

August 27, 2019 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: www.royaltontownship.com

27 August 2019

Approved

7:33 p.m., 27 August 2019, Chair Wayne Olson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order with Supervisor Marshall Pearson, Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Treasurer Wendy Tchida, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Also present were Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Septic Inspector Amy Thompson. Because the pledge of allegiance had been recited at the reconvened annual meeting prior to this meeting, it was omitted at this time.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of gravel/culvert on Raspberry Road, Eagle Lane, and septic inspection on Farming Road. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 30 July 2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$362,337.24 in the treasury. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve payment of checks #9289-9320 in the amount of \$23,307.25. Clerk Swanson noted that payment of check 9320 was contingent on board approval of the amended Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems ordinance later in the meeting. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Public Forum was offered. Charles Swanson was present to ask the board for payment for the dirt that had been removed during the ditch cleanout of Eagle Lane or to have an equal amount of dirt replaced. It was Mr. Swanson's contention that Eagle Lane north of Robin Drive was a two rod road and that he had not been contacted about the need for ditch cleanout. He would have asked that the dirt be spread on the adjacent field. The board noted that the road recording ordinance passed in 1987 states that Eagle Lane is a four rod road. Chair Olson noted that the township has a responsibility to clean out ditches, that this is discussed during the annual road inspection, and that no additional postings are necessary. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Swanson was provided a copy of relevant pages of the road recording ordinance.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Clerk Swanson reported that William Cort had asked the township not to file his approved interim use permit with the county until the state approved his license. Therefore, no filing has occurred.

In response to the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the draft amended Royalton Township Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems ordinance and, after considering the testimony presented at the public hearing on it, Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the amended ordinance and to approve its filing with Pine County. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no recommendations on the solar energy ordinance, which is being worked on, or on the policy book and township levy/equipment inventory.

Old Business:

Clerk Swanson noted that in the approved 28 May 2019 board meeting minutes, the board authorized stop payment on check #8709 dated 27 March 2018 to Architectural Audio Integrators. The correct number of the check was 8708. Frandsen Bank needs an updated motion to stop payment. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve stop payment of check #8708. The motion carried unanimously.

Quality Carpet Cleaning has completed the cleaning of the town hall carpet and has provided a certificate of insurance for the town records.

The board reviewed septic compliance issues. Inspector Thompson has not seen any paperwork regarding 11064 Harvest Road; a new system has been installed at 1224 Sherwood Street; Inspector Thompson suggests another note to 4435 Clint Road. Inspector Thompson reported a noncompliant inspection at 12254 Farming Road. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to send imminent public health threat letter #1 to the owner. The motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed zoning issues emanating from the road inspection. Chair Olson had been in contact with counsel regarding 4843 Brunswick Road. This issue has been going on for several years. Chair Olson read a proposed Order for Abatement of Land Use Violations regarding this property that had been drafted by counsel. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the proposed order and to proceed with legal action to remedy the nuisance. The motion carried unanimously.

In other zoning issues, Zoning Administrator Kemen will continue to investigate permitting issue at 1378 Sherwood Street. Chair Olson will confirm with counsel the need to start legal action at 1255 Royal Heights Lane. Administrator Kemen will investigate permitting issue at 5536 Pokegama Lake Road. Supervisor Schlaeger had talked with the owner of 9451 Brunswick Road who responded that either the vehicles will be moved or a permit for an addition to the shed will be sought; this issue will appear on the September agenda. No further update was available on 1390 Sherwood so that issue will remain on the September agenda.

The board reviewed road inspection follow-up: Negotiations are continuing with Shafer regarding Frost Drive. Pokegama Township's share of the costs of upgrading Mystic Dove has been received in full. There has been no action on Bayberry Road improvements. Homer Road ditching has been completed on the north side; the south side still needs to be done. Butterfly Road ditching has been completed. Tree cutting on Hummingbird Road has been completed and Royal Heights Lane tree cutting is about 60-70% finished.

New Business:

Following the actions of the reconvened annual meeting earlier in the evening, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to set the 2020 Royalton Township levy as follows:

General fund at \$129,000, road and bridge fund at \$70,000, and fire fund at \$20,000 for a total levy of \$219,000. The motion carried unanimously, with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

The board reviewed the proposed 2020/2021 fire contract with Pine City at a proposed cost of \$10,089. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve and sign, noting that printed date on the contract needs to be changed from 2018 to 2019. The motion carried unanimously, with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Supervisor Schlaeger reported on the mailbox damage reported from 11183 Country Drive to have occurred on 22 August. A photograph received on the email showed the damage. Owners assumed this damage had been caused during the township's roadside cutting. Road Superintendent Saumer said that he did not hit the mailbox during the mowing. Supervisor Schlaeger, as rural mail carrier, noted that he had delivered the mail to an intact box within 30 minutes after the roadside had been mowed. Chair Olson directed the office to respond to the complainant that township's investigation concluded that damage had occurred after the mowing.

Zoning Administrator Kemen updated the board on his discussions with William Cort about an historic sign/marker for his property at Greeley. Administrator Kemen recommended that the board consider contributing to the costs of this sign. By consensus, the board concurred that this is a useful project but that the board needs finalization of cost before approval as well as discussion of any sign permits to assure that it meets the township's specifications.

Nessel Township Clerk Stanley Iskierka, along with two board members and the town's road operator, were present to discuss plans for upgrading 540th Street. Nessel is willing to go ahead with plans by rearranging their road priorities if Royalton will put monies in its budget for 2020. They noted that 540th needs major work, an opinion seconded by the Royalton board. They estimate that 2040 cubic yards of gravel will be needed at a cost of \$10.42 per yard for a gravel cost of \$21,256.80. Grading expenses would bring the total project cost to \$22,960.80, with Royalton's share totaling \$11,480.40. Much discussion followed. It was noted that this gravel would meet Royalton's specifications for the current year. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve this plan and to ask Nessel to bill Royalton for \$11,480.40. It is understood that this upgrade applies only to that portion of 540th east of Greeley Road and

continuing to Elmcrest Avenue. The motion carried unanimously, with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye". Chair Olson thanked the Nessel delegation for coming to explain its proposal and for their cooperation.

The office noted that a first report of injury had been filed with MATIT as required by state law. No costs have been incurred as a result of this injury.

After discussion, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize two belly dumps of gravel on Raspberry Road South to cover the culvert near Carol Gaard's driveway. The motion carried unanimously.

FYI:

The board noted receipt of a thank you from Janet Hawkinson for the wood chips.

The next regular board meeting is 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 24 September 2019.

At 8:25 p.m., Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Wayne Olson, Chair/Supervisor

Marshall Pearson, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor