

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
February 11th, 2026, 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Dennis Luebbe, Jim Purfeerst, Nick Bolton

Approval of Agenda

- Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the agenda, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: N/A

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- January 14th & February 3rd Meeting Minutes
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the January 14th & February 3rd Meeting Minutes, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- February Claims
 - It was questioned what \$714 for Professional Fees was with the response that it was for 2025 & 2026 Invoices from Reese Winter & Associates providing help in filing payroll documents.
 - It was asked what the \$41K was for in Town Hall Improvements with the response it was for repaving of the parking lot.
 - It was questioned as to why the amount of the Landfill Income was less on the budget sheet with the response that it was determined at the Budget meeting to budget for the amount the Township can use which is 75% of what is paid to the Township. 25% must be allocated as a dedicated fund.
 - It was questioned what Richard Malecha was paid for with the response that he helped haul chips for the Township.
 - After discussion, Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the February Claims, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - The Clerk reviewed the Treasurer's Report provided by Debbie Salaba in her absence with the Board. She noted that the Landfill money of \$144K and the last of the property tax of \$15K were deposited into the operating account in January.
 - It was noted that only small interest was accrued in the dedicated operating funds.
 - It was noted that the ARPA money has been used and the account holding the funds has been closed.
 - It was noted that the COMUS Junction Savings is now at \$17K due to the interest payment due on the note was deducted from this account.
 - It was noted that the Rice County Historical Society has requested a donation in 2026.
- Audit Report

- The Board reviewed the Audit Report at the February 3rd meeting and requested it be updated with totals. The updated report was reviewed and approved to sign.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer completed the report.

Clerk's Report

- Appoint Election Judges
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the 2026 Election Judges, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Roads

- County Trail Plans – Dennis Luebbe
 - Dennis Luebbe provided an update that the County Board decided to delay the reconstruction project on County Rd 20 for at least a year to have some more time to look into potentially building a trail at the same time. It was noted that originally Phase 1 of the project was scheduled for 2027 and Phase 2 was scheduled for 2029. The project is now scheduled to have both phases completed in 2028. This will give the County time to receive more public feedback.
 - Dennis Luebbe provided maps to review of proposed trails in the County and was looking for feedback from the Township in the next few months.
 - It was discussed having more public participation going forward and providing more FAQs to help better understand the potential project.
 - Glen Castore suggested the County could work on having a communications plan towards the Twin Cities to bring people in. It could look toward the broader community vs those along the proposed trail.
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- CABT – Letter to Federal Legislature
 - A draft of a proposed letter was to be sent to the Board to review and determine if they wish to send one. The draft was never sent.
- Asphalt Bids for Developments
 - Glen Castore stated that Stonebrook opened the bids on Tuesday 2/10/26 and the lowest bid came in almost \$900K less than originally estimated. Glen Castore provided a summary of the bids to the Board for review.
 - Kathleen Kopseng questioned if the company that came in with the lowest bid did quality work. It was noted that Rice County uses the company for a considerable amount of work throughout the County.
 - Andrew Ebling noted that the Township will use Matt Stordahl as a project manager.
 - Glen Castore spoke with Jess Green who created a schedule of events that will take place going forward with bonding and assessing for the project. The Board will formally award the bid at the next Board Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 11th, 2026.
 - There was discussion on bonding on the public market vs Frandsen Bank & Trust. It was noted that if the Township bonds with Frandsen it can be paid off early. It was determined that the Township would bond through FB&T and Jess Green would be able to get a term sheet to the bank to begin the process.

- It was discussed that the Clerk will reach out to Matt Stordahl to see if Crane Creek can provide a tentative schedule for the project. It was noted that the Township should work on notifying the homeowners along the roads once a schedule is provided.
- It was noted that a public hearing is required to set the Assessments to the residents. It was determined to hold the public hearing at the next Board Meeting on March 11th, 2026. The Clerk will post the public hearing notice and send a notice to each homeowner
- After discussion, Glen Castore made a motion to approve the reconstruction of all three developments, Bittersweet, Wendwood & Timberlane based on the bid provided by Crane Creek Construction, Thomas Hart Seconded, all approved.
- Assessments for Road Improvement
 - It was determined to have a Public Hearing at the next Board of Supervisors meeting on Wednesday, March 11th, 2026.
 - It was discussed to propose a 30% assessment by parcel for 10 years.
- Grader Tires
 - Mike Groth has not yet received the quote for new grader tires.

Planning & Zoning

- N/A

Old Business

- Northfield OAA
 - The final draft of the Northfield OAA was reviewed by the Board and approved.
 - It was noted that the Clerk will reach out to Sara Hoffman at the City of Northfield to obtain a final copy of a joint resolution to be approved and signed at the next meeting.

New Business

- Fee Schedule Public Hearing
 - The Public Hearing was opened at 5:27pm and closed at 5:28pm.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01 Fee Schedule. Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- Motion to Recommend Resolution for Levy
 - Glen Castore reviewed an updated budget report he had and recommended a levy of \$510K for 2027.
 - After discussion, Glen Castore made a motion to recommend a resolution for a levy of \$510K for 2027 at the Annual Meeting, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- Agenda for Annual Meeting / Annual Meeting Presentation
 - The Board reviewed the 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda with some changes for 2025.
 - The Annual Meeting presentation will be updated by the Supervisors and compiled together for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Issues for future meetings

Adjourn

Chair
Clerk