

*Town of Bridgewater, County of Rice, State of Minnesota*

**MINUTES**

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

September 13, 2004 – 7:00 PM  
Bridgewater Town Hall  
500 Railway Street South, Dundas, MN 55019

Purpose of Meeting:

- Review issue, project, task, action item, and financial status of Bridgewater Township for the month of August, 2004; and plan for the month of September, 2004.
- Review correspondence and claims received since the last Board Meeting; those claims that are allowed will be paid.
- During the meeting, the Board of Supervisors welcomes comments by residents at appropriate times.

<b>A</b>	<b>Call to Order and Roll-call of Town Officers</b> Town Board Chair Gary Ebling called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. All Town Officers were present; namely, Supervisor and Town Board Chair Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger, Supervisor Leif Knecht, Supervisor Paul Liebenstein, and Clerk Mike Piper.	Chair
<b>B</b>	<b>Flag Pledge</b> Chair Ebling invited all present to rise and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.	Chair
<b>C</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b> The Agenda was approved as submitted. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, passed unanimously.	Supervisors
<b>D</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes from August, 2004 Town Board Meetings</b> The Minutes for the August, 2004 Town Board Meeting were approved. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, passed unanimously.	Clerk
<b>E</b>	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, passed unanimously.	Treasurer,
<b>F</b>	<b>Review of Claims/Deposits Received</b> Claims received since the last Meeting of the Town Board were reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, passed unanimously.	Supervisors
<b>G</b>	<b>Review of Correspondence Received and Generated</b> Correspondence received and generated since the August meeting of the Town Board was reviewed. Included was the return of the \$526.00 check to MSI Insurance, and the delivery of Town Taxes voted for year payable 2005 (General Fund \$81,354 + Road and Bridge Fund \$113,646 = Total \$195,000)	Clerk
<b>H</b>	<b>Old Business/Action Items</b>	Supervisors

H.1 Update on Road Grader Sale/Trade Brown

The Township is discussing the sale of the grader with Iosco Township. Ebling will ask John Opaug, Town Attorney, to draw up a sales agreement. The matter will be discussed at the October meeting of the Town Board.

H.2 Update on Ditch Spraying in Township Brown

Dennis Brown reported that the task is complete. The issue of ditch cutting will be discussed at the October meeting of the Town Board.

H.3 Report on September 9, 2004 Special Meeting/Annexation Process Ebling

Ebling reported on the meeting.

Piper's Notes on the meeting include the following observations:

- Bridgewater Township will not use the 60-day time clock started on the 10 and 27 August 2004 letters from Dundas. A letter to that effect is expected from the City of Dundas.<sup>1</sup>
- As to the expected development in the Paulson area, it was asked whether this is the kind of development that Bridgewater Township was expecting.
- It was observed that the impact of the developments on roads from the Township perspective needs to be defined.
- The Paulson annexation request fits the intent of the Agreement except the contiguous requirement. This was the observation of David Salene, Annexation Consultant.
- It is the responsibility of Dundas to ensure that the proposed annexation of the Paulson property is contiguous with the City of Dundas.
- Knecht said that he wants two accesses to the development from County Road 1.
- If 115<sup>th</sup> Street is not upgraded, Knecht stated that he wants no construction traffic on that road.
- Geiger is purchasing the 240 acres in parcels over 10 years. Dan O'Neill from Geiger attended the meeting.
- Gary Rock expressed concern about the effect on building potential for his son-in-law. Mr. Rock also expressed concern about the location of a water tower.

H.4 Report on Rice County Economic Development Summit (August 25, 2004) Liebenstein

Liebenstein reported on the meeting. His opinion is that the items discussed there were general and that no significant items of immediate interests to Bridgewater Township were discussed.

**I New Business** Supervisors

I.1 Two requests for Annexation by the City of Dundas

The matter was discussed and will be more fully discussed at the October meeting of the Town Board.

<sup>1</sup> Subsequent to this Meeting, the original due dates were retained.

Included in the discussion, and attached to these Minutes, is the observation that "All annexations to be contiguous in a meaningful manner, rather than by a ribbon or thread of land."

I.1 Mr. David Bly

Mr. David Bly, DFL candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives District 25A spoke to the meeting. Mr. Bly asked whether the Supervisors were happy with the Agreement. Ebling responded that, yes, in general the Town Board is pleased with the Agreement. Further, Ebling noted that only 5% of the Township land could be annexed, thus retaining the rural nature of the Township. Ebling observed that the interface between the Township and the City of Dundas is still being worked out, and that the Town would appreciate the support of Mr. Bly. Ebling pointed out the "template nature" of the Annexation Agreement, and that the Township is provided tax revenue for annexed land for 10 years thus contributing to the building and maintenance responsibilities of Town roads. Ebling also noted that a farmer that wants to continue farming will not be taxed or forced to change his/her business practice or assessed. As to the question of whether that farmer will see assessments for road improvements, Liebenstein noted that roads have to be pretty bad to require improvements; Knecht observed that most road improvements are at the request of the residents. Ebling observed that, in view of state laws and county zoning ordinances, development cannot be stopped, but the pace can be managed.

