

Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
May 14th, 2025, 4:00pm
Official Minutes

Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of Guests: Matt Stordahl, Steve Albers, Drew Wiersen

Approval of Agenda

- It was requested to add "Schedule 2 Meetings" to New Business and "Remove Dam into Holding Pond" to Old Business
- Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: N/A

Approval of Minutes & Claims

- April 9th Meeting Minutes
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the April 9th Meeting Minutes, Glen Castore seconded, all approved.
- May Claims
 - There was a question regarding the payment to Richard Malecha. It was discussed that Richard had worked previously and the hourly rate was incorrect. The payment in the May claims was to correct the hourly rate difference.
 - There was a question regarding the payment to Deutsch Excavating for the Cartway. It was discussed that this payment is part of the \$2,700 the Board approved as a one-time maintenance fee for the cartway.
 - There was a question if the Sanford invoice for street sweeping was received. It has been and will be paid in the June Claims.
 - Glen Castore made a motion to approve the May Claims, Andrew Ebling seconded, all approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - Debbie Salaba reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Board. She noted that the Host Fee and Operating amounts have been transferred out to their corresponding accounts as required.
 - It was noted that there were 3 CD's that matured and the interest earned on those CD's were added to the balance of the CD's and each were renewed to a 5-month term with the same interest rate as before.
 - There was a question regarding the Joint Powers account and the documents are no longer at the Accounting Firm. It was determined that Glen Castore will reach out to the Clerk at Forest Township to see if she picked up the documents. The Joint Powers checking account will then be closed.
 - There was a question if the invoice to Core X Partners was resent as stated in the April meeting. It had not, the invoice will be updated to deduct the remaining escrow balance from what is owed and resent.

- There was a question as to why on the Revenue Report there is a “balance due” which was explained that there are certain permits that we have reported as revenue, but have not yet been paid, therefore there is a balance due to the Township.
- There was a question as to why the Township has received 400% more than budgeted in MN State Aid which was explained that there no information given from the State as to how much the Township will receive each year. The amount is automatically deposited into the operating checking account. So far this year, the Township has received more than it has budgeted for.
- There was a question as to why the Township has already paid 79% of the budgeted amount for gas/electric. Possible reasons being gas prices are higher; there is an additional shed that the Township now heats in the colder months.
- IRS Reporting
 - The Treasurer stated that the reporting has been completed and information will be provided to the Chair.

Clerk’s Report

- Newsletter topics
 - Topics for the upcoming Newsletter expected to be sent out in June will be:
 - Dust Control, Gravel Roads, and ongoing road improvements.

Roads

- Asphalt Update
 - Matt Stordahl provided a report of his findings after reviewing the asphalt roads in the Township. The report was reviewed. Key notes of the report were that the roads receive a “pacer rating”. A pacer rating of 1-3 means the roads need more immediate repair. A pacer rating of 4-6 means they are “middle of the road” and could use some maintenance. A pacer rating of 7-10 are in good shape and are in new like condition. It was noted that the Township roads all have a pacer rating of 4 to 7.
 - Discussion was held as to how to address the roads. It was discussed to have the roads completely resurfaced with ideas of possibly doing the roads with a pacer rating of 4 and 5 first, and the one’s with 6 and 7 the following year. The cost of doing the roads with a pacer rating of 4 and 5 would be approximately \$2M (at this time \$150 per linear foot).
 - It was discussed, after reviewing the findings, that the Township could follow the recommendations as to how to perform the needed maintenance on the roads instead of bonding to completely resurface them which would reduce the cost to the Township and the residents.
 - It was noted that if the Township followed the recommendations there is a potential to extend the life of the roads at minimum of 5 years.
 - It was discussed to hold a work session to discuss roads in general and come up with a plan going forward. A meeting will be set at a later date.
 - Discussion was held to have Stantec perform a Feasibility Study on the asphalt roads in the Township. Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve having Stantec perform a feasibility study on the asphalt roads in the Township, Glen Castore seconded. Glen Castore requested to amend the

motion to state the cost of scope of work performed is not to exceed \$6K.
All approved as amended.

