

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2005 BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

**November 7, 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 October 2005; and plan for the month of November 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** Liebenstein  
The November Meeting of the Bridgewater Town Board was called to order by Chair Paul Liebenstein at 7:00 PM. All Township officers were present: Chair Paul Liebenstein, Supervisors Leif Knecht, Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger and Clerk Mike Piper.

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**B Flag Pledge** Liebenstein  
Liebenstein invited all present to rise for the flag pledge.

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

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**D Approval of Minutes from October 2005 Town Board Meeting** Piper  
The Minutes from the September 2005 meeting of the town board were approved as presented. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously; Ebling aye, Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.

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**E Approval of Treasurer's Report** Finger  
The Treasurer's Report for October 2005 was approved as submitted. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously; Ebling aye, Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.

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**F Review of Claims Received** Piper  
The claims received since the October 2005 meeting were reviewed. Supervisors allowed those claims to be paid.

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**G Review of Correspondence Received and Generated** Piper  
Correspondence received by the Clerk since the October 2005 meeting of the Town Board was reviewed.

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**H Old Business/Action Items** Supervisors

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H.1 **Report on 115<sup>th</sup> Street**  
The Supervisors agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding should be created with the City of Dundas regarding 115<sup>th</sup> Street. The Supervisors made the following observations that represent the opinions of the Township:

- There should be no residential traffic to or from Bridgewater Heights until the road is paved.
- 115<sup>th</sup> Street should be paved from Minnesota Highway 3 to Minnesota Highway 246.
- It appears that the developer of Bridgewater Heights has taken material from the roadbed that hasn't been paid for.
- The Annexation Agreement with the City of Dundas was not specific enough in this matter.

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**I New Business**

Supervisors

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**I.1 Open Meeting Law**

- Court papers from Goodhue County: portions of Court File No. 25-CX-05-181
- Request for Legislative assistance
- Response to opportunity from State Auditor

The Supervisors noted that the court papers will be filed in the Townhall file. The Supervisors will consider approaching the Township's state legislators and the State Auditor concerning potential relief from a strict interpretation of the open meeting law.

**Reports from Rice County Economic Development Committees No. 1 & 3:**  
 Committee 1: Master Development Committee for Implementation of Zoning Change (Knecht)

- Knecht reported that this committee will meet at the Forest Town Hall on Nov. 9 and Nov. 16.
- I-35 Zoning Status

Committee 3: Countywide Economic Development Initiative (Ebling)

- Ebling reported on a Developer/Broker Meeting that was held since the last Townboard meeting.

**Should we transfer responsibilities of the Board of Appeal and Equalization to Rice County?**

The Supervisors agreed that Bridgewater Township will not transfer responsibilities of the Board of Appeal and Equalization to Rice County. Knecht observed that such a move could be seen as a loss of local control.

**Minnesota Farm and Food Coalition Report**

Ebling presented a report from the Minnesota Farm and Food Coalition. No action was taken regarding the report.

**Appointment of Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer**

The Supervisors appointed Cheri Albers as the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously. Ebling aye, Knecht aye, Leibenstein aye. The Clerk will administer the oath of office to Albers within 10 days.

**Review of Township Election Schedule & Public Notice**

The election schedule for March 2006 was reviewed along with the notice to be posted in the *Northfield News*, at the Dundas Post Office and on the Town Hall notice board.

**Annexation agreement with Northfield**

The Supervisors will schedule a work session to be held later this month to discuss possible recommended changes to the annexation agreement with the City of Northfield.

**Rice County Transportation Open House**

The Clerk reported that an Open House on the Rice County Transportation Plan will be held at the Town Hall on Dec. 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Railroad Matters**

Mr. Jones has suggested to Commissioner Brown that an addendum to the Rice County Transportation Study concerning new rail-served industrial parks be considered. His presentation has been entered into the Township file.

**Northfield/Bridgewater Annexation Agreement**

Knecht presented a paper "Ideas for Improvements to the Northfield/Bridgewater Annexation Agreement." The paper is on file in the Township file.

**J Future Meetings**

December 5 – Bridgewater Town Board at Bridgewater Town Hall at 7 p.m.

**Town Elections, March 14, 2006**

Piper reviewed the schedule of dates leading up to the March 2006 Election

- 12/23/05 – last day to post notice of filing
- 01/03/06 – candidate filing opens at 8 a.m. for township elections (one supervisor and the clerk)
- 01/17/06 – candidate filing closes at 5 p.m.
- 01/19/06 – candidate withdrawal period closes
- 01/20/06 – last day to notify county auditor of township election
- 02/17/06 – last day to appoint election judges
- 03/03/06 – last day to publish or post notice of township election
- 03/10/06 – last day to post sample ballot for township election
- 03/11/06 – Clerk available at Town Hall from 10 a.m. to noon for absentee voting
- 03/14/06 – annual township election

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**K Motion to Adjourn**

Supervisors

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m. Motion by Ebling. Second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously (Ebling aye, Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye).

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**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