

**Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors**  
**County of Rice, State of Minnesota**  
**June 14, 2023**  
**Official Minutes**

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Kathleen Doran-Norton, Kerry Barbetti

**Approval of Agenda**

- Glen Castore asked to have Kathleen Doran-Norton presentation added under “Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items”.
- Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the Agenda, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- Kathleen Doran-Norton provided a brief background on herself stating she is a full-time volunteer and Chair of Clean River Partners. Kathleen gave an update on current legislative activity. She provided the Board a hand out regarding the Rice Creek Project in Bridgewater Township. Studies show that since 2018 there has been a 61% reduction in nitrate concentration in Rice Creek.
- It was mentioned that this Program is a good testimony of what can be done if the opportunity to expand to other Creeks were to arise.
- Kathleen Doran-Norton also provided the Board a brief rundown of legislation items that have recently passed.

**Approval of Minutes & Claims**

- May 10th, 2023 6pm, May 10th, 2023 7pm, June 7th Meeting Minutes
  - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the May 10<sup>th</sup> 6pm, May 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm and June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- June Claims
  - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve the claims, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer’s Report
  - Debbie Salaba stated that all claims were paid for the month.
  - It was noted that Checks #10175 and #10189 were voided.
  - Debbie Salaba stated that a new checking account has been opened to hold Escrow funds separate from the Operating Account.
  - Debbie Salaba also stated that the Township will be receiving the 1<sup>st</sup> half property tax payment on Fri 6/16 of approximately \$158K.
- IRS Reporting
  - The Treasurer provided the report to Glen Castore

**Clerk's Report**

- Mail
  - The Clerk brought to the Boards attention the document received in the mail from the Minnesota State Demographic Center regarding the Township’s population. The Board was satisfied with the report, no response is needed.

## Roads

- Mike Groth stated that he received a bid from Bituminous Materials in the amount of \$480,208.63 to pave 115th St. The bid is to pave the road with a 4" apron. It was asked how long this would last with a response that the probability would be around 20 years. It was discussed that Thomas Hart and Kathleen Kopseng will bring the bid to The City of Dundas at their June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting for review.
- Mike Groth mentioned that this could be an option for 140<sup>th</sup> St as well.
- It was stated that dust control has not been applied as of yet. The ideal climate would be for it to have some rain on the roads so they can be graded then the dust control would be applied.
- Mike Groth discussed that Ebel Way will be ground within the next 2 weeks.
- Mike Groth stated that Wendwood Additions has some pot holes which he will address and patch in the next week.
- It was discussed that chips and crack seal need to be applied on Albers Ave and Edgebrook Drive.
- Mike Groth made a request to rent a tree grinder for areas to clean up areas surrounding the Township which was approved by the Board.
- It was discussed and approved to get a plastic culvert to replace the existing on north of Dahle Ave.

## Planning & Zoning-

- Meeting Update
  - There was not an update provided as Mike Little was absent from the meeting.
- Set Date for next RLS meeting
  - A date was not set for the next RLS meeting. One will be set if/when one is needed in the future.

## Old Business

- RLS Project
  - Glen Castore explained that there is an issue with the fact that RLS has yet to sign an escrow agreement therefore one is not in tact as of yet.
  - Glen Castore asked the Board to review the Memorandum dated June 11, 2023 from Zoning Administrator Cindy Nash regarding the RLS Application process and Escrow. He recommended to the Board that the Township should proceed with the Zoning Administrator's option "A" in her memorandum. His reasoning is that when RLS files for their Variance and CUP they sign a form that states the Township has the right to collect any monies spent on the process.
  - Glen Castore discussed the reasoning RLS is hesitant to sign an Escrow Agreement is due to the fact they do not have certainty that the Height Variance and Rail Siding they will need to build their facility is not guaranteed at this time.
  - Andrew Ebling stated that he agrees the Township should proceed with option "A" as well.
  - Thomas Hart made a motion to direct the Zoning Administrator to follow Option "A" in her Memorandum dated June 11, 2023, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.

- Noncompliant List
  - It was decided to move the discussion regarding the Township Noncompliant list to next month's meeting. An updated report will be provided at that time to review.
- Hollinger Residence – update
  - It was discussed that the date Ms. Hollinger had been given to have her property cleaned up has past and notice can now be given that measures will be taken by the Township to clean up her property.
  - It was decided that the Clerk will reach out to companies for quotes and dates for the property to be cleaned up. Once those are reviewed a notice will be sent to Ms. Hollinger.
- Facility Improvements
  - Glen Castore mentioned that he spoke with Pro-Con who stated that the Town Hall addition start date will be pushed some but the plan is for the project to still be completed this summer. It was said that the project would take a couple of days to complete
  - It was noted that the New Shed is close to being complete. The Supervisors noticed that there are gaps in the doors that need to be addressed. It was decided that Andrew Ebling will contact Pro-Con regarding the doors.

## **New Business**

- Landfill Fire
  - Glen Castore discussed that the Township held a meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> to provide a brief explanation of the situation to the community.
  - Glen Castore explained that Rice County then held a public meeting on June 13 at which Julie Runkel presented. It was stated that the meeting was well attended.
  - It was discussed that one left the meeting with a sense that there is no clear idea if improvements will be made by those who own and run the landfill.
  - Kerry Barbetti was introduced and proceeded to discuss with the Board ideas as to how to proceed regarding the Landfill Fire and probable future fires.
    - He discussed his opinion that those involved were not adequately prepared for an event like this. And, without adequate resources and training how are they to be prepared?
    - He expressed the need for the Township to have a Community Action Plan in place. He stated it would be good practice to have a plan in place which would then help facilitate a better plan with the County in future events.
    - He stated that if a CAP was in place, it would hold Rice County accountable to standards they need to follow. And if they do not follow the standards there would be consequences.
    - He offered his services to the Township to help in creating a CAP.
    - He is going to send a link to the EPA website to the clerk which will in turn send to the Supervisor's for review and have a better understanding.
  - There was a main consensus that the Township needs to develop a plan to follow in future events.
  - It was decided that the Board will put together a committee involving Supervisors and Community Members to create the CAP with Kerry Barbetti

being an advocate for the Township. Once a draft is created it will be reviewed at the following meeting.

- It was discussed that the Board will convene a meeting in the upcoming week or two regarding the creation of a Community Action Plan.
  
- Keepsake Cidery Liquor License Renewal
  - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the renewal of Keepsake Cidery's liquor license, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

**Issues for future meetings**

- Community Action Plan
- 140<sup>th</sup> St – Meeting with Dennis Luebbe

Adjourn