

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
June 11th, 2025, 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Erik Hong, Chuck Richardson, Matt Stordahl, Kim Bradley

Approval of Agenda

- Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the agenda, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Kim Bradley expressed his concerns on the grading that is performed on Decker Ave.

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- May 14th Meeting Minutes
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the May 14th Meeting Minutes, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- June Claims
 - Glen Castore questioned what the escrow amount was in the payment to Cindy Nash. It was explained that a portion of payment to her was paid for by escrow monies collected.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the June Claims, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Board. She noted that there was a small amount of interest earned on some accounts.
 - It was noted that Check #10816 was voided.
 - Glen Castore questioned if the first half property tax payment has been deposited yet, with the answer of no, but will be in June.
 - Larry Alderks questioned when the remaining amount of ARPA Grant money must be spent, with the response by the end of 2025. The money is allocated to pave the area in front of the new shed, along with repaving the current parking lot.
 - It was also noted that the Forest/Bridgewater Joint Powers checking account has been closed.
- IRS Reporting
 - Th Treasurer stated that the reporting has been completed and information was provided to the Chair.

Roads

- Asphalt Update
 - Matt Stordahl provided the feasibility report on paved roads in the Township to review with the Board.

- Glen Castore notated the reasoning of the feasibility report was to gather information on the status of the paved roads in the Township and then set a date for work session to discuss the next steps of maintaining the roads.
- Matt Stordahl noted that after review the recommended actions to maintain the roads are most to chip seal.
- It was discussed that Mr. Stordahl has accepted a position with a different company. The Township will discuss whether they would like to stay with Stantec going forward, or stay with Mr. Stordahl when needed.
- Improved Gravel Update
 - Matt Stordahl stated that the double seal coat project in the New Market area is beginning now in which the Supervisors could go take a look at the roads once they are complete. Mr. Stordahl also stated that he would send pictures to the Board of the project to review.
- Gravel
 - Mike Groth stated that the gravel roads are stable and in acceptable condition. He noted that there are some areas in the Township with the need to address some problem trees.
 - Mike Groth stated that he has had some trouble with the gravel company to distribute to the roads that were scheduled to receive it this year. The company stated that they would not be able to deliver until early fall. Due to this a decision was made to postpone putting gravel down on any road until next spring.
 - Discussion was held on which roads in the Township will receive dust control this summer. The decision was made that Decker Ave, 115th St, 135th St, and Dahle Ave will have dust control applied in 2025. Any resident that does not live on these roads may call the applicator directly if they wish to have it applied in front of their home at their cost. It was noted that Mike Groth will call to schedule the application to be done. It was also noted that this information will be placed in the Summer Newsletter.
 - Mike Groth brought to the Boards attention that he obtained two quotes to seal Albers Ave and Ebel. It was noted that the 2nd layer of asphalt needs to be complete on Ebel before the seal can be done. After review of the quotes, it was determined to go with Corrective Asphalt Materials to apply the sealant. Mike Groth will call them to get on their schedule.
 - It was asked of Mike Groth if the Township's equipment is working alright. He noted that all are doing ok.

Planning & Zoning

- Hong Preliminary & Final Plat
 - The Supervisors reviewed the Memorandum provided by the Zoning Administrator regarding the Hong Preliminary & Final Plat.
 - Larry Alderks noted that it appeared there is a tight area that a house could be placed. It was noted that where a house would be located is not restricted to one area.
 - It was questioned if septic requirements could be met, with the response that yes, the area was reviewed and there are 2 acceptable septic sites available
 - It was noted that there was a lot of discussion regarding this at the Planning & Zoning Meeting between the Commissioners.

- Larry Alderks questioned the comment in the Memo of what 3-0-3 was with the response that 3 Commissioners recommended approval, 0 Commissioners recommended denial, and 3 Commissioners abstained from voting.
- Glen Castore made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-03 A Resolution Approving a Preliminary and Final Plat for a Development Known as Hong Addition. Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.

