

State of Minnesota

County of Rice, Town of Bridgewater

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR WORK SESSION

Item considered was a potential Orderly Annexation Agreement with the City of Dundas

January 30, 2004 – 4:00 PM

Bridgewater Town Hall

500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 PM by Supervisor-Chair Leif Knecht. Chair Knecht invited all present to pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States.

B. 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.

C. MEETING DISCUSSION

The following are observations recorded by the Bridgewater Town Clerk:

- Ebling is working on annexation details with representatives appointed by Dundas. Several sessions have been held. Ebling agreed hereafter to submit a Report after each such meeting.
- The purpose of this meeting was to “hammer out our positions.”
- Ebling met with Tom McMahan, Dundas City Engineer this Wednesday. Ebling reported that Dundas has finished its Land Use Plan. In addition, a Preliminary Transportation Plan for Bridgewater and Dundas has been finished.
- Knecht noted that presently the Bridgewater Supervisors envision an Orderly Annexation Agreement with Dundas that would span two 15-year periods for a total of 30 years. 600 acres would be annexed during each period. The total, therefore, is 1200 acres. That total could be increased were some land of special natural and environmental interest designated as “conservation easement.” Such land could be partially used for parks and hiking/bike trails.
- Ebling had a document detailing his thinking re the Orderly Annexation Agreement with Dundas. That document was not filed with the Clerk.
- The possibility of Bridgewater Township doing its own planning and zoning was discussed.
- Ebling addressed the “equal voice and authority” concept. It was felt that David Salene could help word the Annexation Agreement that the inclusion of such a concept would not frighten developers away.

- Knecht noted that it is essential that 115th Street be paved from County 20 to County 22 "in short order."
- Ebling noted that Geiger want to start developing on 115th Street.
- Liebenstein noted that the developers would still need access County 1.
- Bridgewater Township anticipates that it would have two members on the Dundas Planning Commission.
- Residents expressed the desire that public input be actively sought through public hearings and a mailing, and that no Orderly Annexation Agreement be signed by the Supervisors until after the Annual Meeting, March 9, 2004.
- It was noted that included among the priorities of the Supervisors in the Orderly Annexation Agreement would be (1) that no unincorporated rural residential areas (cluster developments) be annexed without the consent of the residents involved, (2) those who farm within annexed areas can continue to do so if they wish, and (3) that the financial status ("health") of the developers be established.
- The work session scheduled for February 3, 2004 at the Dundas City Hall has been cancelled.

D. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Mike Piper

Mike Piper, Clerk

Leif Knecht, Supervisor-Chair