

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
January 14th, 2026, 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Bruce & Kathy Morlan, Amanda & Sam Novotny, Matt Muir, Fran Haan, Matt Stordahl, Nick Bolton, Pat Brown, Frances Boehning

Approval of Agenda

- It was requested to add “Blazing Star Gardens” to Planning & Zoning and “Response to Dundas Annexation Letter” to Old Business.
- Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Fran Haan brought to the Boards attention a petition that he has created to stop the proposed trail on CR-20. He stated that most residents that live along CR-20 are against the trail going in. Glen Castore stated that he previously spoke with Fran and he wrote a Resolution stating that the Board has received notice of the Petition. Upon approval of the Resolution the Township will send it to Rice County.
- Pat Brown stated that he farms along CR-20 and too has reservations regarding the proposed trail.
- Bruce Morlan also expressed his concerns to the Board regarding the proposed trail.
- After the Supervisors heard the public concern, Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 regarding the proposed trail, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- December 10th & December 18th Meeting Minutes
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the December 10th & December 18th Meeting Minutes, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- January Claims
 - It was noted that the bill for repaving the parking lot came in quite a bit higher than quoted.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the January Claims, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer’s Report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the Treasurer’s Report with the Board. She noted that the second half property tax revenue was deposited into the operating account as well as a deposit of approximately \$4k from the State of Minnesota. There was an additional deposit of approximately \$39K from Rice County for the tax forfeited property that was sold.
 - It was noted that small interest was earned on the dedicated and restricted accounts.
 - It was noted that the ARPA money has been used in full and the account holding said money has been closed.

- It was also noted that the balance of the shed loan is less now that the annual payment was made.
- It was noted that checks 10955, 10956 and 10959 were voided.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer stated the reporting has been completed and provided to the Chair.

Roads

- Asphalt Update
 - Matt Stordahl provided copies of a plan set for the proposed roads that may be resurfaced. It was noted that the Board has the option to decide which may be done and when. He stated that if the Board wished to have quotes by the February meeting the Board would need to approve advertising for bids now.
 - After discussion, Glen Castore made a motion to approve advertising for bids on the proposed asphalt projects, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
- Noxious Weeds Forms
 - It was brought to the Boards attention that there is someone that is interested in purchasing the Gator. After discussion, Glen Castore made a motion to approve selling the Gator for \$6.5-\$7K, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.
 - Larry Alderks stated that he received the Noxious Weed forms from the state and has used those to create forms for the Township to use. He noted that the forms are currently with the County for review and finalization. He stated that he will bring the final documents to the next meeting for review once they are complete.
- Assessment for Road Improvements
 - Glen Castore stated that if the Board agrees to go ahead with the proposed Road Improvements and will be bonding, the Township must assess a minimum of 20% of the cost. To do so, the Board must have a Public Hearing to address the Assessments.
 - It was determined to wait until the bids are in to review before determining the amount the Township will assess the residents and when to have the Public Hearing.
 - It was discussed putting together a subcommittee in which Glen Castore and Andrew Ebling offered to be a part of it to work on determining the potential assessment amount.
- Set Date for Public Hearing on Assessments
 - It was decided to wait until after the bids for the projects are reviewed to set a date for a Public Hearing on Assessments.
- Purchasing Gravel in 2026
 - It was questioned if the Township will be purchasing gravel in 2026 with the response of, yes. Pricing has not been received yet on cost of gravel for the upcoming year.
- Dust Control Contractor for 2026
 - It was questioned if the Township will be using the same Dust Control Contractor for 2026 with the answer being, yes. It was discussed to add this information to the February newsletter for the residents to be aware of who to contact for treatment in 2026.

Planning & Zoning

- Novotny Variance
 - Glen Castore stated that at the December Planning & Zoning meeting the Commissioners reviewed the Variance request for a second driveway for a proposed ADU and recommended approval to the Board.
 - The Board reviewed the Memorandum provided by the Zoning Administrator.
 - Larry Alderks expressed his objections to approving the variance, with those being the lot size being smaller, the ordinance states you must share one driveway, and that building the new driveway directly to the ADU it would look like two separate properties.
 - Andrew Ebling expressed his concerns on making exceptions to ordinances but noted that it would not be feasible to make elderly people walk far distances from the current driveway to where the proposed ADU would be built. He noted that at this time, the property would not be allowed to split into two parcels with the current ordinance. He recognized that the property site does not make it easy to extend the current driveway.
 - Glen Castore noted that if the Variance is not approved it would make having the ADU difficult.
 - Sam Novotny stated that if the Variance is not approved, they would not be able to build the ADU because they are not willing to extend their driveway through the current yard.
 - After discussion, Glen Castore made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 Variance for a second driveway, Andrew Ebling seconded. Kathleen Kopseng, Thomas Hart, Glen Castore and Andrew Ebling voted to approve the Resolution, Larry Alderks voted against. Motion passed.
- Blazing Star Gardens
 - Glen Castore mentioned that he was contacted by Dustin Demmer, owner of Blazing Star Gardens. He stated that the company grows native plants and is looking to find a property to run his business. He noted that when looking in Bridgewater Township he was having difficulty due to the Ordinance stating one must have a home and live in it to run a business.
 - It was suggested to propose having Mr. Demmer look at land in the Rural Industrial Park where a house would not be required.

Old Business

- Northfield Orderly Annexation Agreement Update
 - It was noted that an updated draft has not yet been completed.
 - Andrew Ebling expressed his concern on the terms of payment for an annexed area. He suggested to have a type of “2-tier” form of repayment system.
 - After discussion it was determined that Glen Castore and Kathleen Kopseng will bring the idea of a tiered repayment system to Northfield at their next meeting to work on the draft of the agreement.
- Response to Dundas Annexation Request Letter
 - A letter from the City of Dundas in response to the letter Bridgewater Township sent to them regarding the Annexation Request was received and reviewed by the Board, Zoning Administrator and Attorney.
 - It was determined to have the Zoning Administrator and Attorney work on creating a draft of a response letter as well as review and bring back any

options the Township may have regarding 115th St if this Annexation is approved.

- It was discussed that an agreement needs to be in place regarding the maintenance of 115th St if the potential annexed area will have connections to the street.

New Business

- 2026 Budget Draft
 - Glen Castore provided a draft of the proposed budget going out numerous years for the Board to review prior to the Budget/Audit meeting. The draft was intended to provide visibility on what the Township can afford if it proceeds with bonding for Road Improvements in the upcoming years.
- Set date for work session for Budget
 - The date Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026 at 3:00pm was set for the Budget/Audit work session.

Issues for future meetings

Adjourn