

State of Minnesota

County of Rice, Town of Bridgewater

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR WORK SESSION

Items considered were potential Orderly Annexation Agreements, Boundary Adjustments, and Town Planning

January 8, 2004 – 7:00 PM
 Bridgewater Town Hall
 500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019

A. LIST OF ATTENDEES

The following is a partial list of attendees: Gary Ebling, Bridgewater Supervisor; Leif Knecht, Bridgewater Supervisor-Chair; Paul Liebenstein, Bridgewater Supervisor; and Mike Piper, Bridgewater Clerk.

B. MEETING DISCUSSION

The following are observations recorded by the Bridgewater Town Clerk:

- Carolyn Braun addressed the matter of subdivisions. She stated that in the subdivision ordinance, towns are considered municipalities.
- The matter of planning commissions was addressed.
- The consultants asked whether Bridgewater wants to do its own planning and zoning. If not, we are then subject to Rice County's planning and zoning. Bridgewater's planning and zoning would be required to be consistent and more restrictive than the county's.
- It was observed, that if Bridgewater does not do planning and zoning, and has no subdivisions, it loses control. Either Bridgewater does its own planning and zoning, or it is subject to someone else.
- The matters of equal powers and joint planning were addressed.
 - Peter Tiede noted that the Prior Lake – Spring Lake is the only instance that he knows where joint planning worked.
- Peter Tiede observed that towns have some leeway in negotiating terms. He also observed that annexation by contest gets in the papers. These kind of activities can be expensive and offensive.
- The matter of incorporation was addressed. To stay as a city, a plan would be required. Also, it is possible, in anticipation of such an action, Dundas and Northfield could annex all of Bridgewater Township.
- David Salene emphasized the importance of working with Rice County. His observation was that when a Town and a City agrees on something, generally the county is ok with it.

- Two options were suggested (not mutually exclusive):
 - Orderly Annexation (in our best interests)
 - Bridgewater Planning and Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances (to achieve leverage). The Planning document (called a "Comprehensive Plan") must be kept up to date. Doing such a document is generally a cut and paste exercise, per Carolyn Braun.
 - David Salene recommended that Bridgewater does both at the same time.
- Chair Knecht stated that the objective of the Board is to moderate the pace of urban development.
- The next meeting will discuss the following:
 - Combinations and mergers
 - A list, generated by each Supervisor, of development goals for Bridgewater Township.

C. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2004 at 7:00 PM at the Bridgewater Town Hall

D. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Mike Piper

Mike Piper, Clerk

Leif Knecht, Supervisor-Chair

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP, RICE COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA

REPORT/MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT MEETING

January 20, 2004

7:00 PM AT THE BRIDGEWATER TOWN HALL

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 366.20, all members of the Bridgewater Town Board met to audit and settle all charges against the Town. Not all issues were resolved; therefore, it will be necessary to reconvene the Board of Audit to finish this task.

The following are members of the Town Board:

Gary Ebling	Supervisor
Le Ann Finger	Treasurer
Leif Knecht	Supervisor-Chair
Paul Liebenstein	Supervisor
Mike Piper	Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Piper, Clerk

Lief Knecht, Supervisor-Chair