

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
September 11th, 2024 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Kathleen Doran-Norton, Stuart Shrimpton, Steve Wheeler, Tom Schmitz, Keith Cassen

Approval of Agenda

- It was noted that Tom Wood was unable to attend the meeting to discuss “Alternative to Gravel”.
- It was requested to add “Website Update”, “Intergovernmental Meeting Update” and “Timberlane Path” Under New Business as well as “Mowing Eaton” under Roads.
- Glen Castore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Kathleen Doran-Norton brought to the Board’s attention that Kenneth Praver passed away. She mentioned that he owned the property next to the trout stream and expressed her concerns to preserve the creek going forward. She stated she wanted to raise awareness of the situation as well as ask the Board to say apprised to opportunities to continue to preserve the stream.
- Tom Schmitz expressed his concern about the Township’s decision to create Comus Industrial Park. Glen Castore explained that the Industrial Park was formed in 2022 in which the County provided zoning of the area to become rural industrial in which the land owners accepted for their land. Andrew Ebling noted the purpose of creating the area is for financial longevity for the Township. It will be a change for more tax funds to reduce levy increases to the residents. It was noted that Tom will be included in sending upcoming notices regarding the Industrial Park and CORE X Partners.
- Keith Cassen expressed his concern regarding Ebel Way. The road was ground in 2023 and has not yet been resurfaced. It was noted that the Road Superintendent stated we are on the schedule to have it complete, but a date is not yet set. The Township will work to get the project complete before the end of the year.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- August 14th Meeting Minutes
 - It was noted the vote regarding the Williams Cartway payment was incorrect. Andrew Ebling voted to approve. The correction will be made to the Minutes.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the August 14th Meeting Minutes as corrected, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved as corrected.
- September Claims
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the September Claims, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba stated a new style of the Treasurer's report was created in hope that it is easier to understand.
 - It was noted that the Merchants Checking Account has now been closed with the remaining money transferred into the Frandsen Checking Account.
 - It was noted that \$50K was added to the Host Fee Holding CD with the balance now \$640K. The interest that was earned on the original \$590K CD was added to the Operating Checking.
 - It was noted that Checks #10558 & #10559 were voided.
 - Kathleen Kopseng inquired on the "Escrow" Checking. It was noted that \$15K of the amount is from CORE X Partners and another \$50K is from Ole Solar. It was noted that "Escrow" money is not income for the Township. It is used to cover fees to those applying for a potential Variance, CUP, etc. Any money that is not used to cover fees is returned to the applicant.
 - Larry Alderks questioned if the "Dedicated" accounts were all savings or if some of the money in CDs to take advantage of the interest rates at this time. Which the answer was, yes, the monies are in both savings and CDs at this time.
 - Glen Castore noted that he is working on creating a spreadsheet to provide at the October meeting that would show "projected funds" for the Township. This would be revenue as well as potential bonded money.
 - It was noted that the Dundas Annexation payment would arrive in October or November of this year. Debt Repayment occurs in December. It was noted that the Town Repair was paid for with ARPA money. The Asphalt budget has not been spent as most was budgeted for Ebel Way which has not been completed yet.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer stated the reporting has been completed and provided to the Chair.

Roads

- Tom Wood – Alternative to Gravel
 - Tom Wood was unable to attend the meeting. It was decided to invite him to attend the October meeting.
- Road Policy Draft
 - Larry Alderks provided a copy of a draft with certain updates to the Road Policy, noting Section 5 – Dust Control and Section 6 – Mailbox Placement being added to the policy.
 - Discussion was held and it was proposed to wait until after the meeting with Tom Wood and Jess Green to approve any updates to the policy.
 - The topic was tabled to the October Meeting.
- Fading Road Signs
 - Larry Alderks commented on the status of some of the Township's signs. Many are fading and in unreadable condition.
 - Andrew Ebling stated that the topic has been discussed in previous meetings and it was budgeted in 2024 to update the faded signs. It was determined that some of the Supervisors will take inventory of which need to be replaced and work on doing so.

