

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
April 12, 2023, 6:00p.m.
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

1. RLS project update
 - Environmental Assessment Worksheet
 - Glen Castore provided a project status worksheet for review.
 - Glen Castore discussed that the EAW is now expected to be completed by early September, in which the Township will receive a draft for review in early May.
 - Glen Castore expressed that the plan is to submit the EAW to the State Environmental Quality Board in July for public comment.
 - Glen Castore discussed that the Township would receive the EAW back in August in time to hold a special meeting in September.
 - Permit Applications
 - Glen Castore expressed that the Planning Commission reviewed the concept plan for the RLS building in the Rural Industrial Zone on their March 30th meeting
 - Glen Castore stated that all permits required will be submitted together, possibly at the end of June for the P&Z Committee to act on with a public hearing.
 - Rail Siding
 - It was stated that RLS received a \$1.9M grant from MnDot for the rail siding.
 - There was a meeting April 11th, 2023 to finalize the rail siding design and building location.
 - It was stated that there was look at how to serve the South area of the Rural Industrial Area with the possibility of running a spur to that area.
 - It was stated that in discussions, Rice County would prefer the Township own the rail siding.
 - 140th Street Reconstruction
 - It was discussed there was an estimate from Stantec in the amount of \$112,000 to complete the design and construction support of 140th St.
 - It was stated that there is a request for an estimate from Bolten & Menk. One has not been submitted yet.

- It was stated that in discussions with Rice County it was suggested to turn the road over to them during construction for the purpose of possibly obtain more grant money for the project. Once the project is complete the road would be turned back over to the Township.
- It was stated that the Township will submit grant requests once the legislative session has ended.
- Wastewater Treatment
 - It was stated that the plan is to have a septic system for the RLS facility.
 - It was discussed that there was a meeting with Fluence on modular treatment systems. This type of system appears promising.
 - The system could start small with room to increase based on possible expansion of the Industrial Area.
 - Service for the treatment system would be local.
 - The Township would own or could lease the wastewater treatment system.
- Water
 - It was stated that the plan is to have a well to serve the RLS facility.
 - It was discussed that the Township will consider a sizable well to serve the entire Industrial Area if grant funds are available.
 - It was stated that RLS has plans for a 300,000-gal steel tank for a fire sprinkler system which RLS will pay for in its entirety.
 - It was suggested to possibly install a tank that would serve the entire Industrial Area and the Township could share in the cost with RLS.
 - It was suggested to move the tank to the projected Township land area for utilities so it could cover the whole Industrial Area.
- Fiber Optic Connection
 - It was discussed that the estimate from Metronet to have a fiber optic line pulled from the city of Dundas to the Rural Industrial Area is \$260,000 of which would be the Townships cost.
 - RLS would pay to get the line from the Industrial Area to its facility.
 - It was stated that there is a possibility of obtaining an infrastructure grant for rural areas to help in the cost of running the line.
 - It was asked if this line would serve the rural residents as well.
 - It was stated that, no, this line would only serve the Rural Industrial Area.
 - Andrew Ebling mentioned that once RLS constructs its facility, Northfield WiFi could place a satellite on the building to help the rural residents obtain better internet connection if RLS would be willing to do so.
 - Glen Castore mentioned that Metronet has been difficult to work with.

- Electrical Service
 - Glen Castore discussed that the plan still is to petition the Public Utilities Commission for Steele Waseca service over Xcel Energy. The plan is to do so by the end of May.
 - It was stated that the initial meeting for this was on April 3rd.
- Escrow & Entitlements
 - It was discussed that Peter Tiede is still working on this with the RLS attorney at this time.
- Permit Package
 - It was suggested that the Township creates and provides a large building package to potential businesses.
 - The package would include the building permit, CUP, Variance, et. Applications together for ease of the applicant to have everything they would need in the initial steps of a possible project.
- Misc.
 - It was stated that RLS will be having a discussion with the Rice County Board at its May 2nd work session
 - It was discussed that RLS will be requesting a tax abatement from the County at this meeting.
 - It was mentioned that the potential cost of the RLS project will be \$5.5M. With RLS obtaining the rail siding grant of \$1.9M the cost to the Township appears to be approximately \$3.6M.
 - It was mentioned the Township should invite Drew Greenberg to the next Supervisors Meeting.

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	