

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
July 12, 2023
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Kerry Barbetti, Sharon Dunsmore, Jim Bull, Henry Bull, Laurel Bull, Brendan Dillon

Approval of Agenda

- Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the Agenda, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items - None

Landfill Fire Update

- Glen Castore invited Kerry Barbetti to provide an update on the steps that have been taken since the Landfill Fire on May 22nd, 2023.
- Kerry Barbetti explained that he had compiled a draft of a Community Involvement Plan that was distributed to the Supervisors for review.
- Glen Castore discussed what the next steps are for the Board. Mentioning that he met with Rice County to discuss collaboration with them moving forward. Glen added that the Township would like to have better communication with the County regarding such events so that they can relay this to the residents. Points of interest were air quality, soil monitoring and recycling.
- It was suggested to use the draft provided as a tool to have a Community Involvement Plan in place.
- Andrew Ebling suggested that a sub-committee be created.
 - Andrew Ebling, Kerry Barbetti and Debbie Salaba all volunteered to be on said sub-committee. It was decided that Andrew Ebling would reach out to John Klockemen to see if he would be interested in being on sub-committee as well.
- Kathleen Kopseng requested that the Board stay informed as to when the sub-committee meets.
- Andrew Ebling will work on putting the sub-committee together.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- June 14th Meeting Minutes
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 14th, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- July Claims
 - Mike Little made a motion to approve the July Claims, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba explained that all the claims were paid for the month.

- An Escrow Checking account has been opened to hold escrow funds and pay for fees accordingly. This is to keep the escrow funds separate from the operating account.
- \$10,000 was transferred from the ARPA account to pay for the Town Hall addition draw.
- The final 1st half property tax payment has been deposited into the operating account in the amount of approximately \$67K.
- The operating account balance is approximately \$57K after paying the claims for the month.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer provided the report to Glen Castore.

Clerk's Report

- The Clerk brought to the Board that a resident across the street from the Town Hall stopped in and asked if they could use the Hall for their Association Meeting. The meeting will be held at the end of September. It was also asked if the Hall parking lot be used during the time the development has their roads resurfaced.
 - The Board approved the use of the Hall and parking lot. The Clerk will call the resident to inform him that it is ok to do so.

Roads

- 2024 Dust Control
 - Mike Groth suggested having the residents take care of Dust Control on their own going into 2024. Meaning that the residents of the Township would set up their own application with the company themselves.
 - Andrew Ebling agreed with Mike regarding Dust Control in 2024
 - There was discussion as to why dust control is no longer something the Township would like to handle.
 - Glen Castore stated that there needs to be further discussion on the topic before making a final decision. It was decided 2024 Dust Control will remain on the agenda for the upcoming meetings to discuss further.

Planning & Zoning-

- Meeting Update
 - Mike Little gave a summary of the Planning & Zoning meeting held on June 22nd. He stated that the topics of the St. Olaf Solar Facility, Castle Rock Mine, RLS timeline were all reviewed. The Castle Rock Mine was tabled and will be on the agenda for the next meeting as further information was needed.
 - Glen Castore asked for a date for which the Comp Plan will be brought to the Board for review. It was uncertain, but the Clerk will reach out to the Zoning Administrator to stay on top of it to get it complete.

Old Business

- RLS Project
 - Glen Castore discussed that there is a delay of the work schedule for RLS due to the building footprint being changed.
 - It was discussed that Peter Tiede is working with RLS's attorney on the Escrow Agreement.
 - It was noted that RLS's Investment Group has released money for the project to move forward as it was understood there is a similar company starting to build a facility nearby.

