

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

April 9, 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** Ebling
Town Board Chair Gary Ebling called the April 2007 Meeting of the Town Board to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Town Officers were present: Kathleen Doran-Norton (Supervisor and Town Board Vice Chair), Gary Ebling (Supervisor and Town Board Chair), Leif Knecht (Supervisor), Le Ann Finger (Treasurer), and Mike Piper (Clerk).
- B Flag Pledge** Ebling
Ebling invited all present to rise and for the pledge.
- C Approval of Agenda** Ebling
Motion by Knecht, seconded by Doran-Norton, to approve the agenda for the April 9, 2007 meeting of the Town Board. Motion passed unanimously. (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye.)
- D Approval of Minutes from the March 12, 2007 Town Board Meeting** Ebling
The Minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting of the Town Board were approved. Motion by Doran-Norton, seconded by Knecht, and passed unanimously. (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye.)
- E Approval of Treasurer’s Report for March 2007** Finger
The Treasurer’s Report was approved. Motion by Knecht, seconded by Doran-Norton, 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
The correspondence was reviewed.
- H Public Comment (non-Agenda matters)**
There were no public comments
- I Old Business/Action Items**
- I.1 Dundas Planning Commission Update Doran-Norton
Some consideration is being given to large-lot, high-end development by Dundas.
- I.2 Report: CSAH 1 Corridor Preservation Study Knecht
Knecht reported that an alternate proposed alignment for CSAH 1 was rejected by the project advisory committee. That alignment would have brought the road near the north edge of approximately 15 homes. Knecht also reported that the cost of the CSAH 1 project has become a

significant issue since the anticipated cost has doubled since the previous issue.

Knecht reported that the cost for an EAW (environmental assessment worksheet) for the CSAH 1 corridor project has been estimated to be \$800,000. Knecht observed that that cost seems too high.

Notwithstanding these financial concerns, the town board expressed their continuing interest in continuing this study.

I.3 Bridgewater Township Planning Commission Update

Klockeman

John Klockeman reported that a draft of the comprehensive plan has been prepared and that progress is being made on the zoning ordinance. A Public Hearing on both documents will be held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Town board approval is anticipated on Tuesday, June 12, 2007.

Klockeman observed that the essential purpose of both documents is to preserve the rural character of Bridgewater Township.

As to the scope and challenge of the planning and zoning task, Knecht observed that the town is capable and will do it.

By motion by Doran-Norton, seconded by Knecht, and motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye).3-0, Larry Alderks was appointed to the planning commission.

I.4 Rice County Landfill Update

Issues relating to this matter will be discussed at a work session scheduled for April 24, 2007.

Issues relating to the “Hoover Dump” were also discussed. Cathy Larson will draft a letter to the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) regarding the township’s concerns about the effects of this dump on water sources for residences.

A report from this work session is an agenda item for the May 2007 meeting of the town board.

I.5 ABE Pump Test

Ebling

This test has started today, and although the test will be limited in duration, residents expressed concern about the duration of the test. The test will pump an estimated 1500 gallons per minute from the Jordan aquifer into Wolf creek, a report will be forthcoming.

I.6 Progressive Rail

Ebling

Dave Fellon, President of Progressive Rail, is expected to attend the work session scheduled for April 24, 2007.

Ebling observed that if ABE “pulls the plug” on an ethanol plant on Rice County 8, they might sell the land to the railroad in order to recover their costs.

Ebling and Carolyn Braun, planning and zoning consultant, will talk with Peter Tiede, an attorney and consultant to the township, about the relation of railroad preemption and the powers of township planning.

Carolyn Braun has spoken with Congressman Oberstar about this matter.

A report from this work session is an agenda item for the May 2007 meeting of the town board.

I.7 Ethanol industry effect on water resources

The general effect of an ethanol plant drawing water from an aquifer was discussed. Steve Albers expressed concern about the effectiveness of ABE's proposed poplars to soak up discharged water in view of the high water table in the Little Prairie area and the length of the dormant season. Cathy Larson said that there are water problems in Morris, MN. Stephanie Henriksen said that there are water problems in Granite Falls, MN.

J New Business

Supervisors

J.1 Report on SF 1402

Discussion on this matter was deferred.

J.2 Road matters

Dennis Brown

The annual road tour by the town board was scheduled for Friday, May 4, 2007.

Motion by Knecht, seconded by Doran-Norton, and motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye) to purchase a shoulder retriever for \$7,300. The town will receive a \$5,000 grant for this purchase from the State of Minnesota.

Motion by Doran-Norton, seconded by Knecht, and motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye) to replace the two culverts on Eaton Ave. A potential cost of \$3,500 was mentioned. Dennis Brown will review the culvert status on Eaton Ave. with the town board during the road tour.

Dennis Brown will get cost figures for the application of dust guard this year.

A report on road matters, including the selection of the gravel vendor, will be an agenda item for the May meeting of the town board.

J.3 Legal File Preparation

Ebling

The town board will prepare CD backups of their files relating to planning and zoning matters.

J.4 Book of Ordinances and Resolutions

Doran-Norton

The clerk will bring this volume up-to-date and have it available at future meetings of the town board.

J.5 PERA

By motion by Ebling, seconded by Doran-Norton, and motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye) that the board approved enrolling Dennis Brown, David Swartwoudt, and the zoning administrator, Jim Braun, in PERA. Knecht will meet with Finger relative to the income of these people. PERA status will be an agenda item for the May 2007 meeting.

K Selected Future Meetings

Note: The town board meets each Tuesday at 7:00 PM for either a work session or the regular monthly meeting, unless the meeting is canceled.

MAY 16, 2007
WEDNESDAY

PUBLIC HEARING: COMP PLAN AND ZONING ORDINANCE/7:00 PM

JUNE 12, 2007
TUESDAY

TOWN BOARD MEETING/7:00 PM
APPROVAL OF COMP PLAN AND ZONING ORDINANCE

L Motion to Adjourn

By motion by Doran-Norton, seconded by Knecht, and motion passed unanimously (Doran-Norton aye, Ebling aye, Knecht aye). The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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 and Town Board Vice Chair; Gary Ebling, Supervisor and Town Board Chair; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer and Webmaster; Leif Knecht, Supervisor; and Mike Piper, Clerk.