

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

**February 6, 2006 – 7:30 PM**

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

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**MINUTES**, February 6, 2006 – 7:30 p.m. – 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 January, 2006; and plan for the month of February, 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 welcomed 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 7:30 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.
- 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 January, 2006 Town Board Meeting** Piper  
The Minutes from the January, 2006 Town Board Meeting were approved as amended. 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.

**G Review of Correspondence Received and Generated** Piper  
Piper reviewed the correspondence received and generated since the January, 2006 Town Board Meeting.

Notable entries include:

- Letter from Town Clerk to Northfield News, January 17, 2006 re candidate filing closure; and the following announcements for February 6, 2006 -- candidates to be at the meeting of Town Board at 7:30 PM for comments and questions, Board of Audit at 5:30 p.m. and Public Hearing on adoption of the Rice County Subdivision Regulations at 7 p.m.
- Access Rice County Information on the Internet.
- Various Notices from the Rice County Planning Commission including matters for Paul Silkey and Mark Thompson.
- A letter from Liz Messner requesting that an announcement be made at the March annual meeting concerning “a feasible way for persons with outside cats to reduce the numbers of unwanted litters of kittens.”  
Dundas Resolution 2006-04 Supporting Rationale for East-West Corridor.
- Letter from Bruce Morlan re: Paul Silkey’s request for a CUP to construct and operate a seasonal stand to sell fruits.
- Letter from Sen. Thomas Neuville inviting comments concerning issues that might affect the Town, and offering to visit the Town Board during January or February or “as time permits during the legislative session.”
- Letter from the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota declaring that the “completed Annual Exclusion Report and signed Certification of Annual Exclusion Report form must be submitted to PERA by February 28, 2006.

**H Old Business** Supervisors

**H.1 Board of Audit**  
The Board of Audit for 2005 was held at 5:30 p.m. on February 6, 2006. The Treasurer will supply the monthly bank statement and deposit details to the Clerk for inclusion in the Town File.

**H.2 Public Hearing on Subdivision Regulations**  
A Public Hearing re the Adaptation of the Rice County Subdivision Regulations was held at 7 p.m. on February 6, 2006.

David Salene, Consultant, said that Towns can pass ordinances that are mirror-images of their county’s ordinance. When this is done, the Township has the opportunity to comment on a proposed subdivision

before it is considered by the county. Thus, the Town would accept, review, meet with the applicant and write a summary report to the Rice County Planning Commission, giving the Town an official voice at the county hearing. Salene recommended that the Board adopt the Rice County Subdivision Regulations.

Motion approved

Knecht moved that the Town Board adopt Chapter 523, Subdivision Regulations of the Rice County Zoning Ordinance. Second by Ebling. Motion carried unanimously: Ebling aye, Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.

The Subdivision Regulations is on file at the Town Hall under Rice County, Subdivision Regulations.

In a related matter, Salene supported the Township's current efforts to create road policies that will apply to all Township roads.

Salene also observed that the 1- or 2-mile urban reserve district that surrounds a municipality does not automatically expand when the municipality annexes land. In that case, the municipality must reapply for the urban reserve district. Chapter 510 of the Rice County Zoning Ordinance deals with Urban Reserve Districts.

**H.3 Report: 2005 Road Improvement Projects**

Knecht

Mr. John Heselton, vice president, BMI Bituminous Materials attended the meeting. Background: although the four road projects that were started during 2005 were not completed, BMI has asked for a partial payment. The Board told Mr. Heselton that the Township can't obtain funds from the Bond until the work is complete. It was reported that the First National Bank of Northfield has agreed that the rate for the bond will remain constant provided the work is completed this spring. Mr. Heselton indicated that the road work will be completed after the road weight restrictions are lifted, generally at the end of May or the beginning of June.

The Board listed construction problems on the road project: there are approach issues on Edgebrook, there are cracks on Telemark (work was done at night), and no work was done on the Bittersweet. The Clerk observes that residents in Oak Hill have expressed concerns about the thickness of asphalt in the center of 124<sup>th</sup> Court East and Edwards Way. The Board had agreed to do core-samples on the road before the final coat is applied.

Motion to make partial payment to BMI

The Treasurer reported that approximately \$79,000 prepaid assessments have been received for those four road improvement projects. Based on that, the Board decided to pay BMI \$55,000. Motion by Knecht, second by Ebling, motion passed unanimously. Ebling aye, Knecht aye, Liebenstein aye.