- Improved Gravel Update
 - Larry Alderks provided an update to the Board via memo. It was discussed that the Board needs to find out if this process of improving the gravel roads can be assessed before they are able to answer the questions that were brought to the Board. It was noted that the topic will be reviewed again at the June meeting. Glen Castore stated that he would speak with Jess Green and Peter Tiede regarding being able to assess this type of improvement.
 - Matt Stordahl noted that the New Market project will be complete within the next few weeks in which the Supervisors could travel to view the final work.
- 2025 Roads receiving Gravel
 - It was noted that the Clerk is working with the Road Superintendent to obtain a list of which roads will receive gravel in 2025. This information will be in the next newsletter sent out.
- Dust Control
 - It was noted that the Clerk is working with the Road Superintendent to obtain a list of which roads will receive dust control in 2025. This information will be in the next newsletter sent out.

Planning & Zoning: N/A

Old Business

- Purchasing property in Industrial Park
 - There was further discussion regarding purchasing a 5-acre parcel in the Comus Industrial Park. It was noted that the Township has first right of refusal on the parcel. The cost for the parcel is \$135K and the Township could use the Bond money to purchase the property. If the Board approves doing so this amount would be added to the current balance and then there is a possibility to pay the rest of the bond off. The debt would then be at approx. \$277K.
 - It was determined that a decision would need to be made in the near future and Glen Castore will put together detailed information to review for the next Supervisor meeting in June.
- Landfill Project Update
 - Glen Castore provided an update, stating the study performed on the potential to remove forever chemicals from the landfill has been complete. It was stated that the methods performed work and it could reduce the amount of material in the Landfill. It was noted that another grant in the amount of \$840K has been applied for to continue to work on the project.
 - There was a suggestion to hold a separate meeting in mid-June in which the Board would invite the County Commissioners to attend to discuss working with the team going forward on this project. The team would give the final report and findings of their study.
 - It was decided to hold a separate meeting on Wednesday, June 18th at 3pm at the Bridgewater Township Town Hall.
- Weed Control
 - Steve Albers suggested to the Board to hire Drew Wierson as a weed control inspector and applicator. Steve noted that he would train Drew and he would eventually take over for Steve at some point.

- Discussion was held regarding hiring Drew Wierson as an employee of the Township and a Township Weed Inspector. The hourly rate was determined to be \$25.00 per hour.
- Andrew Ebling made a motion to hire Drew Wierson as a Weed Inspector and Weed Control Applicator. Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- It was noted to have the Weed Inspector information added to the Website and the Bulletin Board which the Clerk will take care of.
- Remove Dam into Holding Pond
 - Glen Castore stated that this topic had been discussed in the past and determined that Mike Groth was going to perform the task. It was noted that the dam has not yet been removed. It was decided that Glen will speak with Mike to see if this can be completed in the near future.

New Business

- Approve NAFRS Contract
 - Andrew Ebling made a motion to approve the 2025 NAFRS Agreement for Fire Protection Services, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- Northfield Annexation Agreement Meeting update
 - Glen Castore provided a written update regarding the meeting that he and Kathleen Kopseng attended regarding the Northfield Annexation Agreement. The update was reviewed by the Board. It was noted that progress is being made and Glen and Kathleen will continue working with Northfield to get an agreement in place.
- Bond Repayment
 - It was noted that this topic will be discussed at a future date after further information can be reviewed.
- Planning & Zoning Committee Appointment
 - Nate Watters agreed to stay on as a Planning Commissioner. Glen Castore made a motion to approve Nate Watters as a Planning Commissioner, Thomas Hart seconded, all approved.
- Schedule 2 Meetings
 - Glen Castore requested a separate meeting in June regarding the study that was performed on Stormwater for Affordable Housing. It was noted that the project is complete and the meeting would be to hear the final report. It was proposed to have this be a virtual meeting. After discussion it was decided to have a virtual meeting on Monday, June 16th at 3pm.
 - Previously in the meeting it was decided to hold a separate meeting regarding the Landfill project on Wednesday, June 18th at 3pm at the Bridgewater Township Town Hall.

Issues for future meetings

- It was noted that Kathleen Kopseng will not be in attendance of the June Board of Supervisors meeting.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair
Clerk