

MINUTES

AUGUST, 2005 BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

August 1, 2005 – 7:00 PM

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

Purpose of Meeting:

- Review Minutes, finances, and the status of issues, projects, tasks, and action items for Bridgewater Township for the month of July, 2005; and plan for the month of August 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.

A Call to Order, Roll-call of Town Officers, and Introduction of Guests Liebenstein
The August Meeting of the Bridgewater Town Board was called to order by Chair Paul Liebenstein at 7:00 PM. The following officers were present: Chair Paul Liebenstein, Supervisors Leif Knecht, Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger and Clerk Mike Piper.

B Flag Pledge Liebenstein
Liebenstein invited all present to rise and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

C Approval of Agenda Knecht
The Agenda was approved as submitted. Motion by Ebling, Second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously (Ebling aye, Knecht aye).

D Approval of Minutes from July 2005 Town Board Meeting Piper

E Approval of Treasurer's Report Finger
The Treasurer's Report for June 2005 and July 2005 were approved.

F Review of Claims Received (Clerk's Record of Expenses) Piper
The Supervisors allowed those claims. Ebling, Second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously (Ebling aye, Knecht aye).

G Review of Correspondence Received, Generated, and Of Interest Piper
Correspondence received by the Clerk since the July 2005 meeting of the Town Board was reviewed.

H Old Business/Action Items Supervisors

H.1 Knecht said that he would write to the City of Northfield regarding the potential annexation of the Enfield property on the northeast corner of Minnesota 3 and Rice County 1. Liebenstein

Agenda Item for the September meeting of the Town Board: check on the status of the potential annexation of the Enfield property by the City of Northfield.

H.2 Two meetings will be held on August 18, 2005 regarding four potential road improvement projects in the Township. These potential projects are for the

following:

- DeTelemark Road
- Edgebrook Drive
- The Farrels
- 124th Court East and Edwards Way.

A public hearing for each project will be held starting at 7:00 PM; at approximately 8:00 PM the Town Board will meet to order the assessments. That action will start a 30 day period during which objections to the project may be filed. If no objections are filed, construction activities on the four projects will begin on October 18, 2005.

- H.3 Ebling reported on the Countywide Economic Development Initiative Committee (number 3). Ebling said that the Committee needs to develop a realistic plan. Ebling also noted that while Faribault has more jobs than Northfield, Northfield has more high-paying jobs than Faribault. Ebling reported that he attended a meeting of the Committee on July 28, 2005.

Kathleen Doran-Norton referenced a firm (Humlty and Horner ?) that specializes in county-wide economic development.

- H.4 Knecht reported on the Master Plan Development Committee for Implementation of Zoning Change (number 1) for the area south of Big Steer along I35. Knecht said that he favors the creation of a special taxation district to help townships maintain their roads due to the increased traffic that this development will bring to the township roads.

Bruce Morlan speculated that if a railroad spur is run out to the freeway, Dundas will lose an important economic feature to attract industrial business.

- H.5 No reports were given for the following:
- Township Fire Protection
 - Township Insurance
 - Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA)

- H.6 The Clerk was asked to contact David Salene re his progress on creating a spreadsheet to track annexation payments to-date and expected from the City of Northfield and the City of Dundas.
- Agenda Item for the September meeting of the Town Board: the Clerk will report on his contact with Salene.

I New Business

Supervisors

- I.1 Chief Tami Larsen of the Dundas Police Chief asked the Board if the Dundas Police Department could use the Town Hall during September for Dundas Police training sessions and for other law enforcement meetings that would involve Dundas and police departments from other jurisdictions. Knecht moved to authorize such a use of the Town Hall, second by Ebling. Motion passed unanimously; Ebling aye, Knecht, aye, Liebenstein aye.
- I.2 Dennis Luebbe offered to assist Bridgewater Township in the development of a Township Road Policy. Ebling said that he would meet with Luebbe and David Salene on this matter.
- Agenda Item for the September meeting of the Town Board: check on the progress of the Township Road Policy

The Town Board will host an intergovernmental meeting at the Town Hall on August 23, 2005 at 7:00 PM to discuss economic development and I35 zoning. Representative of Rice County, the City of Dundas, the City of Northfield, Northfield Township, and Bridgewater Township will be invited. The Clerk will prepare and distribute letters to the invited attendees. Opportunities for public input will be limited.

Agenda Item for the September meeting of the Town Board: the Board will report on this meeting.

K Motion to Adjourn

Supervisors

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. Motion by Ebling. Second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously (Ebling aye, Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye).

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

Respectfully submitted,

C. Michael Piper
Town Clerk

APPENDIX

Comments by Kathleen Doran-Norton

The comments I had made related to locating the I-35 commercial strip's water treatment plant next to Heath Creek.

The location of a water treatment plant is a key part of the plan - to site it on the property of a farmer who intends to continue farming for the next 20-30 years doesn't allow a clear path forward for the project.

The #9 ditch to Union Lake is the principle source of e-coli and other pollution to that lake, according to residents who volunteer as water quality inspectors. Placing a water treatment plant so that it cleans the water coming from Webster and Little Chicago and Lonsdale before it enters Union Lake, and allows lake residents to connect to as their septic systems fail would significantly improve the water quality. Siting a water treatment plant at the north end of Union Lake would also allow the Big Steer and Gramp's Corners to connect to the treatment plant. It seems to be common knowledge their septic systems have failed. Residents around Union Lake say there is a lot of clay in the soil there, and septic systems don't work well - even the mound systems.

A postscript: After the township meeting I went to the county planning meeting where an environmental planner hired by a Union Lake resident presented information. The hydro-geology of the area is such that only 40% coverage of impermeable surfaces should be considered - not the 80% in the plan. There is a blue heron rookery at the north end of Union Lake, and there are threatened plant species throughout the area. Covering 80% of the area with concrete or rooftops will affect both of these.