

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

November 13, 2006 – 7 PM

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

- A Call to Order, Roll-call of Town Officers, and Introduction of Guests** Knecht
Chair Knecht called the November, 2006 Meeting of the Town Board to order at 7:06 p.m. All Town Officers were present, namely, Kathleen Doran-Norton (Supervisor), Gary Ebling (Supervisor and Town Board Vice Chair), Le Ann Finger (Treasurer), Leif Knecht (Supervisor and Town Board Chair), and Mike Piper (Clerk).
- B Flag Pledge** Knecht
Knecht invited all present to rise for the pledge of allegiance.
- C Approval of Agenda** Knecht
The Agenda was approved as presented in these Minutes. Motion by Ebling; second by Doran-Norton; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, and Knecht aye).
- D Approval of Minutes from the October 2006 Town Board Meeting** Piper
The Minutes of the October 10, 2006 Meeting of the Town Board were approved. Motion by Ebling; second by Doran-Norton; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, and Knecht aye).
- E Approval of Treasurer's Report** Finger
The Treasurer reported that it may be necessary for the township to transfer money from its investment reserves into the checking account to cover anticipated expenses.

The Treasurer's Report was approved. Motion by Doran-Norton to accept the Report and to authorize the Treasurer to transfer sufficient funds from investment reserves into the checking account to cover anticipated expenses; the motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, and Knecht aye).

Year-to-date financial progress was reviewed.
- F Review of Claims/Deposits Received** Piper
Claims presented were reviewed and paid.
- G Review of Correspondence Received and Generated** Piper
The Clerk reviewed the correspondence received since the October 2006 Meeting of the Town Board.

1. A General Endorsement providing Planning and Zoning Coverage was received from the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance and Bond Trust. The document is on file under

Insurance/P&Z.

2. Knecht asked the Treasurer to review the status of the Township's Workers Compensation Insurance due January 1, 2007.
3. A Credit Memo was received from Monroe Truck Equipment in Marshfield, WI.
4. The fall 2006 Technology Exchange was received from the Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program.
5. Oil sample reports for the Caterpillar engine were received from Ziegler CAT. The document is on file under Equipment/Grader.
6. A receipt for the second ½ of fire protection dues was received from the Northfield Rural Fire Protection District. The receipt is on file under Insurance/Fire.
7. CTAS (Small City & Town Accounting System) News & Notes was received from the office of the Minnesota State Auditor. The document is on file under Finances/CTAS.
8. Per the request of the Rice County Highway Department, the road mileage for Bridgewater Township was certified to be 38 miles. The document is on file under Roads/Mileage.
9. The following Planning and Zoning Subcommittee Reports were received: Planning and Zoning Administration, Agricultural Business Zoning, and Land Use. These reports are on file under Planning and Zoning/Subcommittee Reports.
10. A letter from the Northfield Public Schools I.S.D. 659 explaining the November, 2006 referendum was received.
11. A letter defining the WSB 2007 Rate Schedule was received. It is on file under Roads/WSB.

H Public Comment

Gloria Heinz presented the Board with the article "Ethanol's goldmine moment has passed" from the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The article is on file.

Wendy Gieske expressed concern that the possible widening of Rice County CSAH 8 (to accommodate, for example, increased traffic to and from a potential ethanol plant) would bring the road too close to her home.

Stephanie Henriksen reported that the Minnesota Environmental Initiative will hold a forum on Ethanol in St. Peter. Supervisor Doran-Norton said that she planned to attend. Ebling moved that the Town cover the anticipated \$100 registration fee for this forum. Motion passed: Ebling aye and Knecht aye. Doran-Norton recused.

I Old Business/Action Items

I.1 Report: CASH 1 Project Advisory Committee Meeting on November 2, 2006

The County identified 11 possible alignments for this future east-west road corridor. The meeting on November 2, 2006 identified a preference for the set of alignments in Option 5. While those options are not preferred by Minnesota DNR and MN DOT, MN DOT indicated that it would be okay with an Option 5 choice if Northfield doesn't ask for an additional bridge over the Cannon River. The options and evaluation criteria for this study are available on the Rice County website, Highway Department. Reference:

<http://www.co.rice.mn.us/highway/index.php>.

Supervisors
Knecht

Ebling reported that the Land Use and Agricultural Business Zoning Subcommittees hosted an informational meeting on November 4, 2006 at the Little Prairie Methodist Church. Speakers for and against ethanol and the potential location of an ethanol plant on Rice County CSAH 1 were present at the meeting. Even though it was not a primary agenda item, the possibility that Bridgewater Township would do its own planning and zoning was occasionally referred to. No strong public sentiment was expressed concerning the economics, energy efficiency, chemistry, production, and transportation aspects of ethanol. The sense of public opinion at the meeting was for planning and zoning and against the potential ethanol plant on Rice County CSAH 1.

