

Forest Bridgewater Joint Powers Development District

Rice County, Minnesota
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
6:00 pm
Official Minutes

1. **Call to order:** Glen Castore called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members present: Charlie Peters, Glen Castore, Andrew Ebling, Lori Noreen

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Glen Castore made a motion to strike the Treasurer's Report from the agenda as there was no financial activity that had occurred since the last meeting. Andrew Ebling and Charlie Peters approved.

Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the updated agenda. Charlie Peters seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

3. **Approval of September 28th, 2022, meeting minutes**

Charlie Peters made a motion to approve the minutes of September 28th, 2022, Andrew Ebling seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's Report was stricken from the agenda.

5. **Update on RLS Partners Project**

- a. Glen Castore noted that RLS Partners has signed a letter of intent to purchase acreage in Bridgewater Township's Rural Industrial Area and it is expected to be completed in June.
- b. Glen Castore discussed that there is an EAU being completed on the property and should be finished prior to the purchase of the property by RLS.
- c. There was a discussing wastewater treatment system for RLS. Stantec could design a modular system that could recycle the majority of the water being used. This could benefit other possible companies within the rural industrial area as well. The Joint Powers Association will look further into this possibility. Charlie Peters asked any further information obtained regarding this to be forwarded along to him as well.
- d. RLS is interested in the current owner of the property possibly putting up a solar array and they, RLS, would purchase it.

- e. Glen Castore noted that RLS will be making a decision regarding their electrical provider within the next 2-3 weeks. This is between Xcel and Steele Waseca. He also noted that if RLS chooses Steele Waseca it would be beneficial to the Township as there would be USDA money accessible in grant money and interest free loans.
- f. It was noted that 140th Street will need to be paved.
- g. Glen Castore noted that Bridgewater Township would be approx. \$3M in infrastructure debt in order to complete this project.

6. Update on Rice County AUAR

- a. Glen Castore noted that AUAR stands for Alternative Urban Areawide Review and it is similar to an EAU but handles broader area and issues.
- b. Glen Castore noted that Rice County has made the decision to do the AUAR and that it is expected to be completed in 2024.
- c. Glen Castore noted that there will be a March meeting to discuss the scope and understand further the AUAR and what it entails.
- d. Glen Castore made the suggestion that both Bridgewater and Forest Township offer a monetary amount to hopefully ensure a seat in this process.

7. Other Notes

- a. Andrew Ebling brought attention to the rise in property tax levies around the area. It was noted that the City of Dundas is up over 12%, Rice County is up over 9% and the City of Northfield is up over 18%. It was noted that this should be something to stay aware of for future discussion.
- b. The next meeting will be held Wednesday February, 15 2023 unless the decision is made that it is not necessary, at which point it will be made public that the meeting has been rescheduled to a future date.

8. Adjourn

Glen Castore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. Charlie Peters seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Noreen, Clerk, Forest Bridgewater Joint Powers Development District.