

Bridgewater Township Newsletter

February 2024

Presidential Nomination Primary Election

The Presidential Nomination Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 5th, 2024, with polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Bridgewater Town Hall, 500 Railway Street, Dundas MN 55019. Any persons wishing to vote by absentee ballot may do so by contacting the Rice County Auditor's Office in Faribault, MN up until March 5, 2024 at 8:00pm.

Annual Meeting and Election Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Election of Township Officers and Annual Meeting of Bridgewater Township will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 8:15pm. Officers up for election as follows:

-One Supervisor "A" – 3-year term

-One Supervisor "D" – 3-year term

Candidates running for office are:

-Glen Castore – Supervisor "A"

-Mike Little – Supervisor "D"

-Larry Alderks – Supervisor "D"

Voting hours will be from 2:00pm to 8:00 pm. Canvass of votes will take place following the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting will convene at 8:15 pm to conduct all business necessary as prescribed by law. In the case of inclement weather, the Annual Meeting and Election will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Bridgewater Town Hall, 500 Railway Street, Dundas MN 55019.

Any persons wishing to vote by absentee ballot may do so by contacting the Rice County Auditor's Office in Faribault, MN up until March 12, 2024 at 8:00pm.

Please come to the Annual Meeting, we now have comfortable chairs! Issues to be discussed include:

- Dust Control Policy
- Bonding for Industrial Park Infrastructure
- Levy Increase of 7% (from \$398,512 in 2024 to \$426,408 in 2025)

Pre-Election Candidate Open House

The Township will host an open house to meet the candidates. The Open House will be on Wednesday, March 6th at 7pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall.

Roads

The Township has about 30 miles of gravel and 5.5 miles of black top roads. The cost of dust control and repaving has risen significantly over the last several years. Dust control for most of the roads, which used to cost \$50,000, now costs about \$130,000. This summer the Township will start applying dust control on the 10 miles of road on which we are also putting down new gravel. This means each road will receive gravel and dust control once every three years. Dust control will also be applied on a few roads where businesses are located. Residents who live on a gravel road that is not receiving dust control in said year and would like it applied may contact suppliers directly. Most of the paved roads are due for reconstruction. The cost of this is about \$350,000 per mile meaning the total cost would be around \$2,000,000. The Township is in the process of planning the financing and the timing of the work. This will probably begin in 2025.

Industrial District

The Township, with help from Rice County and the agreement of landowners, created the Comus Industrial Park in 2022. It is 340 acres on the east side of the railroad tracks and straddling 140th Street. The company, CORE X Partners, has a purchase agreement for 80 acres. They will build a cold storage facility which will handle frozen food products packaged for the grocery store. They intend to start construction of Phase 1, a 200,00 sq ft facility, this year and be operational in mid-2025. There are two additions planned for this initial building. The first phase includes paving 140th Street to a 10-ton capacity road and building a rail siding. The Township will see the initial taxes from this project in 2026, estimated at \$20,000, growing to \$110,000 in 2029. Northland Securities is working with the Township on financing options and providing an independent assessment of the overall financial effect on the Township. The long-term goal is to have tax revenue from the Industrial Park replace the \$150,000 per year the Township receives from the landfill host fee. The landfill is projected to close around 2040.

Serve as an Election Judge

Election Judges (poll workers) are paid officials who staff local polling places, carry out elections procedures, and make sure that the rights of voters are protected. Serving as an election judge is a chance to learn about elections, and is a great service to the community. Any Township resident interested in serving as an election judge or being trained as an election judge is welcome to contact the Clerk for additional information. Training is offered in even years. Once a person is trained as an election judge, they are eligible to serve anywhere in the state. An Election Judge Interest Form can be found on the Rice County Elections website, ricecountymn.gov as well. ricecountymn.gov

Bridgewater Contact Information

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