

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

**March 12, 2007 – 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  
Town Board Chair Leif Knecht called the March 2006 Meeting of the Town Board to order at 7:02 PM. The following Town Officers were present: Kathleen Doran-Norton (Supervisor), Gary Ebling (Supervisor and Town Board Vice Chair), Le Ann Finger (Treasurer), and Mike Piper (Clerk). Leif Knecht (Supervisor and Town Board Chair) was absent.
- B Flag Pledge** Knecht  
Knecht invited all present to rise for the pledge allegiance.
- C Approval of Agenda** Knecht  
By MOTION by Doran-Norton, the Agenda for the March 12, 2007 meeting of the Town Board were approved; second by Ebling; motion passed unanimously (Supervisors and their votes: Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye).
- D Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2007 Town Board Meeting** Piper  
The Minutes of the February 12, 2007 meeting of the Town Board were approved. Motion by Doran-Norton; second by Ebling; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye).
- E Approval of Treasurer's Report for February 2007** Finger  
The Treasurer's Report was approved. Motion by Doran-Norton, second by Ebling; motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye).
- 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 February 2007 meeting of the Town Board.
- H Public Comment (non-Agenda matters)**
- I Old Business/Action Items**
- I.1 Assessment Hearing for Eaton Ave. et al. Road Improvement Project  
By MOTION by Ebling the Assessment Hearing for the Eaton Ave. et al. Road Improvement Project was set for Monday April 9, 2007 at 6:30 PM, second by Doran-Norton, motion passed unanimously (Supervisors and their votes: Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye).

The Town Board indicated that the final contract for this project will have a completion date and a penalty clause.

Knecht announced that the First National Bank of Northfield will issue the Bond for this project. The interest rate of the Bond will be 4.9%; residents will be charged an interest rate of 5.1% to ensure, per state statute, that 105% of the bond value is collected protecting the Township against default.

**J New Business**

Supervisors  
Ebling

J.1 Revised Planning and Zoning Meeting and Hearing Schedule

This schedule is continually revised by the Clerk and posted on the Town Hall and the Township web site.

J.2 Progress report: Planning and Zoning (role of “findings of fact”)

Ebling  
Klockeman

Ebling reported that Peter Tiede, legal consultant to the Township, holds that the township should act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the township’s residents in such a manner that would be acceptable in a court environment. One such application of this principle is the “smell test;” that is, how offensive is the matter being considered.

As to the choice between disallowing a use and permitting it under tough condition, Ebling reported that Tiede favors disallowing.

Knecht observed that Advanced BioEnergy might request the township for more information. It was decided that, other than public information such as minutes, no information will be sent to ABE until the township has received direction from Tiede.

In a related matter, the Clerk asked that the Planning Commission provide a complete set of minutes for inclusion in the Town File.

J.3 Option Plans for the Structure of the Town Board

Knecht

Jerry Anderson, township resident, expressed a preference for a 5-member Supervisor Town Board. Anderson’s agreement was that such an arrangement would provide the opportunity for the Board to have functioning subcommittees without violating the open meeting law.

The Supervisors expressed some reservations and support about a 5-member Board. Ebling thought that such an arrangement would make decisions more difficult. Knecht said that he has mixed feelings – while a 5-member Board would enable Supervisors to meet face-to-face outside the regular meetings, it might make decision making more difficult.

In the meantime, to honor the requirements of the open meeting law, Piper suggested that the Town Board meet weekly with the exceptions of those weeks when the Town Board has its regular monthly meeting and when there are no pressing issues and the meeting can be cancelled.

J.4 Report: Aquifer Testing at Proposed Ethanol Plant on Rice County 8

Knecht

Knecht reported that his understanding is that the Minnesota Department of Health can authorize such a test without interfacing with the township government. Knecht stated, further, that, although required, the Department of Health has not interfaced yet with the Department of

Natural Resources.

Jerry Anderson, township resident, said that he believes that the DNR does not know that Bridgewater Township has an interim moratorium and is currently intent on doing its own planning and zoning. Anderson asked if other governmental agencies, such as the US Army Corps of Engineers also know our planning and zoning situation.

Ebling said that the Rice County Planning and Zoning department has told ABE that it is doing no permitting relative to a proposed ethanol plant in Bridgewater Township.

