

MINUTES

DECEMBER 2005 BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

**December 5, 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 November 2005; and plan for the month of December 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.
- County of Rice, State of Minnesota*
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| <b>A</b> | <b>Call to Order, Roll-call of Town Officers, and Introduction of Guests</b><br>Supervisor and Town Board Chair Paul Liebenstein called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All elected Town Officers were present.   | Liebenstein |
| <b>B</b> | <b>Flag Pledge</b><br>Liebenstein invited all present to stand for the flag pledge.  | Liebenstein |
| <b>C</b> | <b>Approval of Agenda</b><br>The Agenda was approved as amended. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously: Ebling, aye; Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.  | Liebenstein |
| <b>D</b> | <b>Approval of Minutes from November 2005 Town Board Meeting</b><br>The Minutes were approved as amended. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously: Ebling, aye; Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye. | Piper       |
| <b>E</b> | <b>Approval of Treasurer's Report</b><br>The Treasurer's Report for November was approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously: Ebling, aye; Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.                                       | Finger      |
| <b>F</b> | <b>Review of Claims Received</b><br>The claims received since the November 2005 meeting were reviewed. Supervisors allowed those claims to be paid.  | Piper       |
| <b>G</b> | <b>Review of Correspondence Received and Generated</b><br>Correspondence received by the Clerk since the November 2005 meeting of the Town Board was reviewed  | Piper       |
| <b>H</b> | <b>Old Business/Action Items</b>   | Supervisors |
| H.1      | Piper reported that Cheri Albers, duly appointed as Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer; took Oath of Office.  | Piper       |
| H.2      | <b>Report: 2005 Road Improvement Projects</b>  | Knecht      |
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Knecht reported that all four 2005 road improvement projects were not completed although the weather was favorable. Work on the Farrells was not begun.

Residents on 124<sup>th</sup> Court East and Edwards Way expressed some concern re: the depth of asphalt in the center of the road and in the lack of a level shoulder and the interfaces from the road into resident driveways. Knecht reported that he visited the site and found asphalt under the stone showing in the areas under consideration. Knecht said that the cause of the stone showing was probably contamination in the first load of asphalt. Knecht said that core samples should be taken in the spring to verify the integrity of the construction. Knecht said that he could take the core samples. In those areas where stone is showing, Knecht said that the stone should be blasted out.

A resident of Edgebrook Drive observed the lack of response from the engineering firm, the poor preparation work, poor seaming in the middle of the road, and the paving of a “turn around” by a resident’s property.

Knecht indicated disappointment with the performance of the engineering firm and the construction company. Knecht said that he believes that the Township should not pay the construction company until the work is complete.

Going forward, Knecht said that the Township needs Road Construction and Maintenance policies.

**H.3 Road Assessment Payoff Procedure**

Piper

Piper reported he was contacted by Premier Title in Faribault concerning the status of the special assessment (for road improvements) for 5112 Ebel Way. The Board determined that the assessment was paid in full in 2004 and the principle and interest paid in 2005 should be returned to the Title Company. The Clerk will affirm in writing to the County Auditor that the assessment was paid. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously: Ebling, aye; Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.

**H.4 Report: 115<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dundas Mayor Switzer attended the meeting and reported that the work on 115<sup>th</sup> Street, which has cut the road in two, will be completed by December 13, 2005. Mr. O’Neill from Geiger and Mr. Tom McMahon Dundas City Engineer did not attend the meeting.

Residents reported that they were contacted by Geiger Land Development, Inc. in August, 2005 saying that work on 115<sup>th</sup> Street was scheduled to begin on August 29, 2005 and would be completed in 1 ½ to 2 months. The residents reported that the work did not begin until September and is still not complete. Residents expressed concern re the interface between the lowered portion of 115<sup>th</sup> Street (estimated by Geiger to be approximately 2000 feet) and their driveways.

A resident questioned whether a public hearing was held before the construction work was started. In response to the Supervisors affirmation that such a meeting was not held, the resident questioned whether due process was observed.

Concern was expressed by the Supervisors that compactable dirt be used on the base of the reconstructed road.

Further, the Supervisors expressed concern over the present owner of 115<sup>th</sup> Street

and whether the Annexation Agreement between Bridgewater Township and the City of Dundas is either clear about the matter or gives guidance as to how the issue might be resolved.

Knecht observed that the Township lacks experience in managing this type of project.

- H.5 Piper attended the Rice County Auditor's meeting on Election Issues held on November 28, 2005. Piper
- H.6 No Supervisors attended the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Training at the Rice County Government Center on November 29, 2005.
- H.7 Piper did not attend the meeting with the Minnesota Secretary of State on HAVA and Voter Registration, November 30, 2005. Piper
- H.8 **Report: Bridgewater Board of Supervisors, Work Session on Annexation and Road Issues, November 30, 2005.**

The following Notes concerning road issues were assembled by the Clerk during the November 30, 2005 meeting:

