

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

**MINUTES**  
**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**November 1, 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 October, 2004; and plan for the month of November, 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.

**A Call to Order, Roll-call of Town Officers, and Introduction of Guests** Chair  
 Town Board Chair Gary Ebling called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The following Town Officers were present: Supervisor and Town Board Chair Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger, Supervisor Leif Knecht, Supervisor Paul Liebenstein, and Clerk Mike Piper.

**B Flag Pledge** Chair  
 Chair Ebling invited all present to rise and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**C Approval of Agenda** Supervisors  
 With the addition of item I.5, a Planning and Zoning report by Supervisor Liebenstein, the Agenda was approved as presented. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein; motion passed unanimously.

**D Visit by Rice County Sheriff, Richard Cook** Ebling  
 Rice County Sheriff Richard Cook addressed the meeting. The following are notes from his comments:

- The budget is a significant challenge. The Sheriff's Office is looking for improved efficiency.
- The Sheriff's Office now has a computer terminal on-site at the Dundas Police Department.
- An additional K-9 unit has been added. The dog was purchased through donations.
- The Sheriff would like to add an additional officer for drug enforcement.
- Concerning the drug issue, Sheriff Cook said that the efforts of the Rice County Sheriff Office are keeping a "finger in the dyke." Sheriff Cook observed that Interstate 35 is a pipeline for drug distribution.
- Sheriff Cook listed the following issues:
  - Drugs
  - The increased security requirements of the remodeled County Court House.
  - The provision of uniform coverage across the County. To provide this, the Sheriff's Office will need more people.
  - The patrol cars have high mileage.

- Selected inmates from the Rice County Jail are available to perform work as a free service.

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**E Approval of Minutes from October, 2004 Town Board Meetings** Piper  
The Minutes for the October 4, 2004 Meeting of the Town Board were approved as presented. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein; motion passed unanimously.

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**F Approval of Treasurer's Report** Finger  
The Treasurer reported that the Town's Checking Account balance as of 10/31/2004 was \$74,585.80. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein; motion passed unanimously.

The Treasure delivered a copy of the Town Financial Reporting Form for Bridgewater Township for the year ending December 31, 2003. That report is filed in the Bridgewater Town file for September, 2004.

Action Item: The Clerk and the Treasurer will meet separately before the December, 2004 meeting of the Town Board to ensure that both the Clerk's and Treasurer's reports are in full agreement.

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**G Review of Claims/Deposits Received** Supervisors  
Claims received since the October, 2004 Meeting of the Town Board were reviewed, Those approved were paid. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein; motion passed unanimously.

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**H Review of Correspondence Received and Generated** Piper  
Correspondence received and generated since the October, 2004 Meeting of the Town Board were reviewed.

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**I Old Business/Action Items** Supervisors  
I.1 Status review of Action Items Ebling

**Action Items generated during the October 4, 2004 Meeting (reference to Minutes):**

Action item 1

Treasurer and Clerk to schedule a meeting and prepare Reconciled Statements for July through September, 2004. Reference: paragraph F.1.

Resolution: This meeting will be scheduled for a date during November, 2004 to be determined by the Treasurer and the Clerk. Open Action Item.

Action item 2

Treasurer to supply a copy of the 2003 Financial Report to the Clerk for the Town File. Reference: paragraph F.2.

Resolution: The Treasurer delivered a copy of the 2003 Financial Report to the Clerk for filing in the Town File. Action Item closed.

Action item 3

Chair Ebling to schedule 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Review. Reference: paragraph F.3.

Resolution: The Financial Review was not scheduled. Open Action Item.

Action item 4

Consultant Salene to write a letter to the City of Dundas expressing concerns re the present state of the Paulson Annexation Request. Reference: paragraph I.1.

Resolution: Overcome by events. Action Item closed.

Action item 5

Salene to determine the justification in either statute and/or case law for ribbon annexation. Reference: paragraph I.1

Resolution: Action Item remains open.

Action item 6

Write a Township Newsletter for distribution, if possible, at the November 2, 2004 General Election Writing assigned to Knecht, review assigned to Ebling and Liebenstein, printing assigned to Piper.

Resolution: Overcome by events. Action Item closed.

I.2 Status of Dundas Annexation Requests

Ebling

General concerns were expressed that current annexation requests by the City of Dundas exceeds the annual 100 acre limit due to the annexation of the contiguous Rock property. It was verified by Salene that the first annexation year starts on July 12, 2004.

1.2.1 Summary of Geiger (Paulson) Annexation Request as of December 4, 2004

- 08/10/2004 Letter from Dundas requesting annexation
- 09/30/04 Phase Request from Dundas that Phase 1A, 1B boundaries be adjusted
- 10/20/04 Phase 1A Resolution approving annexation request signed by Bridgewater and sent to Dundas.
- 11/29/2004 Dundas approved Phase 1A/Rock Resolution
- 12/2/2004 Dundas mailed Phase 1A/Rock Resolution to Minnesota Boundary Adjustments
- 12/06/2004 Bridgewater to consider Resolution re Phase 1B.

