

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
May 10, 2023
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Dave Nichols, Julie Daly

Approval of Agenda

- Glen Castore asked to have “Dundas Road Agreement” added to the agenda under Old Business
- Mike Little made a motion to approve the Agenda, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Dave Nichols, Executive Director of the Rice County Historical Society
 - Dave Nichols introduced himself and explained that he has made a goal to be out in the community more to represent the Rice County Historical Society.
 - Glen Castore asked if the RCHS would be able to help with a project of creating signs for historical farms which the Township would pay for. Dave Nichols stated that they would most definitely be able to work on this project. The Township will provide a list of farms to the RCHS to begin work on this project.
 - Andrew Ebling suggested that the Township mention in the next Newsletter the partnership with the RCHS and there are volunteer opportunities for BWT residents if they so wish to do so through the RCHS.
 - Andrew Ebling asked if the RCHS may have old pictures of BWT Town Halls over the years. A request was made for copies if they are available to decorate the current Hall once the addition is completed.
 - Dave Nichols stated that the RCHS is looking for support from the cities and townships within the county by contributing \$500 a year.
 - Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to make an annual contribution of \$500 to the RCHS, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- Julie Daly introduced herself. She stated that she lives on Cates Ave & 100th St and is concerned as to why the Township is no longer providing dust control on the Township’s gravel roads. Her feeling is that Cates is highly traveled and should be included in the roads the Township provides dust control on.
 - It was stated that the Township will provide dust control on the high traffic roads. Decker Ave being one. The other mentioned is 115th St. This road will be a shared cost with the City of Dundas.
 - It was explained that the main reason the Township no longer provides dust control is the cost.
 - Kathleen Kopseng suggested that the Township perform a study on the Township’s gravel roads to obtain information on which roads are, in fact, highly traveled using traffic counters.
 - It was decided that the Township will obtain data using the traffic counters to better understand traffic on the Township’s gravel roads.
 - It was suggested there could be a way for the Township to help in the cost of other higher traveled roads if the data warrants it.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- April 12th, 2023, 6pm, April 12th, 2023 7pm Meeting Minutes
 - Kathleen Kopseng brought to the Board's attention some grammatical errors in the April 12th, 7pm meeting minutes to be corrected as well as one notation that was not complete under "New Business". The errors will be corrected by the Clerk.
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the April 12th 6pm and April 12th 7pm meeting minutes, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- May Claims
 - Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve the Claims, Mike Little seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba stated that all claims were paid for the month and the operating account has approximately \$24K remaining.
 - Debbie Salaba made a motion to transfer \$9,234.32 from the ARPA fund to the Operating account to cover the payment of the new Town Hall furniture. Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
 - It was stated that after the transfer the operating account balance will be approximately \$33K.
- IRS Reporting
 - The treasurer provided the report to Glen Castore.

Clerk's Report

- Mail
 - Letter from the City of Dundas – to be discussed under Old Business.

Roads

- Dust Control
 - The Clerk stated there have been come applications and payment for dust control.
 - Kathleen Kopseng mentioned that a resident on Tower Ave (City of Dundas), has contacted her again regarding dust control.
- Farrel Ave – Damage update
 - It was stated that the damage caused by a tree removal company on Farrel Ave has been repaired.
- Ebel Way
 - It was discussed that there has not been any update on when Ebel Way will be fixed.
 - Andrew Ebling mentioned there could be other concrete companies that the Township could look into but is uncertain about the capability they can do the scope of work needed.

Planning & Zoning-

- Meeting Update
 - Mike Little explained that Cindy Nash updated the Commissioners regarding the EAW. It was discussed that Stantec is still working on the draft.
 - Mike Little stated that the Commissioners requested a timeline of the project so that they are aware of dates they need to hit and stay on track.

