

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP**  
*County of Rice, State of Minnesota*

**MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS on October 9, 2007**  
Bridgewater Town Hall, 500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019 at 7:00 PM

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**MINUTES**

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1. Introductory The meeting was held at the Bridgewater Town Hall, 500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019. Chair Gary Ebling called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Elected officials present were Kathleen Doran-Norton, Supervisor and Township Board Vice Chair; Gary Ebling, Supervisor and Township Board Chair; Leif Knecht, Supervisor; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer; and Mike Piper, Clerk. Ebling invited all present to rise and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
2. Approval of Agenda By MOTION by Knecht, second by Doran-Norton, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the agenda was approved as presented in these Minutes. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)
3. Approval of Minutes from the September 11, 2007 Township Board Meetings By MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, and passed by a vote of 3-0, the Minutes for these two meetings of the township board were approved. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)
4. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September, 2007 By MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, the Treasurer's Report for September, 2007 was approved. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.) The following is a summary of that report:

***September, 2007***

CHECKING BALANCE, 9/1/2007	\$68,872.60
CHECKING BALANCE, 9/30/2007	\$57,839.73
INVESTMENTS TOTAL, 9/1/2007	\$209,230.8
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TOTAL, CHECKING & INVESTMENTS, 9/30/2007	\$267,070.5 9

5. Review of Claims Against the Township The clerk reviewed claims against the township that have been received since the last meeting of the township board. By MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, those claims against the township that were allowed were ordered to be paid and are listed in Attachment A. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)

The treasurer also presented a third quarter review of township finances. That review

is included in the Township File.

The question was raised as to whether the township should replace its truck. Although no decision was arrived at, the sense of the board was that the township budget should resume putting \$15,000 into a replacement fund which should be maintained at a total of \$105,000.

Knecht asked the treasurer to project anticipated revenues and expenses for November and December, 2007 so that the board can decide whether to recommend that the levy be adjusted. The annual meeting in March, 2007 set the levy for taxes collectable in calendar 2008 at \$235,000. Were the levy adjustment to be considered by the township residents, the board decided that that action should happen on December 11, 2007 before the (only) December meeting of the township board this year.

6. Review of Correspondence Received The clerk reviewed the correspondence received and generated since the last meeting of the township board. Those of particular significance are listed in attachment B and are on file.
7. Proposed County Feedlot Ordinance Amendments Deb Sullivan reported that the proposed amendments to the County Feedlot Ordinance will increase the number of allowed animal units from 1500 to 2000, decrease the minimum land size from 15 to 5 acres, and decrease the setback requirement from 1000 to 0 feet.

Stephanie Henriksen said that the township should express its opinion.

Ebling observed that since Bridgewater is doing its own zoning, it can be more restrictive. Ebling also suggested that the limits on animal units could be a function of operational performance, for example, the effects of the manure and dust generated, and on ground water.

Knecht observed that Rice County has frequently ignored messages from Bridgewater. Henriksen then said that it is imperative, therefore, that Bridgewater assemble its thoughts. Henriksen also questioned the effectiveness of the county's enforcement on this matter.

Steve Albers observed that it is tough, in the present situation, for a farmer with a small farm to sell animals. And that, therefore, the feedlot ordinance should encourage small farms.

Jim Braun said that the matter of feedlots will be discussed at Saturday's Planning Commission meeting. In preparation for that meeting, the clerk will deliver copies of the present and proposed county feedlot ordinance to the planning commission.

To Deb Sullivan's observation that it seems that the thinking of the county is that if you have the space to spread manure, you can have as many animals as you like. Knecht questioned the effects on the environment. Knecht recommended that Bridgewater provide feedback information to the county.