- It was discussed that a decision is needed within the next week or two to petition for Steele Waseca to be the utility provider instead of Xcel.
- It was noted that Ed Koltavy is looking to put a Solar Garden on 20 acres near the Rural Industrial Area.
- Wild Parsnip Control
 - Glen Castore stated it was brought to the Board's attention that there was spraying performed in areas that did not have noxious weeds.
 - Mike Little discussed that a resident expressed concern that spraying was performed on areas that did not have weeds and then had an aftermath of significant chemical odor.
 - It was decided that the Township's sprayer should be looked at to see if it needs repair so the spraying does not land on areas that may not need it.
 - Mike Groth noted that the type of chemical used is notorious for "drifting" onto areas other than the exact spot sprayed.
 - Glen Castore stated he will speak with Steve Albers regarding the spraying in areas that may not have needed it.
- Noncompliant List
 - The 2022 Compliance List was reviewed.
 - "Dokmo" - Has been completed and removed from the list.
 - "Hollinger" - Is still in process.
 - "Sjulstad" - Has been completed and removed from the list.
 - "Ackerman" – The tires are still there. Glen Castore will reach out to Kathleen Doran-Norton for a possible update of the property. It was also noted to look for a possible email requesting a letter to be sent which the Clerk will investigate.
 - "Jacobson" – The IUP is in violation. It was noted to loop in the Zoning Administrator on this and proceed from there on the situation.
 - New "Reginaldo" – investigate what is happening on the property in addition to what they have applied to do. Trees are being removed, for what reason?
- Hollinger Residence – update
 - Andrew Ebling discussed that he met with a removal company on Monday 7/10 to review the property.
 - A quote was received by Junk King to perform the cleanup.
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the estimate and reward the project to Junk King, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
 - The Clerk will reach out to Junk King to obtain dates of when the project can be performed. Once the dates are determined, the Township will have the attorney send a letter to the resident.
 - Glen Castore will obtain the Court Order and deliver a copy to the Sheriff's Department to have a deputy present during the cleanup.
 - It was decided that 2 or more of the Supervisor's will be present at the time of the project.
- Facility Improvements
 - Andrew Ebling discussed that he had a conversation with Pro Con regarding the gaps in the doors of the new garage. This will be addressed.
 - It was stated that electrical will be added within the week.
 - It was mentioned that there is a noticeable dent in the new garage. Andrew Ebling will reach out to Pro Con to inform them of this.

- It was noted that there still is not a set date as to when the Town Hall addition will be started or completed.

New Business

- Keepsake Cidery – neighbor grievances
 - Sharon Dunsmore addressed the Board regarding her concerns pertaining to Keepsake Cidery. Said concerns being raised were noise, dust control, event size, alcohol other than ciders being served.
 - Glen Castore explained that the Board will need to verify the information given. The Township will have the attorney review the Resolutions to obtain a better understanding of what can be enforced. If there are violations action will be taken.
 - Andrew Ebling suggested one thing the Township can do immediately is address Dust Control. The Township could provide dust control on the road to remedy the issue.
 - There was discussion was to place a decibel meter on the property to measure the noise levels, place a traffic counter on the road to review traffic use.
 - Glen Castore informed the guests that the Township will review the information to see what can be done and will keep the residents informed on the process and progress.
- St. Olaf Solar Facility
 - Brendan Dillon of Nokomis Energy gave a summary of the proposed Solar Garden for St. Olaf College to the Board.
 - Glen Castore questioned if Nokomis would have the contract to maintain the garden which was answered. Yes, Nokomis Energy would lease the site from St. Olaf.
 - It was asked if the electricity would go directly to the College, which was explained that it would be.
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-06 Variance and Resolution 2023-07 IUP, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved. Resolution 2023-06 and 2023-07 passed.
- 320 3rd St NW (03.31.1.75.001) Tax Forfeited Parcel
 - The Zoning Administrator provided a memorandum to the Board regarding a tax forfeited parcel located in Bridgewater Township in which the Township needed to determine if the parcel go to public auction or request a conveyance to the Township for public use.
 - There was discussion held on the topic with the decision being made to approve the parcel for public auction.
 - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-05 Approving the Public Sale of a Tax Forfeited Parcel, Kathleen Kopseng seconded. All Approved.

Issues for future meetings

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	