- Glen Castore stated that he could provide a timeline for the Committee.
 - Mike Little stated that the Rural Industrial Area has been named Comus Industrial Park. Bruce Morlan suggested that 140th St be renamed.
 - Mike Little stated that the Committee worked on the Comp Plan
 - It was decided by the Committee to strike TDRs from the Comp Plan.
 - It was discussed to have a special meeting between the Supervisor's and the P&Z Committee regarding the Comp Plan.
 - It was decided that the Clerk will send an email out to the Supervisor's and P&Z Commissioners as well as Cindy Nash to find a date to hold the meeting.
- Set Date for next RLS meeting.
 - It was decided to have an RLS update at the next regular Board of Supervisors meeting on June 14th.

Old Business

- Hollinger Residence – update
 - Andrew Ebling stated that a date has been set for Ms. Hollinger to have her property cleaned up by. That date is May 25th. After that the Township has the authority to clean the residence up.
 - It was discussed that after May 25th the Township will have a letter written to Ms. Hollinger stating what will happen.
 - It was agreed that after May 25th the Board will select a company and date to clean the property up.
- Facility Improvements
 - It was stated that the doors, drain and electrical still need to be completed on the new Shed.
 - It was mentioned that grading and paving still needs to be completed.
 - Andrew Ebling stated he will reach out to Mike Groth regarding this.
 - Kathleen Kopseng noted that once the landscaping is complete there will be a need to care for and water the area regularly.
 - It was suggested to see if there is a company that could come and do so.
 - It was decided that the Clerk could provide the watering and care for the area when she is in the office.
- Dundas Road Agreement
 - A letter was received by the City of Dundas regarding a road agreement between the Township and the City of Dundas.
 - It was discussed that the last meeting was in May of 2022.
 - Glen Castore stated that he will respond to the letter stating that the Township would like to arrange a meeting to continue discussions regarding a Road Agreement. Kathleen Kopseng and Thomas Hart will work with Janelle Teppen to arrange a meeting.

New Business

- Wild Parsnip Control
 - It was noted by the Clerk that the Township received a General Noxious Weed Notice and thought to bring it to the Board's attention.

- Glen Castore stated that Steve Albers has been handling Noxious Weeds for the Township for the past many years and he will reach out to Steve to see if he is still interested in doing so this year.
- Chickens and Small animals on Residential properties
 - It was asked by the Zoning Administrator to bring to the Board’s attention that there have been multiple inquiries as to the Ordinance on having chickens and small animals in developments.
 - The Zoning Administrator has looked through the Ordinances and has stated that at this time it is not clear someone can have them.
 - It was asked by the Zoning Administrator to possibly rewrite the wording to allow such animals in a certain capacity.
 - The Board agreed to have Cindy proceed in doing so.
- Northfield Annexation Agreement – meeting update
 - Kathleen Kopseng and Glen Castore attended a meeting with the City of Northfield regarding the NOAA and provided an update.
 - Kathleen Kopseng stated that the meeting went well. They reviewed the previous meetings to bring Kathleen up to speed on the discussions.
 - It was stated that there have been meetings set for the next three months between the Township and the City of Northfield
 - Glen Castore stated that Northfield Township is also in discussions with the City of Northfield regarding Annexations. Andrew Ebling suggested that BWT meet with Nfld Twp to potentially work together on the perspective NOAA’s.
- Intergovernmental Meeting – May 17th, 2023, City of Northfield
 - It was noted that the Forest / Bridgewater Joint Powers meeting is scheduled for May 17th as well.
 - It was decided to cancel the Joint Powers meeting as it coincided with the Intergovernmental Meeting.
 - The Clerk will send out and post the cancellation notice.

Issues for future meetings

- Kathleen Kopseng requested that a review of the Noncompliant List be added to the June Meeting Agenda.
- Andrew Ebling noted that a 6-month review of the new Town Clerk has been should be set.
 - It was decided that there will be a closed meeting on June 14th at 6:30pm to hold a review of the Clerk.
- Mike Little requested to have a meeting regarding the Hoover/Milwaukee pit.
 - It was noted that there is rock still being hauled out of the pit.
 - Glen Castore stated that he will contact Peter Tiede and have him draft a certified letter to cease and desist.

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	