

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
November 8, 2023
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: N/A

Approval of Agenda

- Glen Castore requested to have "Building Permit issue" added to New Business.
- Thomas Hart made a motion to approve the Agenda, Mike Little seconded, all approved as amended.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items N/A

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- October 11th Meeting Minutes
 - Kathleen Kopseng questioned the cost of dust control per mile under roads which was determined was an error. Instead of \$42.50 per mile the cost would be \$4,250 per mile. It was noted to correct the error under Roads.
 - Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve the October 11th Meeting Minutes, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved as amended.
- November Claims
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the November Claims, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba noted that the MN Ag Credit was deposited into the Merchants Bank account, which she transferred into the Frandsen Operating Account.
 - Debbie Salaba stated that the Annexation Account has been opened at Frandsen Bank and the Dundas Annexation Tax payment that was recently received will be deposited into said account. The balance at Merchants will be transferred into this new account and the account at Merchants will be closed.
 - Debbie Salaba noted that the Operating account had a balance of approximately \$116K prior to the November Claims and the balance after payment of said claims is roughly \$87K.
 - Glen Castore questioned how much of the \$200K advance has been used with the response of approximately \$115K.
 - It was noted that the first repayment of the loan is December 15th in the amount of \$37K and the hope is to pay of the entire amount by January.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer will provide the report to Glen Castore.

Clerk's Report

- Resolutions regarding polling place, absentee ballots, and UOCAVA
 - The Clerk presented the updated resolutions regarding the election polling place and appointing Rice County to oversee absentee ballots and OUCAVA.
 - It was decided to approve all three resolutions with one motion.
 - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-13, designating 500 Railway Street as the Bridgewater Township polling place, Resolution 2023-14 designating Rice County to oversee Bridgewater Township absentee voting, and Resolution 2023-15 designating Rice County to oversee Bridgewater Township UOCAVA voting, Mike Little seconded, all approved.
- Newsletter Topics
 - It was discussed to have an update on CORE X Partners, a Town Hall/Shed update, the Township Election in 2024 & General Voting as well as upcoming snow removal in the next newsletter.
 - Other topics to be added are a notation regarding resident notification regarding road maintenance, and mailboxes.
 - Glen Castore will put together an update regarding CORE X, the Clerk will work on the rest of the topics and get a fall newsletter out to the residents.

Roads

- Road Signs
 - Mike Groth noted that many of the Township Road signs are fading and becoming hard to see. It was discussed to purchase a vinyl cutter to cut the lettering for the roads to improve the signs.
 - It was determined that Mike Groth will look into purchasing the piece of equipment and also speak with Graphic Mailbox to cut the lettering for the signs.
- Roos complaint
 - Discussion was held regarding the email sent by Don and Clare Roos regarding a Hydrangea bush that was cut on the corner of 124th St and Ebel Ave. After discussion and reviewing the response that was given to the resident it was deemed the situation has been resolved.
- Paved Road maintenance plan
 - Glen Castore discussed the maintenance plan that he put together regarding the paved roads in the Township. It was noted the plan has been put in place after the residents of the Wendwood Development expressed concerns of their road needing to be addressed.
 - The plan comprises of Dust Control on the Gravel Roads and Paved Road Maintenance / Repair.
 - Glen Castore stated that he and Andrew Ebling met with a financial planner to learn about options for financing.
 - The maintenance plan was reviewed by the Board and discussion was held on the areas needing to be addressed.
 - It was decided that the Township will continue to work with the financial planner on how the process will work to fund the maintenance of the Township roads.
 - The Board will continue to work on the next steps to put the program together in the next few months.

- Kathleen Kopseng made a note that the plan that was created was very well done.
- Grants for paving 140th St.
 - Glen Castore stated that the Township has applied for a \$1.6M grant which was submitted in October.
 - Glen Castore stated that Dennis Luebbe received a call questioning if the County supports the Township regarding this grant which the County has passed a Resolution in favor of the grant to be approved.

Planning & Zoning

- Mike Little noted that there was not a meeting held in October
- Glen Castore stated that the target is to have a public hearing in November regarding the CUP and Height Variance applications CORE X has submitted.

Old Business

- Northfield OAA meeting update
 - It was noted that the meeting was rescheduled to November 13th.
- CORE X Project update
 - Glen Castore discussed Peter Tiede and the CORE X attorney are close to having an escrow agreement drafted.
 - It was noted that CORE X, Steele Waseca and the Township have agreed to petition the Public Utility Commission.
 - It was noted that CORE X is waiting to purchase the land until the approval of the CUP and the Height Variance.
 - Glen Castore stated that the Township will work on obtaining a lot split for the 5.5 acres it intends to purchase from Ed Kuktavy.
- Facility Improvements
 - It was noted that the issues in the shed have not all been addressed and it not winter ready.
 - It was noted that the Town Hall addition has not been completed
 - It was determined that the Clerk will reach out to Pro Con for an update as to when the project will be worked on and completed and will copy Glen Castore and Peter Tiede.

New Business

- Building Permit Issue
 - It was brought to Glen Castore's attention by the Zoning Administrator that a resident is looking to build a new home and live in their current home during the construction on the same property.
 - The Zoning Administrator provided options as to how the Township can handle the request which the Board agreed that a demolition agreement with the homeowner would be created to ensure the older home would be demolished upon completion of the new home being built.
 - It was noted the Township will not require an escrow but a timeline of demolishment within 6 months of the completion of the new home.
 - It was noted that the Clerk will speak with the Zoning Administrator regarding the Board's decision as well as start the process of having an agreement drafted with the Attorney.

Issues for future meetings

- Andrew Ebling mentioned a discussion regarding the Township’s permit fees and the cost the Township incurs having its own Planning & Zoning should be had in the future. It was discussed to look further into this after the CORE X project has been completed.
- It was noted that the Clerk will be absent at the next Board of Supervisor’s meeting

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	