

Bridgewater Township Newsletter

August 2022

Rural Industrial Zone

Bridgewater Township's recent work with Rice County has resulted in a portion of the Township being rezoned rural industrial. The purpose of the rural industrial zone is to create an area that is suitable for a long-term transition from existing agricultural uses into light industrial uses. The potential uses are suitable for rural areas and can serve multi-modal industrial needs given its proximity to both I-35 and the railroad. The properties included in the rural industrial area are contiguous to each other and are located in Bridgewater Township east of the railroad, west of County Road 83, and on either side of 140th Street East.

The Bridgewater Township Planning Commission has been working on a Rural Industrial Ordinance with the expectation of finishing it in July at which time it will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors. The Township's ordinance will govern the types of businesses that can locate in the Rural Industrial Zone and the conditions they must satisfy.

Dust Control

In an effort to keep our gravel roads in the best shape possible, we are continuing with our three-year rotation of adding gravel to select township roads. The gravel is placed on the roads and then after sufficient rainfall, the gravel is shaped and compacted. By waiting for rainfall, we are better able to work with the gravel with minimal loss. When the road is compacted, dust control can be applied. Dust control is most effective when applied after the road has received a soaking rain. When dust control is applied to a dry road, its effectiveness is reduced by up to 50%. The drought conditions this year have made this process challenging. In addition to the complication presented by weather patterns, the cost of dust control has increased significantly. As a result, the Town Board recently passed a resolution limiting the amount of dust control to specific high traffic areas only.

Starting in spring 2023, Township residents living on Township roads will be able to purchase dust control through the Township. Interested residents will submit a completed application and payment in early spring and the Township will coordinate the dust control application. Township residents also have the option to hire their own dust control company for application. It is recommended that residents hiring their own application coordinate with the Road Superintendent to avoid having the road graded after application. A reminder letter regarding dust control will be sent in the spring.

Township Weed Inspector

Bridgewater Township continues to maintain and address the presence of noxious weeds along Township roads. We are looking for a dedicated individual to assist in keeping our roads clear of noxious weeds. This position will be approximately two months of part time work in June and July as a Township employee.

Town Hall Addition

The Township applied for and received funds from the federal government for an expansion of the current Town Hall meeting room. The expansion of 8 ft to the north will allow people to space out during meetings and better assist in traffic flow during elections. Construction is expected to occur this fall with completion in October. In addition to the hall addition, a pole building will be constructed to house the snow plow and other equipment used by the Township in maintaining roads.

Building Permits in the Township

Permits for roofing, siding, and window replacement are available over the counter at the Bridgewater Town Hall Office. Permits for maintenance, remodeling and new building are required in the township. Permit applications are available online at our website: bridgewaterntp.org. Building inspections are handled by Inspectron. If you need an inspection for a current building project, please call 651-322-6626 to set up an inspection time.

Septic: Darrel Gilmer – 651-775-6118 (or dgilmerexc@yahoo.com).

Bridgewater Town Hall is located at 500 Railway Street, Dundas.

Office hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:00 am to noon and Thursday 12:30 – 4:00 pm.

Bridgewater Contact Information

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