

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
December 10th, 2025, 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kathleen Kopseng, Thomas Hart, Glen Castore, Andrew Ebling, Larry Alderks, Debbie Salaba, Cindy Nash, Lori Noreen

Introduction of Guests: Matt Stordahl, Jenelle Teppen, Frances Boehning

Approval of Agenda

- It was requested to add “Development Rights” to Planning & Zoning and “Budget 2026” to New Business.
- Glen Castore made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved as amended.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items –

- It was noted that Frandsen Bank & Trust delivered cookies and a holiday card to the Township.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- November 12th & November 19th Meeting Minutes
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the November 12th and November 19th Meeting Minutes, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- December Claims
 - It was questioned if the newsletter was sent out with the response that yes, the postage was paid and the newsletter was sent out earlier in the week.
 - It was questioned what the escrow monies paid to Zoning Administrator, Cindy Nash were for with the response that it was for the UUFN Church project and the Novotny Variance request.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the December Claims, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Board. It was noted that the second half of the property tax revenue has been deposited after the report. Approximately \$181K was deposited increasing the current operating account balance.
 - It was questioned if there were any bills yet to be paid with the ARPA Grant money remaining, with the response to, yes. The Township still has to pay for the asphalt for the parking lot and side between the shed and hall.
 - It was noted that the Shed Loan balance on the report does not reflect the payment that will be made this month. The balance of the loan will decrease upon payment.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer stated that the reporting has been completed and information will be sent to the Chair.
- Update 2026 Levy Report

- Debbie Salaba stated that she received a call from Rice County regarding the 2026 Levy for the Township. It was brought to her attention that the Bond payment must be listed on the levy.
- It was noted that this payment will need to be included on the levy each year going forward until the bond is repaid.
- It was noted that the Township does not have to notify the residents of Bridgewater Township of the updated levy form.
- After review, Glen Castore made a motion to approve having the Clerk send the revised levy form to Rice County, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

Roads

- Asphalt Update
 - Matt Stordahl noted that the bid documents are not yet complete and hopes to have them ready for review at the January meeting.
 - Andrew Ebling questioned that with the current debt the Township has is it reasonable to bond further for road maintenance.
 - After discussion it was determined to receive the bid documents to review and the Board can reassess what the Township is willing to proceed with in regards to bonding at that time.
 - Glen Castore noted that he submitted an application for the LRIP for potential improvement of Decker Ave. It was noted that the Township would be responsible for \$100K of the project if granted.
 - It was noted that the determination of who receives the grant will occur in the Spring of 2026.
- Noxious Weed Update
 - Larry Alderks provided a handout reviewing the meeting he had with the Noxious Weed inspectors. He noted that everything regarding Noxious Weeds for 2025 is just about done. He provided a schedule of events going forward noting in Jan/Feb letters will go out to property owners where the Township sprayed last year, 1st Qtr. add weed information to the newsletter, have an education meeting in May inviting Green Properties, providing pamphlets and possibly provide spray, Scout for weeds in early June. Mowing should be done by June 20th with no mowing after July 1st. June 15th – July 1st Spray, Aug – Sep 2nd spraying as needed, Oct/Nov create report for Rice County.
 - It was discussed to set up a meeting with Rice County and Northfield Township to discuss spraying in the future and procedures.
 - Glen Castore noted how well Supervisor Alderks has done implementing a Noxious Weed procedure for the Township.

Planning & Zoning

- Dundas Annexation Request
 - Cindy Nash reviewed the memorandum she provided to the Board regarding the request to annex a portion of Bridgewater Township into the City of Dundas. It was noted that the Township has 60 days from the date of the request to respond with comments on the topic.
 - In the memo the Board was provided with 3 options to take in responding to the request.
 - Discussion was held regarding the options with the decision that the Board would like to proceed with option “B”.

- It was determined that the Board will review the response draft and provide any comments to the Zoning Administrator with additions, changes, etc. and will hold a special meeting on Thursday, December 18th at 6pm to review the updated draft and approve to send to the City of Dundas.
- Dundas Planning Commission Seat
 - It was brought to the Board's attention that Larry Alderks term on the Dundas Planning Commission is set to expire on 12/31/25. It was asked to compile some names for replacement and send to the City of Dundas for consideration.
 - It was determined that some names will be thought of and sent to the Clerk to send to the City of Dundas prior to Larry Alderks term ending.
- Development Rights
 - Andrew Ebling explained that there have been numerous inquiries from residents wanting to sell off a portion of their land as a building site and questioned if there is a pathway that something like this can be done in the Township.
 - Cindy Nash commented that it would be difficult to keep track of "TDR's" and noted that currently if a parcel is zoned Agricultural there is only 1 home allowed per 35 acres, in which the Township must comply with.
 - An option was provided to work with Rice County to see if they had interest in changing the 1 home per 35-acre ordinance to enable smaller lot sizes.
 - It was determined that currently the inquiries that have come in do not have much option to sell small pieces of their larger property in order to have someone build on that smaller piece due to the 1 per 35 restrictions.

Old Business

- Northfield Annexation Agreement Update
 - Kathleen Kopseng reviewed the City of Northfield's responses to the proposed changes the Board suggested to the Agreement verbiage.
 - The responses were reviewed and Andrew Ebling stated that he had questions intended for the Attorney which was not in attendance. He requested to have more time to speak with the attorney to answer said questions before moving forward with the current draft of the NOAA.
 - It was determined to speak with the City of Northfield to request a Resolution for a 1-year extension with the intent to finalize an agreement in the early months of 2026.
 - It was noted that Glen Castore will speak with the City of Northfield to have a resolution drawn for the extension.

New Business

- Budget 2026
 - Larry Alderks requested beginning work on the 2026 budget prior to the February set meeting. He felt it would be good to start a proposed budget to work on so when the February meeting comes there is a better understanding of where the Township is sitting.
 - It was noted that Glen Castore has a draft of the 2026 budget. Glen will send the draft to the Clerk and the Clerk will distribute to the Board to review in order to start discussions at the January meeting.

Issues for future meetings

Adjourn – Glen Castore made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 5:34pm, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.