

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

**January 3, 2005 – 7:00 PM**

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

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Purpose of Meeting:

- Review issue, project, task, action item, and financial status of Bridgewater Township for the month of December, 2004; and plan for the month of January, 2005.
- Review correspondence and claims received since the last Board Meeting; those claims that are allowed will be paid.
- During the meeting, the Board of Supervisors welcomes comments by residents at appropriate times.

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**A Call to Order, Roll-call of Town Officers, and Introduction of Guests** Ebling  
Town Chair Gary Ebling called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. All Town Officers were present; they are listed in the Reference at the end of these Minutes.

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**B Flag Pledge** Ebling  
Ebling invited all present to stand and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

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**C Approval of Agenda** Ebling  
The Agenda was approved as submitted. Motion by Liebenstein, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously.

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**D Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2004 Town Board Meetings** Piper  
The Minutes from the December 3, 2004 were approved as submitted with the correction of the spelling of Mr. Kleese's first name (Greg). Ebling invited all present to stand and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Motion by Liebenstein, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously.

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**E Approval of Treasurer's Report** Finger  
The Treasurer reported that the Township checking account balance as of December 31, 2004 was \$47,460.69. The report was accepted by the Town Board. Motion by Liebenstein, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously.

The Board decided to not redefine the accounting categorization and sub-categorization in the Treasurer's report.

The Board did not schedule quarterly reviews for 2005. This item is an agenda item for the February, 2005 of the Bridgewater Town Board.

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The Board authorized the Treasurer to purchase a new laptop computer, provided the cost does not exceed \$1,500.00. Motion by Knecht, second by Ebling, motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer reported that 3 cell phones were purchased by the Township for Dennis Brown, David Swartwoudt, and Mike Brown.

Definition of 2005 Budget and Annual Audit

In response to the Treasurer's question as to when the 2005 Budget for the Township will be defined, the Board decided that the Budget will be defined by the Town Board during the February meeting of the Town Board and the Annual Audit will be performed 1 hour before that meeting. These items are Agenda Items for the February Meeting of the Town Board and the posting of the Audit is an assigned task for the Clerk.

Annual Town Elections

Although not specifically a part of the Treasurer's Report, it was noted that the Annual Town Elections will be held on March 8, 2004 and that filings for 1 Supervisor position and for Treasurer will close on January 11, 2004. It is an assigned task for the Clerk to publish and post a notice of the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting, and to arrange for Election Judges.

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<b>F</b>	<b>Review of Claims/Deposits Received</b>	Piper
	Claims received since the December, 2004 meeting of the Town Board were reviewed. Those allowed were paid. Deposits received since the December, 2004 meeting of the Town Board were noted. These claims and deposits are listed in the Official Town File, 2004 in the December, 2004 Treasurer's Report.	

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<b>G</b>	<b>Review of Correspondence Received and Generated</b>	Piper
	Resolution 2004-44 Joint Resolution of Bridgewater Township and the City of Dundas Approving Annexation of Land by College City Homes, Inc.	
	Letter from Municipal Boundary Adjustments, December 22, 2004:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ OA-1086-1 Dundas/Bridgewater Township (Joint Resolution No. 2004-35; Paulson/Rock Properties: 86.80 acres)</li><li>▪ OA-1086-2 Dundas/Bridgewater Township (Joint Resolution No. 2004-44; College City Homes, Ind. Property; 42 acres)</li></ul>	
	Letter from the City of Dundas, December 28, 2004:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Joint Resolution 2004-51 re Harold and Norma Paulson land</li><li>▪ Joint Resolution 2004-52 re DeMann land</li><li>▪ Joint Resolution 2004-53 re moratorium on annexation</li><li>▪ Joint Resolution 2004-49 re meeting date of Dundas Planning Commission</li></ul>	

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These items are on file in the Town files under Annexation, Dundas, 2004.

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<b>H</b>	<b>Old Business/Action Items</b>	Supervisors
H.1	<p>Grader Purchase and Sale: Final Status</p> <p>Mr. Dennis Brown reported that the new grader had been received and paid.</p> <p>In recognition of Myron Malecha's lead for the sale of the former grader, the Town Board decided to award a \$50.00 gift certificate.</p>	Brown
H.2	<p>Road Issues</p> <p>The Board discussed alternate methods of grading, the use of gravel and rock, and the use of a dust guard spray-on. Ebling will pursue these issues. It is possible that a Special Meeting will be held relative to these subjects.</p>	Ebling
H.3	<p>Dundas Planning Commission Update</p> <p>No report was given on the activities of the Dundas Planning Commission.</p>	Liebenstein

