



Forest Township
Rice County
3625 Millersburg Boulevard
Faribault, Minnesota

**Wednesday August 25, 2021
6:00 PM**

Special Meeting: Bridgewater and Forest Township Meeting minutes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Ron Gernandt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Forest Township members present: Ron Gernandt, William Malecha, Charlie Peters, Elaine Trnka, Ashley Anderson

Bridgewater Township members present: Glen Castore, Andy Ebling, Mike Little

Residents present: 15 including the Joint Powers Agreement author

2. BUSINESS

The purpose of this meeting is to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between Forest and Bridgewater Townships. The main goal of the Joint Powers Agreement is to establish a formal relationship between the two townships to outline a shared geographical area and to explore creating a subordinate service district for sewer. One of the reasons behind the Joint Powers Agreement and potentially establishing a subordinate services district is to position the townships to be involved in the decision-making and control of potential future development. The Joint Powers Board would pursue engineering and future plans for sewer and water. This Agreement also provides a vehicle to work alongside of other municipalities, such as Rice County.

Due to ARPA, the townships might have some additional funds to implement items related to infrastructure. The county has expressed interest in a potential water tower in the preliminary mapped district.

Developing a subordinate sewer district could protect areas of the townships from being annexed by the city of Faribault. The Joint Powers Board hopes to have plans engineered to be set up for potential desirable development. By controlling the sewer, the townships have the control to rule out certain types of industry.

There was some discussion regarding concerns about future development in the townships. If there would be disagreement among the Joint Powers Board the agreement outlines next steps for mediation and/or the dissolving of the agreement.

It is estimated that engineering costs would total around \$40,000. The county will pay some and the townships also have ARPA money to put towards these costs. At this time, there will not be direct costs to township residents.

Charlie Peters, Forest Township supervisor, made a motion that Forest Township join the Joint Powers agreement with Bridgewater Township. Bill Malecha, Forest Township supervisor, seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Each board will elect their own Joint Powers Board officers at their next regular board meeting.

Charlie Peters made a motion that Forest Township contribute \$20,000 to the Joint Powers account. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Glen Castore, Bridgewater Township supervisor, made a motion that Bridgewater Township contribute \$20,000 to the Joint Powers account. Andy Ebling, Bridgewater Township supervisor, seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

At an upcoming meeting, the Board will discuss setting up a joint bank account and insurance. The Board will look to MATIT for insurance.

The group discussed officers, clerk, and treasurer duties. The group discussed hiring out the treasurer duties.

The next meeting will be held September 15, 2021, at 6:00 pm at the Forest Town Hall.

A community member commented on ensuring community voice is heard and being mindful of how the land is being used.

Jim Harris asked for the potential subordinate service district map. Ashley will email it to him. Ashley will work to add a visual component to virtual meetings.

3. ADJOURN

Bill Malecha made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm. Charlie Peters seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Ashley Anderson, Clerk, Forest Township.