

*Board of Supervisors*  
**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP**  
*County of Rice, State of Minnesota*

**MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON FEBRUARY 12, 2008**  
Bridgewater Town Hall, 500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019/7:00 PM

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**PRELIMINARY MINUTES**

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1. Introductory. Chair Gary Ebling called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Town officers present were Kathleen Doran-Norton, supervisor and vice chair; Gary Ebling, supervisor and chair; Leif Knecht, supervisor; and Mike Piper, town clerk. Le Ann Finger, town treasurer was not present. John Klockeman, chair, Bridgewater Planning Commission.
2. Motion on a Regional Transportation Planning Task Force. Klockeman presented this resolution which was passed on January 30, 2008 by the Bridgewater Planning Commission. The town board made several changes to the resolution. The changes included adding cities, townships, and Dakota County to the list of responsible government units. Klockeman will revise the resolution and distribute it to the supervisors and the clerk.
3. Other comments from Klockeman. Klockeman also addressed the following matters (for details see the minutes of the Planning Commission): good neighbor policy, gravel mining, landfill, railroad transportation district, flood plain, a request from Teresa Swenson re rural residential housing off MN 19, a letter to Sen. Dahle and Rep. Bly re feedlots and in defense of local government rule, and a Regional Planning Group.
4. Jim Braun, zoning administrator. Jim Braun announced that he will not be providing zoning administration for Athens Township and intends to provide zoning administration service to Bridgewater Township for 3 more years.
5. Energy meetings. Piper reviewed the feed-in tariff concept presented at the Energy Summit hosted by Rep. Bly on January 31, 2008 at St. Olaf. Knecht reviewed the gasification concept defined by Glen Castore at a meeting held in January, 2008.
6. MN 19/Northfield NW Corridor. Doran-Norton attended an open house on January 31, 2008 on this subject during which potential connections were discussed and options identified. An additional meeting is expected in approximately 2 weeks.
7. Rice County Highway Department initiative: seal coat/asphalt overlay. Knecht reported that he contacted Dennis Luebbe, Rice County engineer, concerning the potential seal coating of Endwood Drive. Knecht said that Blair Fowler of WSB will examine the road and define the type of material that should be used for this project. There is the possibility that if Rice County will not use the material that Bridgewater prefers, Bridgewater would perform the seal coating without the assistance of Rice County.

8. Landfill hosting fee. Ebling reported that Rice County passed a resolution rescinding its previous resolution agreeing that Bridgewater can collect a hosting fee. As a related matter, see item 9, below.
9. Work authorization for Peter Tiede. By MOTION, the town board authorized an expenditure of \$4,000.00 for attorney Peter Tiede to initiate a request for a declaratory judgment in the matter of whether Bridgewater can impose a hosting fee for the landfill located in the township. Motion by Knecht, second by Doran-Norton, Motion passed, 3-0 (vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; Knecht, aye).
10. The City of Northfield's potential annexation requests. Brian O'Connell, Northfield Development Director, reviewed Northfield's current potential interest in expansion by annexation of areas west of the hospital and on Armstrong Road in the interest of establishing business parks. O'Connell's intent was to ask the board what its current thinking is on this matter.

Some concern was expressed by the board as to the connection with Decker Avenue, the establishment of high quality amenities such as walking trails, the protection of natural areas including the setbacks from creeks, water/sewer/traffic issues including the location of a new Cannon River bridge, the preservation of the good neighbor policy for Bridgewater residents whose property would adjoin the new business parks, the desire of Bridgewater to be a good partner with Northfield, and whether changes would be required to the existing Bridgewater-Northfield Annexation Agreement. The board noted that good, integrated planning and thoughtful implementation will be essential attributes of any annexation and development activities in this area.

O'Connell said that Northfield is getting inquiries from potential businesses that could locate in the proposed business parks. No specific business was named.

O'Connell also said that he anticipates that any annexation would be done in stages.

Ebling and O'Connell summarized Bridgewater's current view: the township is open to reviewing the current annexation agreement with Northfield, the township is receptive to Northfield's strategy to explore business opportunities, and the township shares Northfield's environmental concerns.

11. Group Life Insurance. The board decided to deal with this matter at the 2008 Reorganization Meeting.
12. 2008, 2009 budget. Some preliminary figures were distributed. Detailed discussions were postponed to a budget meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 17, 2007. A preliminary report is anticipated at the March 4, 2008 regular meeting of the town board.
13. Review of Northfield Comp Plan. Knecht will contact Dan Olson at the city of Northfield requesting a further extension. A report is anticipated at the March 4, 2008 regular meeting of the town board.

14. Proposed resolution: in support of a federal application for a study grant for CSAH 1.
15. Recommended bridge maintenance. A letter from the Rice County Highway Department recommending specific bridge maintenance actions in Bridgewater was given to Dennis Brown. A report is anticipated at the March 4, 2008 regular meeting of the town board.
16. Adjournment. By MOTION by Doran-Norton, second by Ebling, and passed 3-0, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM. (Vote: Doran-Norton, aye; Ebling, aye; Knecht, aye).

Respectfully submitted,

C Michael Piper  
Clerk, Bridgewater Township