

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2006 – 7 PM

Bridgewater Town Hall

500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019

PRELIMINARY MINUTES, January 9, 2006 – 7 PM - MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD, 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 December, 2005; and plan for the month of January, 2006.
- 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
Town Board Chair Paul Liebenstein called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. All elected town officers were present; namely, Supervisor Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger, Supervisor and Town Board Vice Chair Leif Knecht, Supervisor and Town Board Chair Paul Libenstein, and Clerk Mike Piper. David Salene, Town Consultant, was also present.
- B Flag Pledge** Liebenstein
Liebenstein invited all present to stand for the pledge.
- C Approval of Agenda** Liebenstein
The Agenda, as amended and reflected in these Minutes, were approved. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously: Ebling aye, Knecht aye, and Liebenstein aye.
- D Approval of Minutes from December, 2005 Town Board Meeting** Piper
The Minutes from the December Town Board Meeting were approved. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously: Ebling aye, Knecht aye, and Liebenstein aye.
- E Approval of Treasurer's Report** Finger
The Treasurer's Report was approved. Motion by Ebling, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously: Ebling aye, Knecht aye, and Liebenstein aye.
- F Review of Claims/Deposits Received** Piper

Claims received since the December Town Board Meeting were reviewed. Those allowed were paid.

It is noted that BMI requested partial payment for the four road improvement projects stated in the Fall 2005. The Board decided not to allow this payment request because the work has not been completed and because there are performance concerns about some of the work that has been done. It was observed that the road contract has no completion date although verbal assurances were given that, pending severe weather, the work would be completed in 2005. The Board noted that the weather was good and that the effort to accommodate a health request on 124th Court East was not a completion factor. The Board also observed that the road contract contained no penalty clause concerning on-time performance.

The Board did allow payment to John Ophaug, Township Attorney, for his work on the 2005 road improvement projects.

The Treasurer reported that residents who chose to pre-pay their assessments have paid \$79,448.

G Review of Correspondence Received and Generated

Piper

Piper reviewed the correspondence received and generated since the December Town Board Meeting.

Notable entries include:

1. Memos from David Salene dated December 3, 2005 and January 5, 2006 (showing Notes from January 9, 2006 meeting)
2. Rice County Subdivision Regulations (chapter 523 of the County Zoning Regulations), As amended through July, 2005
3. Knecht's letter to Dundas City Council/Staff/Planning Commission dated December 23, 2005
4. Dan Petrik's memorandum to Dundas City Council dated January 4, 2006 re Transportation Planning
5. From the *Northfield News*: Confirmation that Public Notices were published in the *Northfield News*.
6. Reporting requirements for cash-based townships and cities from the Minnesota State Auditor
7. 2006 Federal Holidays
8. From Rice County Planning and Zoning: meeting to hear request from Paul Silky
9. Invitation to Cannon River Watershed Partnership Open House, January 9, 2006
10. News Release from Rice County re Community Service Performed by Probationers

H Old Business/Action Items

H.1 Report: Status of 115th Street

Knecht

The Board reported that the work on 115th Street was completed on December 13, 2005 and that the road is now open end-to-end from CSAH 20 to Minnesota 246.

H.2 Report: 2005 Road Improvement Projects Knecht
Performance and status issues were briefly discussed. It was highlighted that no work was done in 2005 on the Farrell addition.

H.3 Report: Bridgewater Board of Supervisors, Work Session on Annexation and Road Issues, **January 9, 2006**, Bridgewater Town Hall, 4:00 – 7:00 PM. Ebling

The following are Notes from the Work Session held on January 9, 2005:

1. Salene introduced the Rice County Subdivision Regulations which are Chapter 523 in the Rice County Zoning Ordinance. Salene advised that the Board adopt those Regulations because, although zoning authority rests with the County, by adopting the Regulations the Town can be an initial player in zoning requests (for example, for proposed cluster developments in the Township) covered by the Subdivision Regulations. Therefore, the Town would have a review function, not a policy making function. The Board would then report to the County that, in its opinion, a request does or does not meet the required criteria.
2. The Board decided to have a public hearing on February 6, 2005 to consider the adoption of the Rice County Subdivision Regulations.
3. As to road issues, Salene recommended that the Township retain a professional traffic engineer to establish a baseline count of traffic on selected Township roads that are or will be directly or indirectly impacted by changes within the Township or neighboring Towns/Cities. Knecht suggested that a traffic count should be taken for all Township roads.
4. As to the procurement of such a service, Salene reminded the Board that professional services do not have to be competitively bid.
5. Salene further recommended that the Township define a standard for the construction and maintenance of roads.
6. It was asked that if a cluster development road is built to Bridgewater's road standard, does the road therefore become a Township road? The leaning of the Supervisors was that it does.
7. Complicating the issue mentioned in #6 above, is the density of the houses on the road. Namely, a few houses on a long road might present different factors than a considerable number of houses on a longer road.
8. Knecht observed that whether a road is a Township road or not might be determined by the Board, although citizens could petition the Board to make their road a Township road.
9. The Board asked Liebenstein to determine several candidate road engineers who would be interviewed by the Town Board. Boulton-Mink who have been retained by the Rice County Highway Department was mentioned as a possibility.
10. Ebling reported that Dennis Luebbe, Rice County Highway Engineer will be present at a work session to be held on January 24, 2006 in the Town Hall to discuss road design specification. Ebling recommended that the Township uses County road standards to the extent possible.

David Salene's Memo dated January 5, 2006 and the Rice County Subdivision Regulations are on file at the Town Hall.

- H.4 Salene Memo, December 3, 2005 re annexation issues and a road maintenance policy. Ebling

Salene and discussed his Memo dated December 3, 2005. That Memo is on file at the Town Hall.

- H.5 Dundas Resolution 2005 – 58 re Requesting Corridor Studies. Knecht

The Resolution was read and is on file at the Town Hall.

- H.6 Report: Road Assessment Payoffs and Policy: re 5112 Ebel Way Piper

- H.7 Election Filing Report: Filing closes **January 17, 2006** at 5:00 PM; Election **March 14, 2006** at 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Piper

I New Business

- I.1 Report: Rice County Economic Development Committee No. 1: Master Development Committee for Implementation of Zoning Change Knecht

- I.2 Report: Rice County Economic Development Committee No. 3: Countywide Economic Development Initiative Ebling

J Future Meetings

- J.1 February Meeting of the Bridgewater Town Board **February 6, 2006** at 7 p.m. at the Bridgewater Town Hall

- J.2 Township Elections, **March 14, 2006**

- Candidate filing open from 1/3/06 to 1/17/06 for township elections (for 1 Supervisor and for the Clerk)
- 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 a.m. to 12 noon for absentee voting
- **03/14/06** Tuesday TOWNSHIP ELECTION

K Motion to Adjourn

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, Clerk Mike Piper, and Deputy Clerk and Treasurer Cheri Albers.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Michael Piper
Town Clerk