

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
March 13, 2024
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Dave Nichols

Approval of Agenda

- Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the Agenda, Mike Little seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: N/A

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- February 14th Meeting Minutes
 - Mike Little made a motion to approve the February 14th, 2024 meeting minutes, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- March Claims
 - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve the March Claims, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba provided an update on the Township's accounts.
 - It was noted that when the large CD of \$590K comes due in or around August, the Township could put it into another short-term CD to earn additional interest.
 - It was mentioned to possibly add the next Landfill Hosting money that will come in into a CD to earn interest.
 - It was noted that the loan was added to the Treasurer's Report.
 - It was noted that there is approximately \$30K in the operating fund as of the meeting.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer provided the report to the Chair.

Clerk's Report

- Use of the Town Hall
 - It was suggested to look into how other Townships handle the use of the Town Hall by residents and others. With the added interest in the use of the Town Hall now that the addition is complete, there has been added clean up and time spent on upkeep of the Hall.
 - There was a suggestion of a clean up fee if food is allowed at said meetings.
 - It was decided the Clerk will look into this and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Roads

- 2024 Dust Control
 - It was discussed that the Township will provide dust control on the roads that receive new gravel in each year.
 - It was decided that the Clerk will work with the Road Supervisor to obtain the contacts of companies that will provide the service to the residents who do not receive dust control by the Township.
 - It was discussed to add the contacts to the next newsletter or send a separate letter to those residents that live on gravel roads once the contacts have been obtained.

Planning & Zoning-

- Mark Thompson property
 - Glen Castore stated that he spoke with the Zoning Administrator and she is working with the Attorney to hopefully come up with a solution regarding Mark Thompson's property.
 - It was decided this will be reassessed at the next meeting.
- Meeting update
 - Mike Little provided an update of the P&Z Meeting that was held on Thursday, February 29th, 2024.
 - It was noted that there were some residents who were in attendance that expressed their concerns on the possible business park traffic flow.
 - It was noted that Larry Alderks brought up the Jacobson property and wanted an update as there are concerns that he is not in compliance.
 - It was noted that the Praver Variance was approved by the Committee and recommends approval by the Board as well as the Rezoning of the acreage from Ag to Rural Industrial in the Rural Industrial area.

Old Business

- Intergovernmental Meeting 2/21 report
 - Highlights of the meeting were County Rd 47 would be redone, County Road 20 would be completed in 3 phases, County Rd 9 project is in the 2nd phase of studies and that I35 and Hwy 19 interchange will begin this spring. An open house on this roundabout will be held at the Bridgewater Town Hall on Tue, 3/19 from 4-6pm.
- Approval of Turn-Back of Hwy 246 Letter
 - Glen Castore stated that Northfield Township sent a letter in February regarding the possibly turn-back of Hwy 246.
 - It was noted that Kathleen Kopseng drafted a letter on behalf of the Township Supervisor's for review that could be sent.
 - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve sending the letter drafted by Kathleen Kopseng, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
 - The Clerk will send the letter to those involved.
- CORE X Partners Project Update
 - Glen Castore provided an update stating that \$1.6M Grant was recently awarded to the Township from MNDOT for the 140th St upgrade.
 - It was noted that further meeting will occur on how to proceed with the railroad.

- It was discussed that the escrow agreement with CORE X Partners still has not been signed therefore applications that have been submitted are incomplete.
- Facility Improvements
 - It was shared that landscape is the last item to complete the Town Hall addition project. Knecht's is scheduled to do so
 - It was discussed to have a new sign be part of the landscape.
 - It was suggested to work with John Ebling to have a design of a sign created.
 - It was noted that possibly Dahlen Sign, Archetype or LM&E could be the company to use to have a sign created.
 - It was decided that the Clerk will reach out to the City of Dundas regarding its sign ordinance and discussion will continue once the Board knows how they can proceed with a new sign.

New Business

- Resolution 2024-01 Recognizing the Authority of the NAFRS Fire Chief to enforce the MN State Fire Code
 - It was noted that the Resolution is to make clear that the NAFRS Fire Chief is declared as the Township's Fire Code Official.
 - Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01 Recognizing the Authority of the NAFRS Fire Chief to enforce the MN State Fire Code, Mike Little seconded, all approved.
- Resolution 2024-02 Praver Variance
 - The Zoning Administrator's Memorandum was reviewed by the Board regarding the request by the Praver's for a Variance in order to permit a lot to be subdivided from their property for their daughter to build a home.
 - It was noted that in Item #3 in the Variance Wright County should be changed to the correct county which is Rice.
 - Glen Castore stated that he spoke with the Zoning Administrator who noted that the approval of driveway placement must come from Rice County as the road is a County Road. Glen stated that the Zoning Administrator recommended that the Board approves the Variance but it will be held until the driveway is approved by the County.
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02 Praver Variance, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- Rezoning Agricultural to Rural Industrial
 - The Board reviewed the Zoning Administrator's Memorandum regarding rezoning a 2.5-acre parcel from Agricultural to Rural Industrial in the Rural Industrial Zone.
 - It was noted that the Rice County Board of Commissioners has already approved the rezoning in January of 2024 and this Ordinance would be created to comply with the County.
 - Mike Little made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-02 Rezoning Agricultural to Rural Industrial, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- Rice County Historical Society request for Donation
 - Dave Nichols provided an update to the Board on the Rice County Historical Society and provided reasoning for the request for a donation.
 - Discussion was held regarding the \$500 donation request with Thomas Hart and Andrew Ebling, both stating it would be a worthwhile donation.

- Thomas Hart made a motion to approve donating \$500 to the Rice County Historical Society, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- Rice County Fair request for Donation
 - The Board reviewed the email sent by the Rice County Fair Manager requesting help with the fair by either volunteering or a donation to county events in the sum of \$500.
 - Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve donating \$500 to the Rice County Fair, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- Set Date for Re-Org. Meeting
 - The date of Friday, April 5th, 2024 at 10am was set for the 2024 Reorganization Meeting.

Issues for future meetings

- Kathleen Kopseng expressed her thankfulness on behalf of the Board to Mike Little for all the work he did while serving as a Supervisor for Bridgewater Township. The other Supervisor's agreed.
- Mike Little offered his service to be a Commissioner on the Planning & Zoning Committee if needed. It was noted that this will be discussed at the Reorganization Meeting in April. There was also interest from Emily Fulton-Foley and Brad Pfahning.
- Kathleen Kopseng noted that one of the police officers who tragically lost his life in Burnsville recently was her neighbor and lived in Bridgewater Township.
- Debbie Salaba requested to speak with the Road Supervisor regarding cashing his checks. There are multiple from months past that have still not cleared the bank account. It was noted that the Clerk and Andrew Ebling will try to remedy the issue.

Adjourn