Ebling reported that most members of the Land Use Subcommittee opposed most of the potential agricultural-related businesses allowed in the Rice County Zoning Ordinance. Knecht observed that the Township could lose significant revenue if 70% of the County-allowed agricultural-related businesses were prohibited by the Township.

Doran-Norton reported that the Administration Subcommittee estimates that the cost to the Township of Planning and Zoning would be from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The following meetings were announced relative to potential Township Planning and Zoning:

- November 22, 2006 Wednesday, the Planning and Zoning Subcommittees will submit their reports to the Planning and Zoning Study Committee, at the Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

It was reported at this meeting (November 13, 2006) that the majority of the Land Use Subcommittee opposed the inclusion of ethanol as a permitted agriculture-related business in the Township.

- The Supervisors will update the Rice County Commissioners on the Township Planning and Zoning study effort on November 28, 2006 at the Rice County Government Services Center at 8:55 a.m.

It was reported at this meeting (November 13, 2006) that Supervisor Doran-Norton has updated Rice County Planning and Zoning Director Julie Runkle and Rice County Administrator Gary Weiers relative to progress of the Study Committee and its Subcommittees.

- The Planning and Zoning Study Committee will meet on November 30, 2006 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m.
- A Public Information Meeting will be held on December 6, 2006 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m.
- The Supervisors will decide whether or not the Township will do its own Planning and Zoning at the regular December meeting of the Town Board, held on December 11, 2006 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m.

- I.3 Report: General Election on November 7, 2006 Piper
 Piper reported that 1331 persons were registered to vote at 7:00 a.m. on November 7, 2006, that 104 persons registered to vote during the day at the Town Hall (making a total of 1435 persons registered to vote) and that 1078 persons (75%) voted. The following partial election results were reported:
- US Senator, Amy Klobuchar
 - US Representative, John Kline
 - State Senator, Thomas Neuville
 - State Representative, Ray Cox
 - Governor and Lt. Governor, Tim Pawlenty and Carol Molnau
 - Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie
 - State Auditor, Rececca Otto
 - Attorney General, Lori Swanson
 - County Auditor-Treasurer, Fran Windschitl
 - County Recorder, Marsha Helen Degroot
 - County Sheriff, Mark Murphy
 - County Attorney, G. Paul Beaumaster
 - School District (659) Question 1, No
 - School District (959) Question 2, No
- Piper recognized the Election Judges for their civic service.
- I.4 Status of Northfield Annexation Tracking Doran-Norton
 Doran-Norton reported that progress in this issue is expected now that consultant David Salene is available.
- 1.5 Report: Township Road Policy Ebling
 Salene reported that progress on this matter is expected now that consultant David Salene is available.
- 1.6 Status of 2005 Road Improvement Projects: Project Completion Certificate and Final Payment Knecht
 Knecht reported that final payment on this project has been made to BMI. Piper reported that he has misplaced the Project Completion Report and if it can't be found, Blair Fowler will be asked to complete another.
- J New Business**
- J.1 Preparation of the Official Town File for 2006 Piper
 Piper and the Deputy Clerk will review the town file to ensure that all Minutes are included, that all claim forms are properly signed, and that all expenditures are properly itemized.
- J.2 Potential road improvement project: Eaton Ave Knecht
 A Public Information meeting on this proposed project will be held on December 4, 2006 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. The Clerk will prepare a Public Notice and publish it in the Northfield News and post it on the Town Hall bulleting board. Knecht will write a letter to each affected resident; the Clerk will mail the letter along with a copy of the Public Notice to each affected resident.
- J.3 Dundas Feedlot Suggestion

A Memo from Dan Petrik concerning animal units within two miles of the City limits was delivered to the Town File by Doran-Norton. The Memo is on file under November 2006,

K Future Meetings

Piper

K.1 Monday, December 11, 2006 - December 2006 Meeting of the Town Board, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

L Motion to Adjourn

Supervisors

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Motion by Ebling; second by Doran-Norton; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, and Knecht aye).

Reference: Town Officers: Cheri Albers, Deputy Clerk and Treasurer; Kathleen Doran-Norton, Supervisor; Gary Ebling, Supervisor and Town Vice Chair; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer and Webmaster; Leif Knecht, Supervisor and Town Board Chair; and Mike Piper, Clerk.