- H.4 **Report: Work Session on Road Issues** Ebling  
 Report: Bridgewater Board of Supervisors, Work Session on Road Issues, January 24, 2006, Bridgewater Town Hall, 6–9 p.m.
- Mr. Dennis Luebbe, Rice County Road Engineer attended this meeting and presented the Rice County Transportation Plan which includes a Memorandum of Understanding which the County would like Bridgewater Township to endorse.
- The Clerk’s Notes from this meeting are in the Town File, under January, 2006.
- H.5 **Fire Report** Liebenstein  
 Liebenstein reported that a new pumper truck was purchased in 2005. Because the old truck was not sold for what was desired, it is anticipated that the rates for fire protection will increase from \$12 per person to \$15 per person. In addition, some changes are anticipated in how fire permits are issued. Liebenstein observed that Bridgewater Township provides 35% of the Fire Department revenue.
- H.6 **Truth in Taxation Meeting** Liebenstein  
 This meeting will be held in Northfield this year for residents of Bridgewater Township because none of the Supervisors attended the county training session.
- H.7 **College City Beverage** Liebenstein  
 College City Beverage will relocate in Dundas on Railway Street, south of the Bridgewater Town Hall. A tax increment financing (TIF) arrangement of \$450,000 accompanies the move.
- H.8 **Report: Corridor Meeting** Liebenstein  
 The discussion concerning a potential new CSAH 1 as an east-west corridor generated significant feelings among residents present.
- Knecht moved that if the corridor engineering study for a potential rerouting of CSAH 1 goes forward, Bridgewater Township would contribute \$15,000 towards its cost. No action was taken on the motion. The Board agreed that the majority of the costs should be borne by Dundas.
- An intergovernmental meeting is set for **February 10, 2006**. See item J.1.
- H.9 Election Filing Report: Filing closed **January 17, 2006** at 5 p.m.; the Election will be held on **March 14, 2006** from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Piper
- The following candidates filed:  
 For Supervisor: Kathleen Doran-Norton and Kraig Quamme  
 For Clerk: Mike Piper
- The candidates for Supervisor were introduced at this meeting.

H.10 **Agreement to Arrange for the Purchase, Use and Maintenance of Assistive Voting Technology Equipment** Piper

The Town Board accepted this Agreement.

H.11 **Dundas Planning Commission** Morlan

Bruce Morlan, a Bridgewater resident, reported that he is now serving as the chair of the Dundas Planning Commission. Morlan reported that the commission, which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, is considering road structure.

Liebenstein reported that he will resign from the Dundas Planning Commission when his term as Bridgewater Supervisor expires.

**I New Business** Supervisors

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

Knecht reported that the December 31, 2005 deadline has been delayed so as to provide the County more time to do more focused study. Apparently the same consulting firm that assisted Rice County in the preparation of the Transportation Plan will assist in this study.

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

No report was given.

1.3 **CANDIDATE FORUM**

Ms. Kathleen Doran-Norton and Mr. Kraig Quamme addressed the meeting.

Some of the issues raised by the candidates and the residents are listed below:

- There will be a formal candidate forum on March 6, 2006 at the regular Town Meeting. The forum will be announced in the Northfield News.
- The necessity for planning on a regional basis.
- The necessity for communication with residents.
- The safety of township and adjoining county roads.
- The preservation of agricultural land. The question “Who speaks for the farmer?” was asked by a resident.
- The pressure for growth should be largely confined within municipal boundaries.
- A Supervisor observed that the present annexation agreements leave 94% of Bridgewater Township rural.
- A resident observed that the Township should do its own Planning and Zoning.

Some opposition was expressed by a resident to opening the annexation agreement with Northfield to further discussion.

- I.4      **Appointment of Election Judges**      Board  
 The following Bridgewater Township residents have agreed to serve as election judges on March 14, 2006: Cheri Albers, Linda Zawack, Wayne Eddy, Le Ann Finger, William Nohava, John Berge, Mary Manderfeld, and Vaira Zankevics.
- Motion to approve election judges  
 The Clerk asked that the Board appoint the election judges for the Town Election on March 14, 2006. The Board authorized the Clerk to appoint, as deemed necessary, additional Bridgewater residents as judges. A motion to appoint the cited judges and to empower the Clerk to secure additional judges if necessary was made by Knecht, seconded by Ebling, and passed unanimously (Ebling aye, Knecht aye, and Liebenstein aye).
- I.5      **Resolution No. 2006-2-1**      Board  
 The Town Board passed Resolution No. 2006-2-1 re: the Consummation of a new sewer and water system agreement between Northfield and Dundas, and the willingness of the Board to discuss cooperative intergovernmental planning and decision making. Motion to pass by Liebenstein, second by Ebling, motion passed unanimously. Ebling aye, Knecht aye, and Liebenstein aye.
- I.6      **Bridgewater Township Traffic Study**      Liebenstein  
 Liebenstein reported that he has discussed potential traffic counts in the township with a firm in Rochester, Minnesota. The estimated cost is \$1500.
- Motion to hire firm in Rochester to do traffic counts  
 Knecht moved to hire the designated firm in Rochester to do traffic counts in the township at an estimated cost of \$1500, second by Ebling. Motion passed unanimously: Ebling aye, Knecht aye, and Liebenstein aye.
- J      Future Meetings, notably:**      Piper
- J.1      Roundtable discussion re Planning for CSAH 1 Corridor Between I-35 and State Trunk Highway 246 on **February 10, 2006** at the Bridgewater Town Hall from 1–3 p.m.
- J.2      March Meeting of the Bridgewater Town Board **March 6, 2006** at 7 p.m. PM at the Bridgewater Town Hall (Special meeting to set the Budget for 2006 will be held at 6 p.m. on March 6, 2006.)
- J.3      Annual Meeting, **March 14, 2006** at the Bridgewater Town Hall at approximately 8:15 p.m.
- J.4      Township Elections, **March 14, 2006**  
 03/11/06: Clerk’s office at Town Hall open from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for absentee voting

**K Motion to Adjourn**

Supervisors

Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:52 p.m. by Ebling, second by Liebenstein. Motion passed unanimously: Ebling aye, Knecht aye, and 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, Clerk Mike Piper, and Deputy Clerk and Treasurer Cheri Albers.