8. Zoning Administrator report Jim Braun reported the following:
  - 8.1. The agenda for this Saturday's Planning Commission meeting will include a visit by Mike Cook, and reviews of TDRs, CERs, feedlots, and gravel pits.
  - 8.2. The detailed activity zoning administrator report for the last month was presented. That report is included in the Township File.
  - 8.3. Rice County has sent data to the township concerning gravel mining and the landfill. No data, however, has been received to date about permit fees that were paid to the county that should have been paid to the township.
  - 8.4. Rice County has an interest in dropping the urban reserve zone. The sense of the board was that it agrees with this intent. Knecht observed that future annexations, however, can not happen until existing annexations are completely developed. It is expected that this issue will be discussed at Saturday's planning commission meeting.
  - 8.5. The new Rice County GIS capability, Pictometry, was briefly discussed. Training sessions by the county are expected. The board expressed favorable opinions about this future feature.
  - 8.6. The clerk's file on ISTS Septic and Sewer System Ordinance Compliance was given to the zoning administrator. The reference at MPCA is Ms. Heidi Lindgren.
  - 8.7. As to Pam Morlan's property, there is an issue about splitting land in order to create new buildable lots.
  - 8.8. A potential document describing the Planning, Permitting, Inspecting, and Acceptance Process for building permits and inspections was delayed.
9. Summary judgment hearing, October 5, 2007: ABE vs. Bridgewater Township Knecht reported that the judge will issue an opinion on the litigation brought by Advanced BioEnergy ABE on or before January 5, 2007. Documents from the plaintiff and the township are matters of public information and are available on the township web site.
10. MN 19 improvement project: the 7 miles from I35 to MN 3 Doran-Norton reported that there are 111 access points in that 7 miles. The project probably will reduce that number of access points and construct some turn lanes. As to whether the highway will be rerouted, Doran-Norton said that MN DOT wants Northfield to tell MN DOT what it wants.
11. Bridgewater suggestions for the Northfield Comp Plan The clerk was asked to finalize the document and deliver copies to the Northfield City Hall. By MOTION by Knecht, second by Doran-Norton, and by a vote of 3-0 the document was accepted. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.) The document is on file: *Northfield, Suggestions Relating to Northfield's Comp Plan, October 31, 2007.*

12. 115<sup>th</sup> Street East between MN 3 and MN 246 A proposal for adjusting the grade of this road will be received and will be discussed at the November 13, 2007 meeting of the township board. Generally, the work on the east end of the road will be less difficult and less expensive than the work done on the west end of the road. Prior to that meeting, Ebling will consult with Dennis Brown, David Swartwoudt, and Mike Groth as to their ideas. The issue as to who relocates telephone wires in the area was discussed. The general opinion of the board was that the electric company is responsible.
13. “Eaton Ave” off 147<sup>th</sup> Street East The board concurred that that road is not a township road and that the Eaton Ave sign at the intersection should be removed. The road is considered a private drive and the residents on that road will continue to be billed for any maintenance work that the township does. It was also felt by the board that the road has never been recorded as an official township road and that there has not been a history of six (6) consecutive years of maintenance that would make the road a township “road created by use.”
14. Dundas Annexation Agreement It was reported that Tom Neuville wants to do some “housekeeping” work on the Dundas-Bridgewater Annexation Agreement. Further discussion will await the receipt of specifics.
15. Mowing of Township Ditches Whether the township ditches should be mowed once or twice a year was discussed. No consensus was reached.
16. Adjournment By MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Knecht, and passed 3-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; and Knecht, aye.)

Submitted by

C. Michael Piper  
Clerk, Bridgewater Township

Accepted by

Gary Ebling  
Supervisor and Chair, Bridgewater  
Township Board of Supervisors

Financial component approved by

Le Ann Finger  
Treasurer, Bridgewater Township

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

**ATTACHMENT A, CLAIMS REVIEWED AND PAID ON OCTOBER 9, 2007**

(see the township clerk for detail on claims)

**ATTACHMENT B, CORRESPONDENCE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE  
OCTOBER, 2007 TOWN FILE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
09-15-2007	Mike Piper	Gary Ebling	Re:Town Road Work Completion Certificate
09-16-2007	Kathleen Doran-Norton	Mike Piper	Per Jeff Egge: MPCA can give EAW presentation
09-19-2007	Mike Piper	Le Ann Finger	Deadline for adjusting levy for taxes payable in 2008
09-21-2007	Mike Piper	Le Ann Finger	Assessment for 9251 Edgebrook Drive paid off
10-01-2007	U of M	Bridgewater	Road related training and workshops
10-03-2007	Peter Tiede	James Braun	Documents received from Rice County