

**Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors**  
**County of Rice, State of Minnesota**  
**October 9<sup>th</sup>, 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: Jess Green, Tom Wood, Jim Purfeerst, Galen Malecha, Tom Schmitz, Keith Casson, Che Regnier

**Approval of Agenda**

- It was requested to add “Road Policy Updates” under Roads and “Website Update” under Old Business.
- Glen Castore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- Tom Schmitz stated he was under the understanding that a representative would be in attendance at the meeting from CORE X. Glen Castore provided an update that there was a meeting held on September 18<sup>th</sup> with information provided that CORE X Partners height variance and cup applications are slated to be reviewed at the upcoming Planning & Zoning meeting to be held on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.
- Jim Purfeerst invited the Board to the Rice County Justice Center Open House that will be held on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 10am-5pm. Jim also explained to the Board the LOST Referendum that will be on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot.
- Keith Casson and Che Regnier, residents of Ebel Way, expressed their concern and was looking for an update as to when Ebel Way would be completed. Andrew Ebling provided an update that a water truck will be arriving in the upcoming days to water the street down for grading purposes. The road will then be graded and a 1<sup>st</sup> lift (2 inches) of asphalt will be put down by the end of October. The second lift will be completed in the Spring to allow the first lift to cure.

**Approval of Minutes & Claims**

- September 11<sup>th</sup> & September 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes
  - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- October Claims
  - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the October Claims, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer’s Report
  - Debbie Salaba provided the Treasurer’s report to the Board with the updated account balances. Small interest was earned on accounts.
- IRS Reporting
  - The Treasurer stated the reporting has been completed and provided to the Chair.

**Roads**

- Tom Wood – Alternative to Gravel

- Tom Wood provided a brief background of himself to the Board. He stated that he works for Astech Corporation out of St. Cloud, MN. He stated that he previously met with the Road Supervisor and some Supervisors regarding an alternative to gravel on roads in the Township. Tom described the process of this alternative with key notes that the surface could last upwards of 7+ years vs. every three years for new gravel as the Township does now. This alternative would eliminate grading and dust control on said roads it is applied to. He noted that Silver Creek Township has done this to some of their roads and would be a good location for a Supervisor and/or Road Superintendent to go and see this alternative.
- It was noted that the intent would be for the Township to pick certain gravel roads that this alternative would provide the greatest effect.
- Cost was discussed. It was approximated it would cost \$100K per mile.
- Faded Road Signs
  - A list of faded road signs was provided to the Board to review. Discussion was held and decided to contact Safety Sign to obtain how much it would cost to have signs made. Galen Malecha suggested the Township contact Rice County, as they have a sign maker. There could be a possibility the Township could purchase new signs to replace the faded ones from them. It was noted that the Clerk will reach out to both.
- Road Policy Updates
  - Larry Alderks reviewed the policy updates he made to the current Road Policy with the Board. After review, Larry Alderks made a motion to adopt said updates, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

## Old Business

- Bonding for Industrial Park Infrastructure - Jess Green
  - Jess Green provided financing options for the Industrial Park Infrastructure to the Board. She stated this type of financing would be a Certificate of Indebtedness with Frandsen Bank & Trust. She mentioned that the Township can work with the bank for flexibility of repayment. The bonding would be for the purchase of acreage, well/water, septic, road/rail siding and engineering in the Industrial Park.
  - The options were reviewed and discussion was held between the Supervisors and Jess Green. The Board made the decision to move forward with Scenario "C", which would be a 20-year term, and approved to begin discussions with Frandsen Bank regarding interest rates.
  - A question was asked about adding the Road Improvement costs to the Bonding, with the response that they must be separate. There is a different process that occurs to obtain bonding for Road Improvements.
  - It was suggested to hold a work session soon to put together a timeline of when proposed projects within the Township will begin and expect to be completed.
  - Jess Green discussed that the next steps will be to put together a finance plan for the Board to consider for the November meeting.
  - Jess Green requested year end statements for the previous 3 years which the Clerk will provide.
- PUC Appeal Resolution

- Andrew Ebling stated that he attended the PUC Hearing, the outcome of which was that the Township's request was denied. A resolution was requested stating that the Township does not wish to appeal the decision.
- Glen Castore made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-11 Appeal of the Public Utilities Commission Decision regarding CORE X Service Provider, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- It was requested that the Clerk send a signed copy of the resolution to Peter Tiede and Dave Sienko.
- Fireside Orchard Liquor License Request
  - Andrew Ebling discussed that he spoke with Darren Winfield, owner of Fireside Orchard, who is requesting to obtain a liquor license for the Orchard. He stated that he also spoke with Cindy Nash regarding the request to find out what steps need to be taken as the Board approved for her to proceed with doing so at a previous meeting.
  - Discussion was held and it was determined to have Cindy proceed with going through the proper steps to amend necessary ordinances so that Fireside Orchard may obtain a liquor license by next year's season.
  - Andrew Ebling stated that he would speak with Cindy Nash to inform her to proceed with this process.
- CORE X Partners Update
  - Glen Castore stated that there was no update since the meeting that was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he would be attending a meeting with Stantec on Friday 10/11 to discuss working on engineering for proposals on the septic, well, etc.
  - It was asked if the Development Agreement has been completed, with a response that it is being worked on at this time.
- Website Update
  - The Clerk provided an update that she had a meeting with the company Catalis, who creates and maintains websites. She noted that the functionality and look of the company's websites are quite nice, but the cost is significantly greater than the original company looked at the prior month. The decision was made to proceed with Sam Mastin in having him update and help maintain the Township's website.

## **New Business**

- Recommendation regarding Office Hours change
  - The Clerk submitted a proposal along with a small study of other Clerk positions within the surrounding area to the Board requesting a change to the current office hours. After discussion it was decided to make the change and if it does not seem to be working out the topic can be revisited at a later date.
  - The new hours will be posted on the website, in the next newsletter and on the office door.
- Funding for Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling or Composting Projects
  - Larry Alderks stated it was brought to his attention that there is funding available for waste reduction, reuse, recycling or composting projects. The project would need to be at least \$50K which Larry has discussed with Jim Purfeerst at Rice County to see if Bridgewater could work with other Townships to get to the amount required. Larry mentioned that he would continue to work with Jim to see what could be done.

- Galen Malecha mentioned that he is trying to get a work session scheduled regarding the Landfill and when something is in place Bridgewater Supervisors will be invited to attend.
- United for Alice.org
  - Larry Alderks provided informative statistics regarding ALICE and Poverty Households in Bridgewater Township as well as surrounding areas.
  - It was noted that ALICE stands for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed.

**Issues for future meetings**

- Andrew Ebling stated that Mike Groth has suggested purchasing a sprayer for the tractor to spray noxious weeds. The sprayer would then replace the gator that is currently being used. It was decided that Glen would speak with Mike regarding it.
- It was mentioned that the winter season is coming and if anyone had any ideas of another plow operator, it would be of help to the Township. It was mentioned that the Township may need to investigate hiring a full-time Road Superintendent in the future.
- It was requested to add the Compliant List onto the next Meeting Agenda. It was noted that the Jacobson property has been sold and there are new owners.

Adjourn

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| Chair |
| Clerk |