

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

**August 28, 2007 – 7 PM**

Bridgewater Town Hall  
500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019

1. Introductory Chair Gary Ebling called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Elected officials present were Kathleen Doran-Norton, Supervisor and Vice Chair; Gary Ebling, Supervisor and Chair; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer; Leif Knecht, Supervisor; and Mike Piper, Clerk. Carolyn Braun, planning and zoning consultant, and Jim Braun, zoning administrator, were also present. Ebling invited all present to rise and pledge allegiance to the flag.
2. Approval of Agenda MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, and passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented in these Minutes. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)
3. Resolution re: Bonding for Eaton Ave. et al. Road Improvement Project  
John Ophaug, township attorney, reported that the project was finished approximately \$11,000 under cost and that that money should go into the general fund due to the fact that the assessments were set.

Ophaug also reported that the bond closing is scheduled for September 5, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the First National Bank of Northfield. Ophaug, Ebling, Finger and Piper will represent the township at the closing.

MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Ebling, and passed unanimously, the board decided to pay the vendor, Valley Paving in full on September 5, 2007 after the funds from the bond have been deposited in the town's checking account. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)

Ophaug reported that the bond payments will start on February 1, 2008 and then every February and August until February 1, 2018.

MOTION by Knecht, second by Doran-Norton, and passed unanimously, the board approved **Resolution No. 2007-07** Accepting the offer of The First National Bank of Northfield to purchase a \$137,311.20 General Obligation Improvement Bond of 2007 and Providing for its issuance. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)

4. Treasurer's Report for July 2007 MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Ebling, and passed unanimously; to approved the Treasurer's report for July 2007. (Vote: Doran-

Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)

5. Update on Land-fill Issue Jim Braun, zoning administrator, reported that progress has stopped on construction of the new building. Braun also reported that the county is considering adding the capability to recycle yard waste.
6. Building permit issue Jim Braun reported that he is following up with the county on building permit fees that were collected by the county instead of by the township. A report on this matter will be given in the September 2007 town board meeting.
7. Cluster development in urban reserve districts Currently Rice County prohibits cluster development in urban reserve districts. The sense of the Bridgewater town board that clusters consisting of over 10 houses should be permitted in urban reserve districts.
8. Update on trail work session Doran-Norton reported on the work session that was held at her home on August 21, 2007. Doran-Norton said that there is an informal trail in the Bittersweet/Timberland area and that some residents in the area would like to see the trail made permanent. Knecht observed that the trail should have a permanent easement. Doran-Norton said that, if successful, this effort could be a useful model for other areas in the township.
9. Update on township insurance Knecht reported that the building audit this summer recommended that the building at 500 Railway Street South is currently insured for \$220,000 and that the coverage should be increased to \$350,000. MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Ebling, and passed unanimously; to approve the suggested increase. The clerk will forward that information to the Minnesota Association of Townships Agency.
10. Building inspector issue Benny Siven reported that he is a registered building official and that he will communicate that information to the county. A confirmation is expected at the September 2007 town board meeting.
11. Potential cost of litigation The sliding scale of insurance coverage for litigation was covered. The timing of the zoning activity and the development of any development activity was discussed. The protocol followed by the township was zoning first. The supervisors affirmed their commitment to obeying the requirements of the open meeting law.
12. David Salene Doran-Norton recommended that Mr. Salene be asked for his files on the town road policy and the Northfield annexation tracking.
13. Cable in Dundas It was reported that fiber cable is being installed in Dundas.
14. Update on Minnesota Highway 19 The anticipated improvement to this highway are access controls and some safety improvements such as turn lanes and road widening. It is not expected that MN19 will be made into a 4-lane highway from I-35 to MN 3.

The work that will be done will be on a fast-track, MN DOT expecting completion in six months.

5. Adjournment MOTION by Knecht, second by Doran-Norton, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)

Submitted by

C. Michael Piper  
Clerk, Bridgewater Township

Accepted by

Gary Ebling  
Supervisor and Chair, Bridgewater  
Township Board of Supervisors

Financial component approved by

Le Ann Finger  
Treasurer, Bridgewater Township

**Reference:** Town Officers: Cheri Albers, Deputy Clerk and Treasurer; Kathleen Doran-Norton, Supervisor and Town Board Vice Chair; Gary Ebling, Supervisor and Town Chair; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer and Webmaster; Leif Knecht, Supervisor; and Mike Piper, Clerk.