Bridgewater Township Planning Commission
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
May 28th, 2026
Official Minutes

1) Call to order

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call: John Klockeman, Bruce Morlan, Mike Little, Ray Larson, Emily Fulton-Foley, Nate Watters and Lori Noreen. Absent: Ex-Officio Frances Boehning, Staff Cindy Nash and Kurt Schrader.

4) Approval of Agenda
   a) It was requested to add "Data Center Analysis" under Updates and Miscellaneous.
   b) Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve the Agenda, Emily Fulton-Foley seconded, all approved as amended.

5) Approval of Minutes: February 26th, 2026
   a) Mike Little made a motion to approve the approve the February 26th meeting minutes, Ray Larson seconded, all approved.

6) Open Forum: N/A

7) Public Hearing: Opened at 7:02pm – Closed at 7:06pm
   a) Drenth Deck Variance
      i) It was noted that the variance request is to build a deck that would not meet the minimum required setback.
      ii) The Committee reviewed the Memorandum provided by the Zoning Administrator.
      iii) It was noted that the previous deck was nonconforming as well. The proposed new deck would be larger than the previous and would be 11.1 feet from the ROW of CHAH No. 1. If the new deck were to be of the same dimensions as the previous it would still be nonconforming due to the location of the property line.
      iv) It was questioned if the deck should be at least the same setback as the house to not extend an already nonconforming setback.
      v) There was concern if this variance were to be granted it could set a precedence on future variance requests. It was noted that future variances would be taken at face value and assessed on a case-by-case basis.
      vi) After discussion, Emily Fulton-Foley made a motion to recommend approval of the Variance request to the Board of Supervisors, Nate Watters seconded. Bruce Morlan, Ray Larson, Emily Fulton-Foley, Mike Little & Nate Watters voted to approve the recommendation, John Klockeman voted against. Motion passed.

8) Updates and Miscellaneous
   a) Data Center Analysis
      i) Bruce Morlan provided a brief background as to the reasoning of Bridgewater Township forming its own Planning & Zoning Committee to the current Commissioners.
      ii) After discussion Bruce Morlan requested the Planning & Zoning Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors to establish a moratorium for a minimum of 6 months regarding potential larger projects within the Township. I.E. Data Centers. To develop a process on analytics of water & energy. Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve recommending a moratorium to the Board of Supervisors, John Klockeman seconded, all approved.

Adjourn