second the motion. Motion passed 5:0. There was a lot of discussion on a section in the new ordinance regarding "no semi-trailer storage" and how to enforce this. It was noted that there are multiple semi-trailers being used as storage within the Township. It was significant discussion on this and how to enforce this part of the Ordinance that was just passed. Several thoughts were brought up, including what if the containers are "unsightly". Does the Township disallow them then? How would the semi-trailer storage be enforced? What if the semi-trailers are currently licensed? Is there a limit to the number of them on an acreage? Does the Township need to add an enforcement fee to the fee schedule? Or take a part of the fees to put in a fund to use for enforcement? Do folks need to apply to have them? How many can people have? Do they need a variance? Is it specific to platted vs rural? What about a contractor who uses a semi-trailer for storage while completing a project? The issue regarding the shipping containers and semi-trailers was not resolved at the Planning Commission meeting. It needs to be sent back to the commission to specifically review semi-trailers, manufactured homes. Mike will bring it up.
- Fee Schedule
 - There were questions about putting some of the fees into escrow for enforcement. Need to make sure of the proper wording.
 - What amount needs to be collected for enforcement. That needs to be put into the budget also.
 - Kathy will review with Francis to discuss at the next meeting, and the public hearing will have to be moved out further.

Old Business

- The Board had received an email from someone wanting to know about internet access option. There was discussion on not wanting to promote one group over the other, and it was noted that it is hard to tell where good vs poor coverage is. The Township can list all the internet provider options for the Township on their website, and possibly provide links to those providers. It was noted that with the

development of the Industrial Zone, that it would be important to have good coverage there. The Township was hesitant to use any of the ARPA Funds for any specific provider or to subsidize people to get the internet, so would need to exercise caution in this area.

- Rural Industrial Update:
 - Glen Castore noted that there is not much new to report in this area..
 - Cindy Nash is working on getting the legal description to Rice County by Friday so it can be re-zoned by the County.

- Facility Improvements
 - Glen Castore reported that Frandson Bank can loan up to \$600,000.
 - Could look at a USDA loan to help reduce costs (low interest)
 - Other possible builders will be contacted to obtain estimates. The bid need to be closed bids due to the size of the project. The Levy would need to increase significantly.
 - It was clarified that DJ Medin Architects fee would be in addition to \$600,000.
 - Need to get going if the Board wants to get the building done within the year. Board is ok to go ahead and get a proposal from DJ Medin within a week for Glen to take care of. (Need for a special meeting?)
 - Glen will continue to look into a USDA loan.

- Roads
 - Jim Olds had asked for the addition of 20 MPH speed limit signs on Edgebrook Drive and Endwood Trail. Kathy noted that a dead end sign was needed by her too.
 - Note was made that a lot of gravel was coming off the roads while plowing. This isn't intentional, and depends on conditions.
 - Andy and Mike will continue to work to put together to get a job description together for the snowplowing position.
 - It was noted that the development on the back road to Dundas is starting.
 - Frances has a copy of Mike's CDL.
 - Per internet resources, the average pay for MN truck drivers is about \$23, and another source had it at \$30. Need to remember that the job also includes mechanic duties, not only driving of the equipment.

Issues for future meetings: None noted

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm

Chair	
Clerk	