Planning & Zoning-

- UUFN Church
 - Stuart Shrimpton explained to the Board the intent and why there is a need for a Variance, Preliminary and Final Plat and Conditional Use Permit for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northfield stating the Church is looking to build an addition and these items are needed in order to do so.
 - Variance
 - The Board reviewed the memorandum provided by the Zoning Administrator regarding a Variance for the UUFN. After review, Glen Castore made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08 Variance at 5785 Lonsdale Blvd E, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.
 - Preliminary and Final Plat
 - The Board reviewed the memorandum provided by the Zoning Administrator regarding a Preliminary and Final Plat for the UUFN. After review, Larry Alderks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09 Approving a Preliminary and Final Plat for a Development know as UUFN Addition, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
 - Conditional Use Permit
 - The Board reviewed the memorandum provided by the Zoning Administrator regarding the Conditional Use Permit for the UUFN. Larry Alderks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-10 Conditional Use Permit for a Religious Institution, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
- Feine Variance
 - The Board reviewed the memorandum provided by the Zoning Administrator regarding the Variance request for 5340 124th Ct E. The Variance is for a proposed accessory building which would be closer to the street than the residential structure. After review, Larry Alderks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07 Variance at 5340 124th Ct E, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Old Business

- Resolution regarding Cartway Maintenance
 - Glen Castore stated that the request was made at the previous month's meeting for the Township to make a one-time payment for the maintenance of the established cartway. It was noted that the Board agreed to the payment with the condition that an agreement was in place with the property owners going forward. The agreement was provided to the Township Attorney who reviewed it and then created the Resolution for the Township for the one-time payment.
 - After review, Glen Castore made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-06 for a one-time maintenance payment for the Williams Cartway, Kathleen Kopseng seconded. Andrew Ebling, Glen Castore, Kathleen Kopseng and Thomas Hart approved the motion, Larry Alderks opposed the motion. Motion passed.
- CORE X Partners Update
 - Glen Castore noted that there will be a special meeting held on Wednesday, September 18th at 3pm with Drew Greenberg for a CORE X Partners and Industrial Park update.

- It was noted that Larry Alderks will not be able to attend the meeting so he would submit any questions he has to the Clerk to provide at the meeting.
- The decision was made to record the meeting.
- An update was provided that the height variance, and CUP has a probable review at the Planning & Zoning meeting in October. The hope from CORE X Partners is to begin building in the Spring of 2025.
- It was noted that the \$15K Escrow monies has been paid by CORE X Partners, though a development agreement between CORE X Partners and Bridgewater Township has not yet been created.
- Andrew Ebling and Glen Castore met with Jess Green to discuss bonding for infrastructure. It was noted that Jess Green will attend the October meeting to provide an update on the Township bonding.
- It was stated that the PUC Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th which should be the final hearing and a decision regarding Xcel vs. Steele Waseca could be that day. It was noted that Andrew Ebling plans to attend the hearing.
- Recycle Day Update
 - Larry Alderks stated that he sent an email to Rice County requesting funds for a Recycle Day in Bridgewater Township. It was noted that there is no update as of yet. Jim Purfeerst may attend the next meeting regarding this topic.

New Business

- Timberlane Path
 - Larry Alderks stated he met with residents that live in the Timberlane development regarding a path that has been in place which is no longer allowed to be used by the property owner. It was determined that the Township does not have a role in the topic, that this would be something the residents of the development would need to figure out amongst themselves.
- Website Update
 - The Clerk provided an update stating she had a meeting with Sam Mastin regarding updating the Township Website. The Clerk stated that it was a positive meeting and provided information regarding cost and a timeline to the Board.
 - Larry Alderks expressed his concerns with the Company the Clerk met with and discussion was held.
 - It was recommended to look into other companies that provide website services and revisit the topic at the next meeting.
 - Steve Wheeler made the suggestion to look at waterfordtwpmn.org as they use a company named Catalis.
- Intergovernmental Meeting
 - It was noted that the meeting was well attended but there wasn't much for an update on anything specific.

Issues for future meetings

Adjourn

Chair

Clerk