

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
March 8, 2023
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kathleen Kopseng, Andrew Ebling, Thomas Hart, Glen Castore, Mike Little, Lori Noreen, Debbie Salaba, Mike Groth

Introduction of Guests: n/a

Approval of Agenda

- Glen Castore made a motion to approve the Agenda, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: n/a

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- March Claims
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the Claims, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- February 8, 2023 and February 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 8th 6pm, February 8th 7pm and February 25th, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - All claims were paid for the month putting the operating account in the negative.
 - Debbie Salaba requested to transfer funds from the BW Host Operating Account to cover the negative balance. The Board agreed with the suggestion to transfer enough for the account to become solvent for future claims.
 - Monies will be transferred from the ARPA fund for the City of Dundas and Knecht's claims pertaining to the Town Hall Addition.
 - Debbie Salaba requested for a Supervisor to approve handling PERA via online vs. paper forms each month.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer will provide the report to Kathleen Kopseng.

Clerk's Report

Roads

- Farrel Ct / County Road 1 snow issue
 - Kathleen Kopseng explained that she reached out to Dennis Luebbe at Rice County regarding the snow issue in the roundabout inlets and outlets on County Rd 1 and Farrel Ct. The question of whom could help and possible reimbursement was brought up. One suggestion was to possibly work with the City of Dundas to help clean the areas at question as they are in the area more frequently and for a longer time while they are clearing the Bridgewater Heights Development.

- Mike Gorth expressed that it seems that once he has this area all cleared out it fills back in just as fast with other Plow drivers going through.
- Kathleen Kopseng sent a follow up to Dennis and is awaiting a response.
- Dust Control – 115th St
 - There was discussion regarding a possible informal agreement with The City of Dundas regarding dust control on 115th St for 2023.
 - Mike Groth explained that in 2022 the agreement was to split the cost between the City and the Township but the Township did not receive a bill for its portion.
 - After some discussion it was decided that Mike Groth will reach out to Duane Meliza at the City of Dundas and see what can be worked out after the road has received gravel for the year.
- 123rd St - Snow buildup on Road
 - There was a resident complaint regarding a neighbor that is pushing snow into 123rd St causing a hazardous school bus stop for the children in the area.
 - Mike Groth expressed that he pushed what he could back into the property but there still is a considerable amount in the road.
 - Glen Castore suggested that a formal letter from the Township’s attorney should be sent to the resident and any other resident in the Township that is not in compliance with snow removal. The Board agreed.
 - It was decided the Clerk will reach out to the Attorney once a list is provided by Mike Groth of the other resident’s that should be sent a letter as well.
- Additional snow buildup on roads
 - It was suggested to send a friendly reminder in this Fall’s Newsletter not to move snow across the roads.
 - It was decided that the Township will keep track of residents that are currently doing so for next season.

Planning & Zoning-

- RLS – update
 - Glen Castore discussed that RLS submitted its permit for a height variance this week. RLS was in hope that the application was submitted in time for a public hearing to occur at the March 30th Planning & Zoning Meeting.
 - Glen Castore explained the reason RLS is wishing for the public hearing is to obtain an idea of approval or disapproval from the public.
 - Cindy Nash has stated that the application is incomplete therefore she is unable to review the application at this time. Glen explained there could be a “conceptual review” so the public could attend and provide their opinions.
 - Glen Castore discussed that the EAW is moving along and could possibly be complete by the end of July.
 - Glen Castore provided a visual of what the Rural Industrial Area could look like lotted. A possibility of 10 spots. There is a spot within the area that BWT would potentially purchase for a centralized utility location.
 - Glen Castore explained that he had a meeting with Steele Waseca. At that meeting it was expressed that there is now potentially \$3.2M available in loan and grant money for the project.
 - Kathleen Kopseng inquired about the Escrow Agreement. Glen Castore responded that it is not yet complete but should be within the next few weeks.