Old Business

- Purchasing property in Industrial Park
 - Glen Castore stated that a Resolution was in the packet to review. The purpose of the resolution is to authorize the purchase of the property that the Township has a purchase agreement with Ed Koltavsky with as well as state intent.
 - It was noted that the \$1.6M grant is not conditional on the CORE X Project therefore the resolution stating intent will keep the grant.
 - It was stated that if the Resolution passes it will be sent to Rice County and they will send to MNDOT.
- Industrial Park Resolution
 - Thomas Hart made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02 Comus Industrial Park Development, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- Landfill Project Update
 - Glen Castore stated that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, June 18th at 3pm at the Bridgewater Township Town Hall where there will be a final report of the project that was performed on cleaning the Landfill.
 - It was noted that the purpose of the meeting will be to see if the County would have interest working on proceeding with the project.
 - It was noted that two County Commissioners will be in attendance and other from the County have been invited to attend as well.
 - It was stated that if the County is on board with continuing the work, the Township has the restricted remediation money that could be used to keep working on this project.
- Weed Policy
 - Larry Alderks provided a draft of a weed control policy for the Board to review. It was questioned if the Township already has one in place in which it was stated that there most likely is. After review the determination was made to send the draft to the Township Attorney to review.
 - Glen Castore noted that there is some value in having a policy like this in place and it could be useful in potential situations.
 - Mike Groth stated that he has sourced a sprayer that would attach to the tractor that would work for spraying. He noted that he and Mr. Wierson could then spray in an enclosed cab instead of being on the tractor. The decision was made to get a policy in place first and then a decision on obtaining a sprayer for the tractor will be made. The topic will be addressed at the next meeting
 - Discussion was held regarding the current weed applicator and that he has been spraying in areas he should not be. It was noted that a supervisor will address this with Steve.

- Affordable Housing Update
 - Glen Castore discussed that the owners of the property where there could be a potential affordable housing location are not interested in selling their property. It was noted that there are some other areas around but they are in the Dundas Annexation Reserve District.
 - Glen Castore noted that, if the rest of the Board were to agree, he would like to try a different approach to the potential project. It was noted that there has been significant time and effort trying to move forward with the project to let it end. He stated that there is an area that is in Northfield Township that is for sale and could be a good location for the project. He would like to, as a Bridgewater Township Supervisor, speak with the Mayor of Northfield and the Community Action Center with the purpose to discuss the option of Northfield obtaining the land and continue the process of building affordable housing in the area.
 - The Board agreed and it was decided that Glen Castore will go and speak with the City of Northfield and the Community Action Center to continue to try and build affordable housing within the area.

New Business

- Resolutions 2024-04 & 2024-05 Amending Ordinance 2023-03
 - It was brought to the Boards attention that in 2024 Resolutions 2024-04 & 2024-005 were passed amending the Ordinance pertaining to Escrows.
 - It was noted that these were done when the Township was working with CORE X Partners to obtain escrow monies against the Township Attorney and Zoning Administrators suggestions not to.
 - It was questioned if the Township should take the steps to rescind the resolutions in order to revert back to the original ordinance and its regulations.
 - After discussion it was decided to proceed with taking the steps to rescind the amendments and revert back to the original ordinance. The Clerk will reach out to the Township Attorney to being the process. The topic will be revisited at the next meeting.
- Amazon Usage
 - Larry Alderks questioned if the new free Amazon Business Prime allowed by MAT is available for personal use. It was noted that, no, it cannot. It can only be used by the Township to purchase items for the Township.
- Northfield Annexation Agreement Meeting update
 - Glen Castore stated that at the latest meeting there was discussion on some text changes that need to be made in which Kathleen Kopseng and Glen Castore will work on. Also, the City of Northfield is going to look in the provision of services wording.
 - It was noted that progress is being made and the next meeting will be held on July 9th.
- Bond Repayment
 - It was discussed that the purchase of the property in the industrial area will be paid for with bond proceeds. This transaction will need to be complete before the process of bond repayment and take place.
 - Glen Castore stated that he spoke with the bank regarding working towards repaying the bond. He noted that the bank is on board with doing so, the Township just needs to let the bank know when it will happen and the bank

will work on creating a new payment schedule. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting

- Intergovernmental Meeting 5/21 update
 - It was noted that Kathleen Kopseng said she would go to this meeting. In her absence an update was not able to be provided. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.
- District Meeting 8/12
 - Larry Alderks questioned who will or needs to attend the District Meeting that will be held in August. It was stated that typically Thomas Hart and Kathleen Kopseng attend and at this time Thomas Hart tentatively plans on it.
- Mankato Mississippi River Transmission Line
 - Larry Alderks brought to the Boards attention that there is a Mankato Mississippi River Transmission Line that is located in part of Rice County. It is not in the Township, but in the County.
- Topic: Fast-Track or Side-Track?: How to Outsmart 'Flexible' Systems That Aren't
 - Larry Alderks brought to the Boards attention that emails with the subject titled as this are more of a spam item and not informational trainings. He suggested for the others not to sign up for items like these.

Issues for future meetings

- It was noted that the lot split application to purchase the property in the industrial park is being worked on and will be addressed in the future.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair
Clerk