

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
April 10, 2024
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Andrew Ebling, Glen Castore, Larry Alderks, Kathleen Kopseng, Thomas Hart, Debbie Salaba, Lori Noreen, Cindy Nash

Introduction of Guests: N/A

Approval of Agenda

- It was requested to add “Prawer Driveway” under Planning & Zoning
- Glen Castore made a motion to approve the agenda as updated, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items N/A

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- March 12th, March 13th & April 5th Meeting Minutes
 - It was noted that the guest at the March 13th Meeting was Dave Nichols, not Dan. The change will be made in the minutes to reflect Mr. Nichols correct name.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the March 12th & March 13th meeting minutes, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- April Claims
 - Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve the April Claims, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer’s Report
 - Debbie Salaba noted that there was no change in the Merchants bank account. She is working on moving the automatic deposit received from the State of Minnesota to the Frandsen account and will then close the Merchants account.
 - It was discussed that there is a safe deposit box at Merchants that will renew and should be closed prior to renewal, as the Township is no longer in need of the box. Items needed are minutes stating who are the current Supervisors as well as documentation stating Lori Noreen is the Clerk and Debbie Salaba is the Treasurer. The Clerk will get those documents to the Treasurer and the two will go to the bank and close the box out.
 - It was noted that accounts earned interest on March 31st.
 - It was stated that the operating checking account has a balance off approximately \$16K after paying the April Claims.
 - Kathleen Kopseng mentioned her appreciation of the newly added Long Term Liability line in the Treasurer’s report.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer provided the report to the Chair.

Clerk's Report

Roads

- 2024 Dust Control
 - Andrew Ebling stated the topic of Dust Control is still being worked on. The Clerk is working with the Road Superintendent to obtain a list of roads that have been or will be graveled in 2024 so a list of roads that will receive dust control by the Township can be created.
 - This information will be provided to the residents in the next Town Newsletter.

Planning & Zoning-

- Ordinance Amendment
 - Cindy Nash provided information as to the reasoning for the amendment of the current ordinance and why the topic came about to the Board. She stated that the Planning & Zoning Committee recommended to approve said amendment. It was noted that this amendment protects both the Zoning Administrator and the Township.
 - The Board reviewed and discussion was held regarding the Ordinance Amendment related to Certificates of Zoning Compliance.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approved Ordinance 2024-03 Ordinance Amendment related to Certificates of Zoning Compliance, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
- Mark Thompson property
 - Glen Castore stated that he met with Mark Thompson and explained the situation with this property to the Board. A memorandum was provided to the Board regarding the situation for review.
 - Cindy Nash explained the situation in depth to the Board with key notes that the CUP conditions were not met, the recording of the TDR's were not done.
 - It was noted that Cindy Nash will have a memorandum of recommended options/action plans remedy the situation for Mr. Thompson by the next meeting. It was stated that any of the choices are not ideal.
 - Glen Castore stated once an action plan is in place the Township would then go to the County with a proposal of action that the County could act on.
- 5120 Ebert Ct Property
 - It was discussed that the property currently has possible zoning violations which has been brought up in the past. The Township's inspectors have gone to the property to review zoning compliance.
 - It was noted that there has not been an update from Inspectron as of yet.
- Praver Driveway
 - Cindy Nash stated that she has not heard from the County if the Praver's have received the ok to obtain a driveway on the property they are looking to purchase and build a home on.
 - It was noted that the Township approved a Variance to decrease the land requirement which has not yet been filed.

Old Business

- Use of the Town Hall
 - Discussion was held on how the Township would like to proceed with allowing the use of the Town Hall to residents and others looking for a location to hold potential meetings, etc.

- It was discussed the Township would create a form /application to rent the hall.
- It was decided that the Clerk will put together a rental form for the Board to review at the next meeting.
- Industrial Park / CORE X Partners Project Update
 - Glen Castore provided an update on the CORE X Partners Project. He noted that there has not been much change. An escrow agreement has yet to be signed, there have not been any permit applications submitted, the land has not been purchased as of yet.
 - It was noted that the Township & CORE X will be applying for a grant to provide a full 7K ft siding.
 - Discussion was held if the feeling is the project is still going to take place with the answer being yes.
 - It was suggested to invite Drew Greenberg to attend the next meeting to interface with the Supervisors and answer any questions of the Board.
 - Glen Castore stated he would reach out to Drew to invite him to the next meeting.
 - It was discussed that it is still uncertain as to who would maintain the rail siding.
- Facility Improvements
 - Discussion was held regarding having a new sign created for the Town Hall.
 - It was decided ideas for a new sign will be rendered once the landscape is complete.
 - The grass area around the new addition was discussed. It was decided that the Clerk will reach out to some landscape companies to obtain quotes to reseed and level the areas around the new addition and shed.

New Business

- Monthly BOS Meeting Date
 - It was noted that at the Reorganization Meeting the decision was made to change the BOS Meeting date from the second Wednesday of the month to the Second Tuesday of the month.
 - Debbie Salaba stated that this is an issue for her to get the Claims and reporting ready in time for the meeting.
 - Discussion was held and a suggestion was made to change it back to the second Wednesday of the month but hold the meeting at an earlier time.
 - It was decided that the Board of Supervisors will hold their monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 4pm.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to hold BOS Monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 4pm, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
 - It was noted that the change will be reflected on the Post Board as well as on the website and the County will be updated of the change.
- Resolution 2024-03 Joint Resolution for Orderly Annexation - St Olaf Parcel
 - Discussion was held that Cindy Nash and Peter Tiede reviewed the Resolution with no comments.
 - It was noted that this resolution is covered by the Annexation Agreement the Township has with the City of Northfield.
 - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 Joint Resolution for Orderly Annexation, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.
- Metronet Fiber Installation Agreement

- Glen Castore discussed that at a previous meeting the Board approved the bid from Metronet to provide fiberoptics to Comus Industrial Park.
- The Board reviewed the Fiber Installation Agreement draft Metronet provided.
- Glen Castore made a suggestion to have the Townships attorney review and redline any suggested changes the Township would like to have in the agreement.
- Andrew Ebling stated he would send the Agreement along with a request to review the agreement for the Township.
- Glen Castore stated he would send a message to Metronet to inform them the agreement is under review.
- Affordable Housing project
 - Andrew Ebling & Glen Castore explained to the Board that a meeting is scheduled for Friday April 12th at 2pm at the Town Hall to discuss potential for an affordable housing project in the Township.
 - It was discussed that the idea would be to purchase 30-40 acres which would have the potential of having 100+ homes.
 - It was noted that this idea is in the beginning stages.
- Keepsake Cidery Liquor License Renewal
 - Keepsake Cidery dropped of their liquor license renewal for 2024 for the Board to review.
 - The Board reviewed the renewal application and compared it to the Cidery's 2023 application.
 - There were questions regarding the hand writing in of "Beer" as well as checking the "Sunday Liquor" based on the current CUP requirements as well as the portion of the application stating "Sunday Liquor" can only be approved by a vote of the town at an election.
 - It was decided the Clerk will send the application and the current CUPs to the Township's attorney for review to see if they are in compliance as well as reach out to Rice County to obtain a better understanding of the liquor license application form.

Issues for future meetings

- Andrew Ebling brought to the Board's attention that the Planning & Zoning appointments come up in May and some of the members have expressed interest in not renewing their appointment. It was suggested to hold a gathering with residents interested in being on the committee so they could ask questions and obtain a better understanding of what the Committee does.
- Potential new members that were listed are: Brad Pfahning, Mike Little, Emily Fulton-Foley, John Ebling, Frances Boehning.

Adjourn

Chair
Clerk