1. What is the process to determine road ownership (particularly, at the present, 115<sup>th</sup> Street? The Annexation Agreement on page 5, line 27 uses the expressions "adjacent to;" on page 8m line 30, "affected by."
2. The funds received from the City of Dundas from the annexation actions apply to all township roads impacted, directly or indirectly, by annexation.
  - a. The Township should peruse traffic counts and engineering studies to determine the extent of the impacts. Such activities should be performed at two times: when school is in and when school is out. The Supervisors felt that the Township would purchase, rather than rent, the required equipment.
  - b. Related questions are who does the work and how? And who pays for it?
  - c. The Supervisors agreed that a Road Policy Statement should be prepared defining road specifications and identifying the standard for determining what is a directly impacted road and what, while not directly adjacent to an annexed area is an affected road. The Supervisors felt that the standards developed by Rice County would be helpful in developing the Policy Statement.
  - d. The following table of contents was suggested for the Policy Statement for Road Improvements:
    - i. Cause
    - ii. Specification for improvement
    - iii. Ownership
    - iv. Funding source
    - v. Responsible jurisdiction.
3. David Salene, Township consultant, recommended the creation of a Subdivision Ordinance as the first step towards a Road Policy Statement. Sample Subdivision Ordinances from Olmsted County and the City of Prior Lake are on file.
4. A resident living in the 115<sup>th</sup> Street area asked whether the Township has a responsibility to provide safe access to residents. The concern comes from work done on 115<sup>th</sup> Street that limits some residents to using the

hilly east portion of that road which in winter can be quite icy. The Supervisors agreed that plowing and sanding that portion of 115<sup>th</sup> Street is a priority. Dennis Brown, Township road supervisor, indicated that that has been his priority. The resident also indicated that storm water is an issue on that section of the road.

- a. Knecht observed that incomplete and inadequate planning was done for the work on 115<sup>th</sup> Street, and there was a failure to follow through.

The following Notes concerning annexation issues were assembled by the Clerk during the November 30, 2005 meeting:

1. The city of Northfield has expressed an interest in revising the Annexation Agreement with Bridgewater Township.
2. Note: The Town File for the Northfield Annexation Agreement is presently in the possession of David Salene who is researching the status of annexation payments. Salene indicated that he would review his findings at the January, 2006 Meeting of the Town Board. January, 2006 Agenda Item.
3. Northfield would like to include provisions relative to industrial and commercial land similar to those in the Dundas-Bridgewater Annexation Agreement.
4. The Supervisors expressed an interest in Bridgewater representation on the Northfield Planning Commission, or having any annexation revisions made to a revised comprehensive plan, or having Northfield upgrade an exiting township road, like Decker Avenue.
5. Ebling referred to Northfield's current efforts for regional planning.
6. The Supervisors observed that the State Legislature involvement concerning rural-urban development interests could change.
7. Knecht indicated that a revised water-sewer agreement between Northfield and Dundas would be an essential gate for a revised Northfield-Bridgewater Annexation Agreement.

H.9 Rice County held a public hearing on budget and property taxes on December 1, 2005.

**H.10 County Transportation Plan Study**

Ebling asked whether the Town should contribute money for this study and well as suggesting ideas. Mayor Switzer observed that the County will take the lead role in the definition of regional plans. Knecht indicated that he would write a resolution concerning Bridgewater's interest and potential contribution to a Rice County Transportation Plan Study. January Agenda Item.

**I New Business**

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| I.1 | No report was given for Rice County Economic Development Committee No. 1: Master Development Committee for Implementation of Zoning Change. | Supervisors<br>Knecht |
| I.2 | No report was given for Rice County Economic Development Committee No. 3: Countywide Economic Development Initiative.                       | Ebling                |
| I.3 | A petition from Stephanie Hendrickson from residents opposed to using County Road 8 as an east-west corridor in place of County Road 1.     |                       |
| I.4 | Re: U-Pick Strawberry Farm<br>Mr. Silkey reported his interest in having a self-pick strawberry farm in the 115 <sup>th</sup>               | Paul Silkey           |

Street area. In response to a question, Mr. Silkey committed to maintaining the current road through his farm which would be used for the strawberry farm.

I.5 Town Elections, **March 14, 2006**: see J.3, below Piper

**J Future Meetings, notably:** Piper

- J.1 Open House for Rice County Transportation Plan, **December 8, 2005** at the Bridgewater Town Hall, 5:30–7:30 p.m.(presentation from 6–6:30 p.m.)
- J.2 Monthly Meeting of the Town Board, **January 9, 2006** at the Bridgewater Town Hall, 7:00 PM
- J.3 The Clerk presented the following schedule for Town Elections to be held on March 14, 2006

- **12/23/05**: last day to post notice of filing (Note: Notices posted at the Town Hall and the Dundas Post Office on November 28.)
- **01/03/06**: candidate filing opens for township elections (for Bridgewater, for 1 Supervisor and for the Clerk)
- **01/17/06**: candidate filing closes
- 01/19/06: candidate withdrawal period closes
- 01/20/06: last day to notify [county] auditor in writing 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 including bad weather alternate date
- 03/03/06: last day for an election judge to submit written notice of serving voluntarily without pay
- 03/10/06: last day to post sample ballot for township election
- 03/11/06: Clerk's office at Town Hall open from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon for absentee voting
- 03/13/06: last day for election judges to secure election supplies from town clerk
- **03/14/06** Tuesday TOWNSHIP ELECTION DAY (Second Tuesday in March)

**K Motion to Adjourn** Supervisors  
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht. Motion passed unanimously: Ebling, aye; Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.

**Reference:** Town Officers: Deputy Clerk and Treasurer Cheri Albers (appointed), Supervisor Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger, Supervisor and Town Board Vice Chair Leif Knecht, Supervisor and Town Board Chair Paul Liebenstein, Clerk Mike Piper.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Michael Piper  
Town Clerk