

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
July 10th, 2024 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Absent: Kathleen Kopseng

Introduction of Guests: Matt Hillmann, Fritz Ebinger, Darren Winfield, Rebecca Benedict, Gary Meisler, Jenelle Teppen, Leif Knecht, Steve Albers

Approval of Agenda

- It was requested to add “Weed Control” to Old Business
- Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Superintendent Hillmann - School Referendum Presentation
 - Superintendent Hillmann provided a presentation regarding the Northfield High School Rederendum to the Board and guests at the Meeting.
 - It was noted that there will be 3 questions on the upcoming ballot with the questions being contingent.
 - Following the presentation, it was opened to the quests and Board for questions in which Superintendent Hillmann responded to each.
- Fritz Ebinger – Community Solar Garden
 - Mr. Ebinger stated that the purpose of his visit and addressing the Board was to obtain clarity on the land use controls in the Annexation Reserve District between Bridgewater Township and the City of Dundas.
 - It was noted that because the area in question in located in the Annexation Reserve District the project would need to be approved by the City of Dundas Zoning Administrator. If that were to occur the next step would be that the project proposal would be placed in front of the ARD Commission for review and approval.
- Darren Winfield – Fireside Orchard
 - Mr. Winfield stated he is asking the Board to consider his request to apply for an on-sale liquor license at Fireside Orchard. He stated that he needs the local governments approval first before the next steps of obtaining approval by the County.
 - It was noted that the request and Mr. Winfield’s current CUPs are being reviewed by the Zoning Administrator and once she has a response the next steps on the local level will be taken.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- June 12th Meeting Minutes
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the June 12th Meeting Minutes, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- July Claims
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the July Claims, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba stated that the MN State Aid in the amount of \$1,438.75 was deposited into the Merchants Checking account and she would be transferring it into the Frandsen Operating Account. She noted that there were 2 large deposits in June, one being the Landfill Host money and the other being the 1st Half of Property Taxes. It was noted that interest accrued in all the accounts and 3 CDs renewed in the last month.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer provided the report to the Chair.

Roads

- Dust Control Policy Committee
 - Larry Alderks stated that at the last meeting it was discussed to set up a committee to create a dust control policy. Discussion was held to have something in place.
 - Andrew Ebling noted that this is a topic that has been worked on for a few years with a set policy being difficult to create as every year is a different situation with application not being able to have set dates. It was noted that the Supervisors have been trying to come up with a positive solution with significant pushback. It was also noted that a policy is in place being dust control will be applied to the roads that receive new gravel in said year.
 - It was discussed and determined that Larry Alderks and Glen Castore will work together along with Mike Groth to create a chart or schedule for dust control to help answer questions from the Township residents.
- Dust Control
 - Leif Knecht expressed his wishes to have the Township pay for and apply dust control throughout the entire Township with a response being the cost of doing so is the issue as to why the Township cannot.
 - Thomas Hart questioned if dust control would be something the Township could assess the owners for with the response that that is not something that can be done.
- Alternative to Graveling Roads
 - Andrew Ebling stated that there is an alternative to graveling roads that has been looked into for the Township.
 - Glen Castore stated that he spoke with Mike Groth and noted that Mike is working on the cost of this alternative.
 - Larry Alderks suggested find a location that currently has this on the road to view the difference. Glen Castore agreed and stated they could find a date to make a trip.
- Paving Residential Developments
 - Glen Castore noted that in looking into repaving the current residential roads in Bridgewater Township (Wendwood, Bittersweet and Timberlane) would be an estimated cost of \$1M to do.
 - It was discussed that there would be consideration of doing this project in 2025 as the project would need to go out for quotes and bonding would need to be obtained to pay for it.
 - It was discussed that if the Township did all at once the bonding rate could be better.
 - It was noted that a decision will need to be made as to the amount that would be assessed to the homeowners. 20% is the minimum amount. Discussion was held of the amount being possibly 30%.

