

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

July 10, 2007 – 7 PM

Bridgewater Town Hall

500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019

1. Introductory Chair Gary Ebling called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Elected officials present were Kathleen Doran-Norton, Supervisor and Town Board Vice Chair; Gary Ebling, Supervisor and Town Board Chair; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer; Leif Knecht, Supervisor; and Mike Piper, Clerk. Consultant Carolyn Braun and Zoning Administrator Jim Braun were also present. Ebling invited all present to rise for the pledge of allegiance.
2. Approval of Agenda MOTION by Knecht, second by Ebling, and passed unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented in these Minutes. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye, and Knecht, aye.)
3. Approval of Minutes from the June 12, 19, and 26 Town Board Meetings MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, and passed unanimously, to approve the Minutes for these three meetings of the town board. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye, and Knecht, aye.)
4. Approval of Treasurer's Report for June 2007 MOTION by Knecht, second by Doran-Norton, and passed unanimously, to approve the Treasurer's Report for June 2007. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye, and Knecht, aye.)
5. Review of Claims Against the Township The clerk reviewed claims against the township that have been received since the last meeting of the town board. MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, to pay claims against the township that were allowed. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye, and Knecht, aye.)
6. Review of Correspondence Received The clerk reviewed the correspondence received and generated since the last meeting of the town board. Included on file:
 - 6.1. Letter from Peter Tiede, dated July 2, 2007 concerning the level of his role.
 - 6.2. Proposal originals for the Eaton Ave, et al. road improvement project; sent by WSB, July 14, 2007
 - 6.3. Letter from Minnesota Association of Townships Agency, June 18, 2007 concerning the property evaluation program.
 - 6.4. Update from MPCA and MDNR re: aquiver test results, from Cathy Larson, July 10, 2007.

6.5. Requested additional employment information, from Benny H. Svien, June 19, 2007.

7. Public Comment (non-Agenda items) Mr. Mike Piper asked about the “new low-density single family residential zoning district [that] will allow home owners to build where there are no current utilities.” Quote for Northfield News, Saturday July 7, 2007. Piper questioned why such homes were to be built in an area annexed by the City of Dundas from Bridgewater Township in order to provide city utilities.

Ms. Cathy Larson asked about the availability of documentation concerning the pending law suite by Advanced BioEnergy against the township. The Summons, Complaint, Answer, and a letter to the township from our attorneys will be placed on the website.

8. New Chairs for Town Officers (old business) Ebling presented three bids from General Office Products Company for chairs. MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Ebling, and passed, the town board authorized the purchase of new chairs for the town officers. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; Knecht, abstained.)
9. PARA Update (old business) By MOTION by Ebling, second by Knecht, and passed unanimously, the town board asked treasurer Le Ann Finger to complete the necessary applications. It was estimated that this task will take approximately three hours. . (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye, and Knecht, aye.)
10. Road Status (old business) Dennis Brown reported that the dust control and gravelling projects for 2007 have been completed. It was decided that more rock would be put down on 115th Street.
11. Dundas Planning and Zoning Update (new business) Doran-Norton said that the decision to allow home owners to build where there are no current utilities was prompted by the decision to preserve natural resources and does not reflect a sewer capacity issue. Knecht observed that it is anticipated that the houses in question will be surrounded by urban development and that hooking up such houses to utilities after the fact is expensive. A public hearing is expected on the issue next Thursday at the Dundas City Hall.
12. CSAH 1 and MN 19 (new business) Doran-Norton reported that, at the moment, it appears that the city of Northfield is more interested in the upgrading of MN 19. Knecht reported that efforts should continue to focus Northfield’s attention on CSAH 1 because its development in the southern portions is a major reason that an improved road in a new corridor is needed.
13. Priorities of the Bridgewater Planning Commission (new business) Jim Braun listed the current priorities:
- 13.1. sewer and water
 - 13.2. gravel pits

- 13.3. land fill
 - 13.4. TDR and cluster development
 - 13.5. CER
 - 13.6. rail road transport zone
 - 13.7. being a good neighbor
 - 13.8. greenways
 - 13.9. feedlots.
14. Sewer and Wastewater Treatment Ordinance (new business) MOTION by Knecht, second by Doran-Norton, and passed unanimously, a public hearing will be scheduled for this ordinance on July 24, 2007. The Ordinance will be identified as Ordinance 2007-05 and is being prepared by Carolyn Braun.
 15. Selection of Building Official (new business) Jim Braun announced that Benny H. Svien has been selected as the Bridgewater Township Building Official. Mr. Svien will be offered a 6-month probationary agreement (not a contract).
 16. Compensation for Members of the Township Planning Commission (new business) MOTION by Ebling, second by Doran-Norton, and passed unanimously, the board set the compensation for the planning commission members at \$50.00 per month.
 17. Joint Government Meeting (new business) Ebling announced that a joint government meeting will be held on July 11, 2007, A report on that meeting will be given at the August 14, 2007 town board meeting.
 18. Rice County Land fill Report (new business) Ebling reported that Rice County wants to add a new cell to its land fill facility in Bridgewater Township. A report on this issue will be give at the August 14, 2007 town board meeting.
 19. A Five-member Town Board (new business) This potential organizational arrangement was briefly discussed. The board decided that further research is needed. This issue will be discussed further at the August 14, 2007 town board meeting.
 20. Adjournment MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye, and Knecht, aye.)

Submitted by

C. Michael Piper
Clerk, Bridgewater Township

Accepted by

Financial component approved by

Le Ann Finger
Treasurer, Bridgewater Township

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 Chair; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer and Webmaster; Leif Knecht, Supervisor; and Mike Piper, Clerk.