- Kathleen Kopseng brought up the situation regarding Stantec being utilized by both BWT and RLS as there has been much discussion regarding it being a conflict of interest. Glen Castore stated that he agrees that it is, but BWT can engage in Bolten & Menk's services to do due diligence for the Township.
- Set Date for next RLS meeting
 - It was decided that the next RLS Meeting will be set for 6pm on Wednesday April 12th, 2023.
- Franz Mobile Home
 - Cindy Nash reviewed a request from Pam Franz about removing the current mobile home she is living in and replacing it in the same location the current one is located.
 - Cindy Nash reviewed the request and brought the request to the Board for review. Cindy had reservations regarding the replacement of the mobile home as it does not meet the "Dwelling of Record" requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.
 - The point was made that the property is a working farm. Ms. Franz is one of the residents on the property that runs the farm. If the current mobile home was removed without a replacement, she would not have a place to live on the property.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the replacement of the manufactured home at 14615 Falk Ave, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.

Old Business

- Intergovernmental Meeting 2/15 report
 - Thomas Hart and Mike Little attended the Intergovernmental Meeting held in Greenvale Township on 2/15/23.
 - Thomas Hart discussed that the meeting was not well attended.
 - Thomas Hart gave a small overview of the happenings from the representatives that did attend.
- Hollinger Residence – update
 - Mike Little stated that he drove by and took a few new pictures. He will send the pictures to Peter Tiede.
 - It was expressed that there is no real change at the property.
 - Kathleen Kopseng stated that there will be a new court date in April.
- Facility Improvements
 - It was noted that the new shed is being constructed at this time.
 - The weather needs to improve before the addition to the Hall can begin.

New Business

- Discuss a proposed resolution regarding escrows for larger projects
 - Kathleen Kopseng discussed the Ordinance draft regarding escrows for new businesses with larger projects. Kathleen commented that Cindy Nash drafted the Ordinance and Peter Tiede made some adjustments to the original draft.
 - It was discussed how applicants will be able to view the Ordinance with the decision that it will be posted on the website as well as included in the permit application packet.
 - It was decided that the Ordinance draft will be included on the Agenda to be reviewed at the next Planning & Zoning Meeting held on March 30th.

- Rice County CUP's
 - Glen Castore explained that there is no progress on this at this time.
- Kathleen Kopseng made note that she spoke with Peter Tiede looking for an update and he commented that he has been in discussion with Adam Johnson, Chief Assistance Rice Co. Attorney and they will continue to work on it.
- Approve Agreement with Kaela Brennan
 - Glen Castore explained that Kaela Brennan is the attorney who BWT and Steele Waseca will work with to petition the Public Utilities Commission regarding petitioning for Steele Waseca to be the utilities provider and not Xcel Energy.
 - It was noted that the petition would be submitted in April.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the Agreement with Kaela Brennan, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- Annual Meeting Agenda
 - The March 14th, 2023 Annual Meeting Agenda was reviewed and presenters were decided.
- Levy increase
 - The 7% levy increase for 2024 was discussed and will be brought to the Annual meeting for approval.
- Change to the Polling Hours for the 2024 Township Election
 - It was discussed and agreed upon by the Board to change the polling hours for the 2024 Township Election from 10am-8pm to 2pm-7pm
 - Mike Little made a motion to approve the 2024 Township Election polling hours, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- Set Date for Re-Org. Meeting
 - It was decided the 2023 Reorganization Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5th at 7pm.

Issues for future meetings

- Andrew Ebling brought to the Board a letter from the Rice County Agricultural Society requesting volunteer and/or donations for the upcoming Rice County Fair. It was decided to add this item to the next meeting's agenda for review.
- It was discussed that work on the Nfld OAA needs to make progress. It was decided that the Clerk will send an email looking for an update, and if a new meeting date can be set.
- Mike Groth stated that he will have information at the next meeting regarding Ebel Way.
- Glen Castore commented that Leif Knecht is interested in being a helpful resource for the Township in its endeavors.
- There was additional discussion regarding the timeliness of response from the Zoning Administrator to residents and the Clerk regarding Zoning questions from residents. It was agreed upon that Cindy is doing a good job for the Township, but it appears she has a lot on her plate and some smaller, non-emergent, issues slip through the cracks for a significant amount of time. It was agreed that the Clerk will reach out to Inspectron to see what, if anything, they would be able to do regarding providing services to help field and answer residents question in a timelier manner.

Adjourn