

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

December 11, 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 7:01 PM. 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 November 2006 Town Board Meeting** Piper
The Minutes of the November 13, 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's Report was approved. Motion by Doran-Norton to accept the Report second by Ebling. The motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, and Knecht aye).

The Treasurer reported that a check has been received from Rice County.
- F Review of Claims/Deposits Received** Piper
Claims presented were reviewed and paid.
- G Review of Correspondence Received and Generated** Piper
Correspondence received since the November 2006 Monthly Meeting of the Town Board was reviewed.
- H Public Comment (non-Agenda matters)**
- H.1 Roger Helgeson, whose property adjoins Decker Avenue said that frequently the dust from that road makes it difficult for his family to breath. He asked that he be advised when rock is put down so a dust guard, like potassium chloride, could be applied after rock is placed.
- H.2 Kraig Quamme reported that storm water from the new College City site is being discharged into his property. Knecht asked Bruce Morlan to address the issue with the Dundas Planning Commission. Ebling said that he would discuss the issue with Tom McMahan.

- H.3 Steve Albers presented a petition signed by 24 corn farmers in Bridgewater Township opposed to the construction of and ethanol plant on Rice County Highway 8. Together, the farms involved exceed over 7,000 acres, approximately ½ the tillable acres in the Township. Albers reported that other corn farmers are expected to sign the petition.
- H.4 Stephanie Henriksen reported that there will be a hearing for a proposed ethanol plant in Janesville, MN. The hearing will be on December 19, 2006 at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

I Old Business/Action Items

Supervisors
Knecht

I.1 Bridgewater Township and Planning and Zoning

Knecht read Bridgewater Township Resolution Number 2006-3. Ebling moved to approved the Resolution; Doran-Norton seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye, Knecht, aye). The Resolution is in the Town File; copies will be delivered to the Rice County Administrator, Registrar and Director of Planning and Zoning.

The Resolution says, in part,

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED that the Town Board of Supervisors of the Township of Bridgewater ordains:

1. That the Town will develop the necessary standards and policy documents in preparation for Township Planning and Zoning.
2. That the preparatory work, including adoption of a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, will be completed prior to expiration of the interim ordinance (moratorium) established on June 28, 2006.
3. The deadline for completion of the above-described documents is June 27, 2007.”

I.2 Work Completion Certificate for 2006 Road Improvement Project

Piper

Knecht delivered a duplicate copy of the Town Road Work Contract Completion Certificate from Blair Fowler for the work done on 124th Court [and Edwards Way] in the Oak Hills Addition, Bittersweet Addition, Telemark Road and Edgebrook Drive in 2006.

I.3 Report: Minnesota Environmental Initiative Forum on Ethanol

Doran-Norton

Doran-Norton has filed a copy of the handouts from this forum that was held at Gustavus-Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. Steve Albers and Kathy Larson also attended the conference.

1.4 Status of Worker’s Compensation Insurance

Finger

Report moved to Jan. 2007 meeting.

1.5 Status of Potential Road Improvement Project on Eaton Ave, Ebel Ave, 123rd Street East, and 124th Street East

Knecht

John Ophaug presented a proposed Resolution Ordering Public Hearing and a Notice of Public Hearing. Ebling moved to approve the Resolution, second by Doran-Norton; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; Knecht, aye). A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the Bridgewater Town Hall.

The estimated cost of the project is \$190,000.00.

J New Business

J.1 Potential Issues for the Bridgewater Township Planning Commission

Doran-Norton

Doran-Norton presented the following a potential issues to be reviewed by the Bridgewater Township Planning Commission:

- Determine how many members would be on the Township Planning Commission and Publish a request for applicants.
- Potential additions to the Vision and Goals statement.
- Support of the CSAH 1 Corridor Study Plan.
- Approve concept of the Northfield Area Green Corridor Study Plan, including a discussion of setbacks and easements acceptable to Bridgewater residents.
- Support of the Mill Towns Trail.
- Contract with PERA.
- Host a joint meeting with the Bridgewater, Dundas and Northfield Planning Commissions in late winter.
- Create a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- Create a Township Energy/Water/Resource Authority.

Ebling moved that the Planning Commission be composed of one Supervisor, three non-Supervisor residents and one Dundas Resident. Second by Doran-Norton. Motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; Knecht, aye). A Public Notice calling for Planning Commission volunteers will be published and an interview session will be scheduled.

J.2 Report on the November 28, 2006 meeting with the Rice County Commissioners Knecht

Knecht reported that his presentation to the County Board was met with some “smiles and frowns.” Knecht presented the substance of the Resolution and said that the intention of the Township is to cooperate with the County.

J.3 Report on the November 28, 2006 Joint Governmental Meeting Knecht

Knecht reported that during the meeting, an increased interest in joint-governmental cooperation was observed. Participants in the meeting felt that it is essential for the various jurisdictions to be in agreement on many issues in order to obtain assistance from the state and federal governments.

J.4 Northfield City Council Resolution #2006-107

The Resolution asks MN Dot to conduct the Minnesota Trunk Highway 19 Interregional Corridor Study from I-35 into the City of Northfield with a completion date of December 2007.

Doran-Norton read the Resolution. Knecht moved to support the intent of the resolution; second by Doran-Norton; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; Knecht, aye). Doran-Norton will prepare a letter to the Northfield City Council expressing the support of the Bridgewater Town Board.

J.5 Potential considerations for Annual Town Meeting Doran-Norton

- Move to a 5-member Town Board (Supervisors)
 - Would Planning and Zoning decisions require a super-majority (4 votes)? This is an issue that should be addressed by Carolyn Braun.
- Town elections during November

J.6 Offer by Eric Hedtke from Minnesota Association of Townships to address a Town Meeting re Annexation and Planning and Zoning Piper

The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of the Dundas Annexation Agreement to Mr. Hedtke for his information.

- J.7 Discuss potential information forum on cellulosic ethanol production
The possibility of hosting a meeting on this subject was discussed. No decision was made.

K Future Meetings:

Piper

- K.1 Thursday, December 14, 2006 - CSAH 1 Meetings: Elected Officials from 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Project Advisory Committee Meeting # 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Both meetings at the Town Hall.
- K.2 Monday, December 18, 2006 - Green Corridor Study Meeting
- K.3 Tuesday, January 2, 2007 - Filings open for one Supervisor and the Treasurer.
- K.4 Monday, January 8, 2007 - Meeting of the Town Board
- K.5 Tuesday, January 16, 2007 - Filings close for one Supervisor and the Treasurer
- K.6 Wednesday, January 17, 2007 - Rice County Emergency Medical Services Provider Council at District One Hospital from 7 -9 p.m.

L Motion to Adjourn

Supervisors

Prior to the close of the meeting, the Board met with employees regarding personnel items.

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.