Mr. Bly indicated his preference for local control. He also expressed active interest in education, health care, and employment with living wages issues. Liebenstein observed that the state is shifting the burden of taxation down to local governments.

I.2 Mr. Greg Neymeyer

Mr. Greg Neymeyer, resident of the Wendwood rural residential subdivision presented a request for a second driveway on his property. The request was approved as presented. The matter will be handled by the Township Road Supervisor, Dennis Brown. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, passed unanimously.

I.3 Timberlane Set-aside Funds

Supervisor Knecht moved that the set-aside funds for the Timberlane Road Improvement will be used to side dress the roads in that subdivision with crushed rock. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, passed unanimously.

I.1 Resolution: Establishing a Policy for the Compensation and Reimbursement of Town Officers.

Supervisors

Action on this item will be deferred to a later date.

I.2 Elections – September 14, 2004 and November 2, 2004

Piper

Piper observed that preparations for the Primary Election on September 14, 2004 were complete, including the assignment of election judges and the receipt of election supplies from the Rice County Auditor.

- I.3 Review Letter to be sent to the residents of rural residential subdivisions within Bridgewater Township. Knecht

The following tasks are remaining for this item:

- Knecht will provide a cover letter for a letter written by David Salene, Annexation Consultant.
- Ebling will get a signed copy of Salene's letter.
- Piper will obtain mailing labels from the Rice County Auditor's Office.
- Piper will copy and mail the cover letter and the Salene letter to the property owners in the Bridgewater Township rural residential subdivision.

- I.4 Review Dundas Planning Commission Process

The Pending Annexation Requests from the City of Dundas were noted and it was decided to discuss them at the October meeting of the Town Board. Also to be discussed is the process by which the Town Board will give feedback to the Bridgewater component of the Dundas Planning Commission. It was decided that Planning Commission will be a standard Agenda item for Town Board Meetings. It was noted that Paul Liebenstein has been appointed to the Dundas Planning Commission.

- I.5 Ditch Mowing/Fall Top Cut Supervisors

This item will be discussed at the October meeting of the Town Board.

- I.6 Speed Limit Signs for lower Oak Hill South Ebling

Dennis Brown was tasked to place 30 MPH signs in Lower Oak Hill South. Progress on this item will be reported at the October meeting of the Town Board.

- I.7 PERA

Knecht is looking into this possibility for the Town equipment operators. The matter will be discussed at a future meeting of the Town Board.

- I.8 Seal Coating of Roads vs. Crack Filling Knecht

The issue was discussed. Ebling will talk with Dennis Brown regarding this and report to the Town Board at a later meeting. Knecht will write a letter to Waste Management regarding the dropping of hydraulic oil on Town roads when the crane is used.

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<b>K</b>	<b>Future Meetings</b> 10/4/2004 October Town Board Meeting	Clerk
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<b>L</b>	<b>Motion to Adjourn</b> The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, passed unanimously.	Supervisors

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Respectfully submitted,

Mike Piper, Town Clerk

Approved,

Gary Ebling, Chair Town Board of Supervisors

September 13, 2004

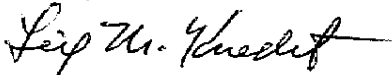
Bruce Morlan, Eric Bjornard and Paul Liebenstein  
As members of the Dundas Planning Commission

Re: Issues which I think may be important for the City of Dundas to address prior to and/or in the course of approving annexations under the terms of the Orderly Annexation Agreement.

- 1) All annexations to be contiguous in a meaningful manner, rather than by a ribbon or thread of land.
- 2) Prior to approving annexations requests it would seem that it would be wise to formulate parameters for the character, quality, density of housing or commerce and transportation flow into and out of sub-divisions to promote interconnectivity in all directions.
- 3) Clarify the responsibility of developers to complete the upgrading of township roads adjoining the development. Specifically – DO NOT allow developers to just say they will upgrade the roads later. Have a way of assuring that from the time the first footings are laid, that monies are forthcoming and held in trust until the time that the contracts are let for the construction required to upgrade adjoining roads and provide customary urban services to the sub-division.
- 4) Costs for the construction of new sewer and water lines, a new water tower, and new roads to service sub-divisions should fall on the current residents of Dundas only in an incidental manner, and only in direct proportion to the benefit actually accruing to current Dundas residents. STORM WATER
- 5) Dundas will distinguish itself as a progressive community if it clearly endorses, requires and implements sub-division development which includes extensive and aesthetically pleasing pedestrian and bicycle trails throughout all sections of Dundas that connect with each other in ways that are very safe for the users.
- 6) Dundas to do the budgeting of the yearly 100 acres annexation quota, and hold to the prescribed amounts and pacing.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,



Leif M. Knecht