

State of Minnesota

County of Rice, Town of Bridgewater

MINUTES

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

February 2, 2004 – 7:00 PM

Bridgewater Town Hall

500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019

Purpose of Meeting: Review issue, project, task, and financial status of Bridgewater Township for the month of January, 2004; and plan for the month of February, 2004. In addition, correspondence and claims received since the last Board Meeting were reviewed, and, those claims that were allowed were paid.

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| A | Call to Order and Roll-call of Town Officers
The meeting was called to order by Chair Knecht at 7:05 PM. All members of the Town Board were present. The members are as follows: Gary Ebling, Supervisor; Le Ann Finger, Treasurer; Leif Knecht, Supervisor and Board Chair; Paul Liebenstein, Supervisor; and Mike Piper, Clerk. | Chair |
| B | Flag Pledge
All in attendance were invited to pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. | Chair |
| C | Approval of Agenda
The Agenda as presented was approved. Ebling moved; Liebenstein seconded; passed unanimously. | Supervisors |
| D | Approval of Minutes from January, 2004 Meetings and Work Sessions
Because of the full agenda for the meeting, the approval of the January Minutes was delayed until the March meeting. | Supervisors |
| D.2 | January 05, 2004 Monthly Board Meeting | |
| D.1 | January 06, 2004 Work Session at the Dundas City Hall | |
| D.2 | January 08, 2004 Work Session at the Bridgewater Town Hall | |
| D.3 | January 20, 2004 Work Session at the Dundas City Hall | |

D.4 January 20, 2004 Board of Audit at the Bridgewater Town Hall

D.5 January 22, 2004 Work Session at the Bridgewater Town Hall

D.6 January 30, 2004 Work Session at the Bridgewater Town Hall

E Approval of the January, 2004 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer
Supervisors

The January, 2004 Treasurer's Report as presented by Finger was approved. Ebling moved; Liebenstein seconded; passed unanimously. The Treasurer's Report for January, 2004 is filed in the Town file. In summary, the Town ended January, 2004 with \$65,021.38 in the checking account and \$194,482.88 in investments for a total of \$259,504.26.

Additional financial items that were discussed are as follows:

- Knecht asked that Finger prepare a complete listing of anticipated annexation payments for 2004.
- Ebling said the he would talk with Rice County to determine if annexation payments can be made directly to the Town.
- As to insurance, Knecht said that he would track down the current situation.
- Piper reported that a self-feeding, duplex (2-sided) copier would cost approximately \$1,000. Piper was asked to investigate the availability and cost of a reconditioned machine.

F Review of Claims Received

Board

Claims received during January, 2004 were reviewed; those allowed were paid. A complete list of claims paid in February, 2004 is included in the February, 2004 Treasurer's Report.

G Review of Correspondence Received

Clerk
Supervisors

Piper reviewed Correspondence received during January, 2004.

H Old Business

H.1 Bond documents for the Timberlane-Ebel Way Road Improvement Project.

Clerk

These documents have not yet been received by the Town Clerk.

H.2 Update on a Potential Dundas Annexation

Supervisors

This discussion consumed the majority of the meeting's time.

Knecht indicated that the Supervisors have held public meetings with representatives of the city of Dundas to prepare an Orderly Annexation Agreement.

Knecht indicated that Ebling has been named as the point negotiator for Bridgewater Township. Tom McMahon has been named as the point negotiator for the City of Dundas.

In addition, the Township has hired three consultants to assist in the preparation of an Orderly Annexation Agreement.

The results of Ebling's work were presented at this meeting. Ebling indicated that a Bridgewater/Dundas Transportation Plan has been prepared. In addition, a Land Use Document has been prepared.

Ebling reviewed a tentative Orderly Annexation Document showing comments by McMahon and David Salene, one of the consultants hired by the Township. The Supervisors discussed the various components of the document and asked that the document be revised showing Bridgewater preferences and that the revision be done in plain language and that it be legally acceptable.

