

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
June 24th, 2025, 3:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kathleen Kopseng, Glen Castore, Andrew Ebling, Thomas Hart, Larry Alderks

Guests: Jim Purfeerst, Dennis Luebbe

Approval of Agenda

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

Topics of Discussion:

- Dennis Luebbe
 - Dennis Luebbe discussed with the Board the Rice County project for road improvement for County Rd. 20 between Highway 3 and Faribault. It was noted that the project is scheduled for 2027. There is a consultant hired and they are working on the beginning stages now.
 - It was brought to the Board the County would like to address the Township Road intersections along County Rd 20. The County would like the intersections addressed and up to grade. The County intends to address these intersections which could take a portion of the Township Road away. It would be at the cost of the County, but it would impact some of the Township Road system and affect resident's land.
 - There was a question as to how the ravines will be addressed in which they will be addressed with fill to bring it to grade or guard rails.
 - Dennis Luebbe was looking for the Boards approval to agree with the potential changes that will happen at the Township Road intersections. It was determined to have the County proceed with the designs and bring it back to the Board for review and approval.
 - It was noted that each intersection of a Township Road will need to be addressed with different solutions. It is proposed to close and vacate part of 132nd St and it is questioned if the Township would need a public hearing to do so. It was noted that the County would work to find out and get that done if needed this summer yet. The Township will look into this to see if it is necessary on the Township level.
 - It was discussed to have another meeting to review some preliminary layouts and request the Township support for the project, as well as potentially a landowner meeting in August/September of this year.
 - It was noted that Cannon River Wilderness Park has the potential to become a State Regional Park. If that would occur it would open up 100% funding for improvements to the park and this funding could be used to provide a trail from the entrance to trunk Hwy 3. This is being explored as an addition to the County Road 20 project.
 - It was noted that MNDOT may be performing a study regarding the Trunk Hwy 3 Corridor.
 - Decker Ave was brought up and there was discussion to have an additional meeting to discuss the potential change of it becoming a county road in the Fall.

- Roads / Road Maintenance Plan
 - Paved Surfaces
 - Andrew Ebling noted that he had a short discussion with the Road Superintendent. He stated that Mike Groth thinks putting a “band aid” on roads is not the best route to go. If the Township waiting to fully repair the roads in the future the cost to do so will only increase. He stated that Mike Groth believes the roads that need addressing immediately and need complete reconstruction at this time are Timberlane, Bittersweet, and Wendwood.
 - The Board reviewed the cost to seal coat these roads versus complete restoration. It was noted that the Township would have to bond for the full amount and then they would assess 30% to the residents if they did the complete restoration. The bond repayment would be 15 years.
 - Notes per Larry Alderks while the Board were discussing the cost of restoration:
 - Full Repair
 - Bittersweet - \$583,665
 - Timberlane - \$757,366
 - Wendwood - \$648,481
 - TOTAL - \$1,989,512
 - Expected Estimated Costs - \$1,880,000
 - Discussion was held regarding what route the Township should take in working on fixing the paved roads. The suggestion was to repave 2 of the worst condition roads and seal coat the others.
 - There was discussion that the Board would budget some for repayment and potentially increase the levy as well.
 - Seal coating some roads that do not require full reconstruction could be completed in 2025. Repaving would occur in 2026
 - Gravel Surfaces
 - Andrew Ebling stated that after discussion with the Road Superintendent regarding the potential to try the improved gravel on 135th St. is not the best idea due to the topography of the road. Mike Groth suggested trying it on more flat level roads such as Dahle, Baldwin or possibly Cabot. He is in support of doing the coat on the roads.
 - Larry Alderks stated that he toured some roads that have this improved gravel in Illinois and has pictures and videos to review with the Board.
 - Thomas Hart stated that a test of a road is not particularly necessary since there have been multiple areas to go and see where it has already been done. He suggested to pick a road in the Township and begin doing it.
 - Larry Alderks suggested to use 135th, Dahle, Cabot and Baldwin (from Co. 59 to Hwy 19) as a starting point to potentially bond for the improved gravel project. The project would take place in 2026.
 - Glen Castore suggested to pick several roads and get data on how much gravel, grader time, etc. How much the Township spends on each road.
 - It was determined that the Board will continue to discuss the topic.

Vice-Chair
Clerk