<b>I</b>	<b>New Business</b>	Supervisors
I.1	<p>Rice County Transportation Planning Process</p> <p>It was noted that an Open House Meeting on January 19, 2005 at the Bridgewater Town Hall at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM with consultant that is assisting the Rice County Highway Department in the preparation of a Rice County Highway Plan. Ebling noted that he will visit Northfield Township on January 11, 2005 (7:30 PM) to review the process by which the Rice County Highway Transportation is being prepared and will be approved. A report from that meeting is an <u>Agenda item for the February meeting of the Town Board</u>. Ebling encouraged Dundas Mayor-elect Switzer to attend the January 11, 2005 meeting.</p> <p>Ebling expressed concerns that the Plan in its present form does not provide enough money for needed road projects in northern Rice County.</p> <p>Knecht observed that coalition planning should be done by townships and cities towards the objective of seeking a consensus with the Rice County Board of Commissioners.</p> <p>Ebling gave a report on the Dundas/Bridgewater Bolten-Menk Meeting December 10, 2004. That report is attached to these minutes.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Dakota County Transportation Plan be consulted for ideas.</p>	Ebling
I.2	<p>Status of Bridgewater/Dundas Joint Resolutions regarding Annexation: The Resolutions listed below are on file in the Town Files under Annexation, Dundas, 2004:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resolution 2004-51 A Joint Resolution of Bridgewater Township &amp; the City of Dundas Approving Annexation of Land by Harold &amp; Norma Paulson</li> </ul>	Ebling

- Resolution 2004-52 A Joint Resolution of Bridgewater Township & the City of Dundas Approving Annexation of Land by the DeMann family
- Resolution 2004-53 Approving Moratorium on Annexation for Residential Purposes
- Resolution 2004-49 Setting the Meeting Date of the Dundas Planning Commission
- Resolution 2004-53 Resolution Approving Moratorium on Annexation for Residential Purposes

I.3 Glen Switzer, Mayor Elect, City of Dundas Ebling

Mr. Switzer spoke to the Town Board. He thanked the Town Board for the invitation; in response, the Town Board congratulated him on his election.

Switzer said that he will emphasize positive communication. He said that he will encourage the city staff to work together, although he will not micromanage. He said that he is considering a survey to involve expectations of the citizens of Dundas in city planning and management. Switzer plans active communication with surrounding municipalities and Townships.

As a part of retaining the rural character of Dundas, Switzer wants to connect city neighborhoods with trails. Notwithstanding, he recognizes that 40 miles from a large city is “not that far.” Rail lines, such as the Dan Patch line, could open commuting possibilities. In 40 to 100 years, Dundas and Northfield could be in the center of a greater metropolitan area. The growth that happens here should be “smart growth,” protecting our wild and scenic river and the wild life that live here. Smart growth is also balanced growth. As to businesses, Switzer would like to see a significant amount of small businesses in town, keeping local dollars in Dundas.

I.4 Planning and Zoning Ebling

It was noted that the recent zoning activities re the Interstate 35/County 46 (bounded by Minnesota 19 and County 1) will make it difficult to resolve the Rice County Urban Reserve District and the Transfer of Development Rights issues. The role of Bridgewater Township relative to these issues is yet to be defined.

I.5 St. Olaf CUP for Wind Turbine Ebling

As to this issue, Ebling noted that he will speak with the City of Northfield re dedication of road right-of-way for future connection to the hospital and realignment of Dakota County 23.

I.6 Town Election Piper

- Filing for Public Office: December 28, 2004 at 8:00 AM until January 11, 2004 at 5:00 PM. Interested parties contact the Clerk, Mike Piper at 507-645-9295
- Present filings are Gary Ebling for Supervisor and Le Ann Finger for Treasurer.

I.7 Town Hall Rental Policy Ebling  
The Township will consider giving the Rice County Gas and Steam Organization the use of a key to the Town Hall if that organization procures sufficient insurance to cover potential damages. The Clerk expressed concerns regarding this issue: much that is on file in the Town Hall is vital government data and would not be replaceable at any cost. The Supervisors agreed to continue considering the matter.

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**J Future Meetings** Clerk

- J.1 Filings for Township elections close at the Office of the Clerk on January 11, 2004 at 5:00 PM.
  - J.2 Ebling noted that he will visit Northfield Township on January 11, 2005 (7:30 PM) to review the process by which the Rice County Highway Transportation is being prepared and will be approved.
  - J.3 Rice County EMS Provider Council on January 12, 2004 at 7:00 PM  
The Clerk will attend this meeting.
  - J.4 Rice County Transportation Plan Open House at Bridgewater Town Hall on January 19, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM (Hall to be opened at 5:00 PM for set-up)
  - J.5 February Meeting of the Town Board at the Bridgewater Town Hall
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**K Motion to Adjourn** Supervisors

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**Reference:**

Town Officers: Supervisor and Town Board Chair Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger, Supervisor Leif Knecht, Supervisor Paul Liebenstein, and Clerk Mike Piper.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:  
Gary Ebling

C. Michael Piper  
Town Clerk

Supervisor, Town Board Chair