- J.5 Report: Sustainability Seminar Knecht  
Knecht reported that former US Representative Tim Penny spoke at the seminar concerning the huge subsidies that are not tied to need that are going to big farming operations. Penny said that the Bush Administration is trying to return the subsidy allocations to a need-basis.
- J.6 Report: Animal Ag Seminar Doran-Norton  
Although some difficult adjustments might be required in the short run, Doran-Norton reported that speakers at the seminar thought that animal agriculture will survive the impact of the ethanol industry. The adjustments might be particularly difficult for smaller farmers who don't have the economies of scale and the kind of "deep pockets" that would be required to ride out fluctuations.
- J.7 2007 Budget Recommendations Finger  
Finger presented the 2007 budget recommendations that will be presented to the annual town meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.
- J.8 2008 Levy Recommendations Knecht  
Knecht reported that the Town Board will recommend to the Annual Meeting that the levy for taxes collected in calendar 2008 be set at \$235,000.00.
- J.9 Report: Eaton Ave et al. Road Project Knecht  
The Assessment Hearing for this project is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2007 at 6:30 PM at the Bridgewater Town Hall.
- J.11 Road Maintenance Equipment Replacement Ebling  
Discussion of this item was deferred to a later date.
- J.11 PERA and E&O Insurance Knecht  
Discussion of this item was deferred to a later date.
- J.12 Purchase of chairs for Town Hall Ebling  
Discussion of this item was deferred to a later date.
- J.13 Office equipment authorization for zoning administrator Ebling  
The Clerk will talk with Jim Braun, Zoning Administrator, about whether the Zoning activity could use the existing 5-drawer legal file cabinet. If that arrangement can be made, the Clerk will recommend that the town purchase two 5-drawer letter file cabinets.
- J.14 Wireless internet for use in work of P&Z Administrator Ebling  
Discussion of this item was deferred to a later date.

J.15 Rice County moves to issue their own building permit for Rice County Landfill & Recycling Knecht  
 This matter will be addressed at a future Planning Commission meeting.

J.16 Report: wheelage tax and other revenue streams Doran-Norton  
 The Township Board of Supervisors has expressed support for this tax to the County Administrator and Commissioners.

J.17 Report: CSAH 1 Corridor Study/Cost Allocation Ebling  
 This matter will be discussed at a work session scheduled for March 29, 2007.

J.18 Report: Road Policy  
 Mr. Chris Chromy from Bolton & Menk, Inc. presented the "Bridgewater Township Road Policies & Standards, Draft March 12, 2007." That document is in the Town File, March, 2007.

It was observed that the document presented by Mr. Chromy needs drawings, cross sections, and road classifications.

It was agreed that Gary Ebling, Chris Chromy, and consultant David Salene would meet on April 2, 2007 at 3 p.m. at Bolton & Menk's Burnsville, MN office to discuss finalizing the document.

A work session to discuss the Bridgewater Road Policies and Standards will be held on April 16, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the Bridgewater Town Hall.

J.19 Report: Tax Sharing Tracking  
 Discussion of this item was deferred to a later date.

J.20 River Friendly Farming Project  
 Dave Legvold and Aaron Willis from the Cannon River Watershed Project (CRWP) discussed the River Friendly Farming Project. Documents describing this project are in the Town File, March 2007. Featured in this presentation was the Spring Brook Watershed Best Management Practices. Mr. Legvold said that Spring Creek is Rice County's only remaining trout stream. The CRWP is sponsoring a program on "The Ethanol Industry: Effects on Water Resources" on Wednesday, April 21, 2007 from 8:30 AM till 4 PM. It is expected that Stephanie Hendricksen, a township resident, will attend the meeting and give a report during the April, 2007 meeting of the Town Board.

**K Future Meetings, notably:** Piper

DATE	TIME	PURPOSE	LOCATION
3/13/2007	10 AM – 8 PM	ANNUAL ELECTION	BRIDGEWATER TOWN HALL
3/13/2007	Approximately 8:15 PM	ANNUAL MEETING	BRIDGEWATER TOWN HALL
4/9/2007	7 PM	MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD	BRIDGEWATER TOWN HALL

**L Motion to Adjourn**

By MOTION by Doran-Norton and seconded by Ebling, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM. The motion passed unanimously (Supervisors and their votes: Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye).

Submitted by,

Financial component approved by:

C. Michael Piper  
Clerk, Bridgewater Township

Le Ann Finger  
Treasurer, Bridgewater Township

Accepted by:

Gary Ebling  
Supervisor and Chair, Bridgewater  
Township Board of Supervisors

**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.