

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
February 8, 2023, 6:00p.m.
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kathleen Kopseng, Thomas Hart, Mike Little, Glen Castore, Lori Noreen

Introduction of Guests: Jeff Kirkpatrick, Brian Larson

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

1. RLS Project Update

- a. Glen Castore explained that BWT has worked with Rice County to create the Rural Industrial Zone. The Rural Industrial Zone has been designed to replace income from the Landfill Fee when it ends. to bring businesses in to the Township.
- b. Castore discussed that an Environmental Assessment Worksheet is being done for the Rural Industrial Zone. Once the EAW is complete, RLS will proceed with purchasing the proposed land and begin the permitting process.
- c. There was discussion that RLS will need to apply for a variance as the building they are proposing to build will be higher than the allotted 45' in the Bridgewater Township Ordinance. There will be a Public Notice for the Variance and Permits once the EAW is complete.
- d. It was discussed that RLS is looking to start construction in July or August of 2023 and operational by December of 2024.
- e. It was explained that RLS will have hours of operation from 5:30am – 7:00pm. Once the company is up and running there will be approximately 100 trucks a day with 5 an hour allowed of traffic flow.
- f. It was discussed that 140th St. will be paved/concrete and be a 10-ton road with gravel shoulders to accommodate the traffic flow. Bridgewater Township will apply for funding from Rice County and the State of Minnesota to accomplish updating 140th St.
 - i. Glen Castore noted that he will work with the Sherriff regarding a speed limit on 140th St to reduce the traffic speed on the road.
 - ii. It was explained that the rework of 140th St. would be completed in 2024.
- g. Castore discussed the Utilities concern for the RLS project. Currently the property is located in Xcel territory.
 - i. It was discussed is one could use Steele Waseca as its utility provider the Township would have access to USDA Grant monies and interest free loans to help with the development of the area. It was explained that this would benefit both RLS and Bridgewater Township
 - ii. It was explained that in order to obtain Steele Waseca as the utility provider being that the property is located in Xcel territory it must be brought to the Utilities Commission which can take 6mo – 1 yr.

- iii. Discussion was held to create a one-page agreement with RLS to share paying for the cost of petitioning the Utility Commission.
- h. It was discussed that there is some urgency to work with the Railroad for assurance that the siding will be allowed, as the main reasoning RLS is interested in the location is for the railroad access.
- i. Glen Castore explained that RLS would be interested in a Tax Abatement as incentive to build their company in the Rural Industrial Zone. It was explained that the Township will not provide any such abatement, but Rice County and the School District are willing to discuss such an option.
- j. It was mentioned that the next meeting to provide an update on the RLS project will be Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 9am.

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	