- Glen Castore stated that he will be in contact with Jessica Green to obtain and definite timeline for this project to occur.
- Dundas Road Policy
 - Glen Castore stated that he and Thomas Hart attended the Dundas City Council meeting where the Dundas Road Policy was do be discussed though no discussion was had.
 - It was noted that Bridgewater Township would like to have an agreement regarding 115th Street in place concurrently with the Dundas Road Policy Agreement.
 - Discussion was held and it was decided to have both Resolutions (Dundas Road Policy and 115th St Agreement) created and signed at the same meeting.
 - Jennelle Teppen spoke to the Board regarding holding a joint meeting to sign the current joint policy. It was noted that the City of Dundas has no opposition to move forward with 115th St Joint Agreement.
 - Glen Castore recommended that the Board take no action on signing the current drafts of the agreements. It was decided that the Township will speak with Peter Tiede prior to moving forward.
 - It was decided to set up a joint meeting with the City of Dundas asking the City of Dundas to bring a draft of what they would like to see the 115th St Agreement look like for review.
 - It was noted that an email would be sent to Jenelle Teppen to schedule a meeting.

Planning & Zoning-

- Mark Thompson property
 - Glen Castore stated that Cindy Nash provided to the Board a memorandum with recommendations how to resolve Mr. Thompsons situation. It was noted that the Board selected an option to pursue and Cindy put together a list of items that need to be completed.
 - It was discussed that things are moving forward for this to be resolved in hope by next year.
 - Glen Castore stated he will stay in touch with Mr. Thompson on the subject.
- Compliance List
 - The current Compliance List was reviewed and noted that the items on the list are being monitored and looks positive.

Old Business

- Industrial Park / CORE X Partners Project Update
 - Glen Castore stated that he, Andrew Ebling and Drew Greenberg had a meeting with Rebound Partners. It was discussed that Rebound Partners is interested in building out the rest of the Industrial Park once CORE X Partners has begun building their facility.
 - It was noted that CORE X has given Stantec the go ahead to spend money for the Civil Engineering. It was stated that this may not occur until next spring
 - Discussion was held to have someone work on clearing the area of the Industrial Park as it is overgrown with weeds. Glen Castore stated he will look in to it.
- Recycling
 - Larry Alderks stated that he had reached out to Rice County who made the suggestion that a Supervisor or Supervisors should attend the Township

Annual Meeting which could help with the County putting together funding for all Townships regarding recycling.

- Larry Alderks mentioned that he will reach out to Malcolm at Junk Truck to see if something of a smaller scale could occur in the meantime.
- Weed Control
 - Steve Albers stated that he encountered a resident that is opposed to noxious weed spraying. He noted that his property is full of wild parsnip. Steve mentioned that as he was working the area he received a message to stay off the property.
 - Steve Albers drafted a letter to hand to the resident regarding the cleaning of the noxious weeds on his property. Steve proposed trying to work out a plan first, if that does not work, deliver the letter/notice
 - The letter will be sent to the Clerk, the Chair will sign and the Township will send the letter.

New Business

- CORE X Escrow Agreement
 - This Agenda Item was tabled and will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Metronet Fiberoptic Agreement
 - This Agenda Item was tabled and will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Affordable Housing Project
 - This Agenda Item was tabled and will be addressed at the next meeting.
- MATIT – Association of Townships
 - Larry Alderks brought to the Board a list of questions regarding MATIT which were addressed.
- Industrial Park and Dump
 - Larry Alderks made the suggestion to hold an open meeting for residents to attend and ask questions regarding the Industrial Park, the Dump and other items.
 - Thomas Hart suggested to invite someone from CORE X to attend the meeting to answer questions.
 - It was suggested to have this be something at a regular meeting during the Public Comment time.
 - It was noted that this could be addressed and placed in the next Newsletter for residents to be aware a meeting will be held in the future to answer any questions.
- Incoming email requests for information (Kevin Coon email)
 - Larry Alders questioned how incoming emails from residents are addressed with a response that the Chair usually responds copying the Clerk who then can forward the response to the rest of the Board to view.
- John Klockeman / FFHC ministry to Tanzania
 - Larry Alderks recommended that this is more of a personal item that individuals can support and not the Township. The Board agreed.

Issues for future meetings

Adjourn