Ebling presented his view that the proposed Dundas Planning Commission expansion to include two representatives of Bridgewater Township.

Knecht stated that the final Orderly Annexation Agreement should respect the wishes of the residents of the Township.

Ebling noted that Dundas is presently considering a traffic light at the Minnesota 3/Rice County 20 intersection.

The Supervisors indicated that Bridgewater favors an Orderly Annexation Agreement as the primary engine; doing our own Planning and Zoning would be an alternate approach.

Ebling indicated that Dundas is holding off a revision of its Comprehensive Plan until an Orderly Annexation Agreement is reached with Bridgewater.

Knecht indicated that the tax implications of any proposed Annexation should be made available to Bridgewater residents.

Knecht indicated that the current citizens of Dundas should be surveyed as to what they think of the impacts of a significant increase in their town's population.

Piper was tasked with getting a copy of the Dundas' sewer agreement with Northfield.

Knecht indicated that the land use plan shows “drawing areas” as a source from which land would be annexed in accordance with the acreage and time constraints identified in an Orderly Annexation Agreement.

Knecht indicated that Bridgewater and Dundas are considering “natural preserve” areas that, if they were annexed, could not be developed and would not be counted in the annexation quota.

Ebling indicated that any move to unlimited annexation for industrial purposes would require joint planning where a 2/3 vote of both the Bridgewater Town Board and the Dundas City Council would be required. Knecht indicated that Bridgewater needs an accurate, legal definition of “industrial use.”

The matter of annexation payments was discussed. One use of the monies collected would be for road improvements for Town Roads that would be required because of the increased traffic from developed annexed land. Knecht indicated that the road and infrastructure costs within developed, annexed land would be the responsibility of the developer.

Knecht indicated the importance of road interconnectivity. He noted that he did not see this feature in the Annexation document being discussed.

Knecht indicated that Bridgewater should investigate how long it would take Bridgewater to petition Rice County for permission to do its own Planning and Zoning, and how long and at what cost would be required to produce an acceptable Planning and Zoning document.

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| H.3 | Update on Rice County’s Draft Zoning Ordinance
Discussion on this matter was deferred until after the Public Hearing. | Supervisors |
| H.3 | Concluding Audit of 2003 Town Book
Finger and Piper were tasked to complete the Audit of the 2003 Town Book. | Board |
| I | New Business | |
| I. 1 | Appointment of Election Judges
The Board approved the election judges selected by the clerk.
Ebling moved; Liebenstein seconded; passed unanimously. | Clerk
Supervisors |

- I.3 Establishment of Dates for Monthly Meetings – March, 2004 through February, 2005
The Reorganization and Canvas Meeting will be held on March 12, 2004.

Clerk
Supervisors

Dates for the upcoming monthly Town Meetings will be established at the annual Town Meeting.

- J **Future Meetings** Clerk

February 3, 2004 Work Session at the Dundas City Hall
CANCELLED

February 6, 2004 Work Session at the Bridgewater Town Hall re potential Orderly Annexation Agreement with the City of Dundas

February 17, 2004 Work Session at the Bridgewater Town Hall re potential Orderly Annexation Agreement with the City of Dundas

February 19, 2004 Work Session at the Bridgewater Town Hall re potential Orderly Annexation Agreement with the City of Dundas
CANCELLED

February 26, 2004 Work Session at the Bridgewater Town Hall re potential Orderly Annexation Agreement with the City of Dundas

March 1, 2004 Township Board Meeting (March 2004)

March 9, 2004 Township Election

March 9, 2004 Township Annual Meeting and Board of Canvas

March 12, 2004 Reorganization and Canvas Meeting
RESCHEDULED FOR INCLUSION IN THE APRIL, 2004 TOWN BOARD MEETING

- K **Motion to Adjourn**
The Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Leif Knecht
Town Board of Supervisors Chair

Mike Piper
Mike Piper
Town Clerk