1.2.2 Summary of Rock Annexation Request as of December 4, 2004

- 10/06/2004 Letter from Thomas Neuville stating the intention of Dundas to annex the Rock property.
- 10/20/2004 Resolution approving annexation request signed by Bridgewater sent to Dundas.
- 11/29/2004 Dundas approved the Geiger Phase 1A/Rock Resolution
- 12/02/2004 Dundas mailed the Geiger Phase 1A/Rock Resolution to Minnesota Boundary Adjustment

1.2.3 Summary of College City Annexation Request as of December 4, 2004

Randy Peterson from College City Homes attended the November meeting of the Town Board. Mr. Peterson stated that College City plans to develop 42 acres in the reasonable near term, and that eventually, over the next 10 to 15 years, 122 acres will be developed. The housing mix for the 42 acres is anticipated to be 75% single homes and 25% town homes. Supervisor Knecht expressed concerns about a rail road crossing.

- 08/27/2004 Letter from Dundas requesting annexation
- 10/04/2004 Resolution approving annexation request signed by Bridgewater and sent to Dundas
- 11/29/2004 Dundas approved the College City Resolution

#### 1.2.4 Summary of DeMann Annexation Request as of December 4, 2004

Mr. Chip DeMann attended the November meeting of the Town Board. Mr. DeMann indicated that part of his area is in the flood plain and contains wet land, and that part would be attractive to a bike trail. Mr. DeMann said that he has talked with two potential developers. Mr. DeMann recommended that the new County Road 1 be placed further south that is indicated on the present Transportation Plan. Action Item: A response by the Town Board concerning the DeMann annexation request is due to the City of Dundas by December 13, 2004.

- 10/13/2004 Letter from Dundas requesting annexation.
- 12/06/2004 Bridgewater to consider Resolution re DeMann annexation request

I.3 Rice County Transportation Plan Advisory Committee Ebling  
Liebenstein observed that traffic counts could be done to determine what routes people are taking to get to/from Interstate 35.

I.4 Northern Rice County Citizen Advisory Committee Ebling  
Bridgewater Township won't participate in this Committee at this time, but desires to be kept updated on their activities. Action Item: Ebling will call Charlie Skinner with this decision.

A Statement from the Advisory Committee has been included in the Bridgewater Town File for October, 2004.

I.5 Planning and Zoning Update  
It was reported that the Rice County Comprehensive Plan 2002 and the Rice County Zoning Ordinance dated July 15, 2004 are complete and available to the public including developers. Both documents are available on the Rice County Web site. Reference: <http://www.co.rice.mn.us/>

#### J New Business Supervisors

J.1 Ambulance Association Report Ebling  
Ebling reported that ambulance volume has returned to pre-2003 levels.

J.2 Revision of MN Statute 462.353 and 462.358 Ebling

The implications of these statutes were reviewed. Of concern is the legal standing of cities to charge fees provided that the fees are reasonable.

These Statutes are included with the Minutes for the November, 2004 Meeting of the Town Board. Their titles are as follows:

- 462.353 Authority to plan; funds; fees; appeals
- 462.358 Official controls: subdivision regulation, dedication

A preliminary draft of a Dundas "resolution setting schedule of fees for annexation petitions and developer agreements for calendar year 2005" was presented to the Supervisors for their consideration. This resolution is also included with the Minutes for the November, 2004 Meeting of the Town Board. If required, action is deferred to a later meeting.

J.3 MN DOT request to add signs at Cabot and 118<sup>th</sup> Street Railroad Crossings Ebling  
This item was assigned to Dennis Brown, Town Road Supervisor..

J.4 Request to change property zoning for Mark Thompson from urban reserve to agricultural Ebling  
The concept of urban reserve is that unincorporated subdivisions (for example, cluster developments) cannot be built within 1 mile of a city limits. Knecht observed that the Town Board needs to study the matter at hand and make a reasonable decision. A special meeting was called for November 24, 2004 to determine the appropriate action.

Reference: Letter dated October 26, 2004 from Sue Kylio, Dundas City Administrator to Gary Ebling requesting the zoning change. The letter and its attachments are included in the Bridgewater Town File for October, 2004.

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**K Future Meetings (all dates are in 2004)** Clerk

K.1 General Election – Tuesday, November 2, 2004 Piper  
Piper reported that preparations for the General Election have been completed. Election Judges, including two political science students from Northfield High School have been trained and are ready to provide this civic service. A motion was made instructing the Clerk to write a Resolution commending the judges for their competent civic service. Motion by Knecht, second by Liebenstein, motion passed unanimously.

K.2 Rice County Transportation Plan Advisory Committee – Thursday, November 4, 2004 at 2:00 PM Ebling

K.3 December Meeting of Town Board – Monday, December 6, 2004 Piper

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**L Motion to Adjourn** Supervisors  
The Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. Motion by Liebenstein, second by Knecht, motion passed unanimously.

**Reference:** Town Officers: Supervisor and Town Board Chair Gary Ebling, Treasurer Le Ann Finger, Supervisor Leif Knecht, Supervisor Paul Liebenstein, and Clerk Mike Piper.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

C. Michael Piper, Town Clerk

Gary Ebling, Town Board Chair