

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
February 12, 2025, 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Dennis Luebbe, Jim Purfeerst, Matt Stordahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Gill

Approval of Agenda

- It was requested to add “Newsletter” to Clerk’s Report and “Budget” to New Business
- Kathleen Kopseng made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Jim Gill questioned why there hasn’t been more information provided to the residents of the Township regarding the potential for an Affordable Housing Development that has been discussed in previous meetings. Glen Castore addressed Mr. Gill’s concern explaining that the reasoning there hasn’t been further information is that the potential for such a project is still in its infancy and there is not much further information to divulge at this time.
- Mr. Gill also questioned what the plan is for the holding pond located in the Township. It was noted that the dam will be taken down and the pond will be functioning again. The plan is to have it completed in the spring once weather allows.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- January 8th and February 5th Meeting Minutes
 - Kathleen Kopseng questioned if the Budget that was worked on at the February 5th Meeting needed to have a vote of approval. It was noted that a vote is not taken, the budget is created and agreed upon. The Clerk will reword the statement in the February 5th minutes.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the January 8th and February 5th Meeting Minutes, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- February Claims
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the February Claims, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer’s Report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the Treasurer’s report with the Board. It was noted that the Bond money amount on the report is \$1,180,000 and not \$1,162,000. The Bond amount on the report will change one money is transferred to cover the Stantec Invoices that were paid this month.
 - It was noted that the Landfill money has been deposited into the Operating Account in February.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer stated the reporting has been completed and provided the information to the Chair.

Clerk's Report

- Appoint Election Judges
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the 2025 Election Judges, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- Rice County Historical Society Donation Request
 - The Clerk provided a letter from the Rice County Historical Society requesting a donation of \$500 for 2025. It was noted that the Township donated this amount in 2024.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve donating \$500 to the Rice County Historical Society for 2025, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
- Newsletter
 - Glen Castore stated a newsletter should be sent out in the next week.
 - It was noted that the Clerk had sent out a draft to the Board for review.
 - It was decided that Glen Castore will create a paragraph regarding CORE X Partners and the Industrial Park and provide it to the Clerk to add and a Newsletter will be sent out in the next week.

Roads

- Dennis Luebbe – Decker Ave Study and Next Steps
 - Dennis Luebbe provided an update on the Decker Ave Study that was performed by the County. The study was intended to review potential alternatives for Decker Ave as it is a highly traveled gravel road currently. There is also intent that Rice County would take over jurisdictional ownership of the road. He reviewed the study with the Board.
 - It was noted that if this project were to occur in is in a long-term plan and not in the 10-year plan previously provided to the Board. The potential project currently is not funded.
 - Galen Malecha proposed to the Board they continue working together along with the City of Dundas on what the next steps would be to move forward with the project in which the Board agreed.
 - It was determined that a work session will be scheduled to continue discussions regarding Decker Ave.
 - Dennis Luebbe also provided brief updates on other road projects in Rice County. County Road 9 and I-35 interchange is in the 2nd phase. County Road 20 in in the 10-yr plan and will be completed in 3 segments. This project will begin in 2027 and slated to be fully completed in 2031.
 - County Road 8 from College City Beverage to Hwy 3 is in the 10-yr plan.
 - County Road 78 (Armstrong Rd) is slotted to be worked on in 2028.
 - There was an inquiry on 115th Street. It was noted that there has been no progress made with the City of Dundas regarding the road at this time.
- Road Condition Survey -Stantec Agreement
 - Matt Stordahl of Stantec explained the proposal of the Agreement to perform a survey of the condition of Bridgewater Township paved roads.
 - Glen Castore stated that the agreement is limited to \$3.2K and the assessment is a requirement in order to bond for the work to be done.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the Master Services Agreement from Stantec to perform an Existing Road Evaluation of the Township's paved roads, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

- Resolution 2025-01 Dedicating 140th St. to Public Use
 - Glen Castore noted that a resolution dedicating 140th St to Public Use is a requirement of the DNR due to the bike path at the rail road tracks.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01 Dedicating 140th St. to Public Use, Kathleen Kopseng seconded, all approved.
- Telemark Road
 - Andrew Ebling stated that he has an inquiry from a concerned resident that lives on Telemark Rd of its condition. It was noted that Andrew Ebling will reach back out to the resident to let him know the Township is performing a survey on all paved roads and will have a better update once that is completed.
- Cover for Salt/Sand Piles
 - Mike Groth noted that the sand and salt piles have been taking on a lot of moisture this season and they have become rock hard. They need a cover to protect them from the elements.
 - Mike Groth stated that he has been in contact with 3 companies to obtain quotes for a type of hoop roof.
 - There was discussion regarding what the Township is willing to spend on a cover with a decision of up to \$15K. Glen Castore made a motion to approve a purchase of a hoop roof cover for the salt/sand piles that does not exceed \$15K, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

Old Business

- CORE X Partners Update
 - An update was given to the Board earlier that CORE X Partners is no longer proceeding with purchasing land and building a cold storage facility in the Comus Industrial Park.
 - Glen Castore was provided an update from Drew Greenberg that he is unlikely to stay with CORE X Partners and feels Comus Industrial Park is a good site and will help in looking for other companies that would potentially like to move into the site.
 - It was noted that an update regarding this will go in the February Newsletter
 - It was stated that the Township is better prepared for when another company takes interest in the area.
- 140th St. Easement
 - It was stated that the letter regarding the easement was sent to the property owners along 140th St. Two have been returned so far.

New Business

- Fee Schedule Public Hearing
 - The Public Hearing was opened at 5:24pm and closed at 5:25pm.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-01 Fee Schedule. Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.
- Motion to Recommend Resolution for Levy
 - It was discussed that there is a need to increase the levy for 2026. There has been a substantial increase in the NAFRS fees.
 - It was proposed to increase the levy by 12%. Larry Alderks made a motion to recommend a Resolution for a Levy increase at the Annual Meeting of 12%.

Thomas Hart seconded. Larry Alderks and Thomas Hart approved. Glen Castore, Andrew Ebling and Kathleen Kopseng opposed. Motion denied.

- It was proposed to increase the levy by 10%. Glen Castore made a motion to recommend a Resolution for a Levy Increase at the Annual Meeting of 10%. Larry Alderks seconded, all approved. It was approved to increase the levy by 10%.
- Agenda for Annual Meeting
 - The Board reviewed the 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda with some changes for 2025 at the Work Session held at 3pm on February 12th, 2025.
 - It was noted that the Chair will update the 2025 Agenda and send it to the Clerk.
- Budget
 - It was discussed to add future projects into the Township's Budget.

Issues for future meetings

Adjourn

Chair
Clerk