

30 January 2018 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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30 January 2018

Approved

7:30 p.m., 30 January 2018, Chair Marshall Pearson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order with Supervisor Wayne Olson, Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Treasurer Wendy Tchida, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Also present were Deputy Clerk Roberta Folkestad, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Road Superintendent Dan Saumer. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 12 December 2017 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$380,201.64 in the treasury. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve payment of checks #8640 - 8672 totaling \$29,842.17. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye."

Public Forum was offered; no one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Supervisor Olson reported that he had spoken with landowner Dennis Nilsen about his property on Eagle Lane and received his oral permission to visit the property and mark trees for potential removal. After repeated, unsuccessful attempts to contact landowner David Latourelle (attempts to contact will continue), Supervisor Olson noted that approximately 18 trees had been marked for removal. No removal will take place until plans are finalized and approvals have been received. Chair Pearson requested that Tom Lundeen view the trees and present a quote for the removal of the trees and stumps.

The planning commission will finalize draft wording for the "junk" letter and for residents whose septic systems have been determined to be non-compliant at their next working meeting. Board action at the February meeting is required.

Old Business:

Supervisor Olson reported on the "junk" situation at 4843 Brunswick Road. Drive-bys by board members indicated that no apparent action to mitigate the excessive number of vehicles had been done. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to authorize township legal counsel Kevin Hofstad to proceed with the setting of a court date to deal with this issue. The motion carried unanimously.

The camera for the snowplow truck continues to be tabled.

Tom Lundeen was present to update the board on the fall tree-cutting program. All authorized cutting has been completed. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize an additional \$2,700 to cover the excess time that was required to complete this work. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Clerk Swanson reported that no further activity had occurred on the distribution of fines to townships.

Clerk Swanson reported that communications from both Nessel and Pokegama townships had been received indicating those townships' approval of the wording of the town-line road agreements proposed by Royalton. Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to sign

the agreements as approved at earlier meetings and to send signed copies to the respective town clerks for their signatures and return of one copy to Royalton.

Chair Pearson updated the board on the proposed playground on the township campus. Patrice Pearson distributed a spreadsheet comparing costs of two systems (Timber Glen and Bighorn play systems) with additional specifications attached. Cost estimates for a swing system, merry-go-round, and cantilever picnic table ranged from \$13,543 to \$15,523. Rubberific border timbers would cost \$1,427. Much discussion occurred on possible types of mulch, specifically wood or rubber mulch. Mulch costs ranged from approximately \$566 to \$5,700. Deputy Clerk Folkestad noted that discussions with the town's insurance carrier indicated that the playground would be covered with current insurance. Chair Pearson noted that total costs would be approximately \$25,000. Additional study will continue.

Deputy Clerk Folkestad reported that prices for a new inside flag pole ranged from \$79.95 (pole and base) to \$215.00 (pole, base, and flag). Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize purchase of a pole and base not to exceed \$150.00. The motion carried unanimously, with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

New Business:

Chair Pearson called for discussion on the proposed contract with Ledin, Hofstad, Troth & Fleming to provide legal services to the township during 2018. As part of this agreement, the law firm asked that specific individuals be named as being authorized to speak with town legal counsel. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve and sign the agreement and to name Wayne Olson, Marshall Pearson, Jeff Schlaeger, Duane Swanson, and John Kemen as individuals authorized to speak with counsel. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Pearson noted that Supervisor Olson would be the lead spokesperson with legal counsel and that all other named individuals should inform Supervisor Olson of their intent to speak with counsel.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the proposed contract with the Braham Fire Department to provide fire suppression services to the township during 2018 at a cost of \$9,475.89. The motion carried unanimously, with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

The board recommends a total levy to the annual meeting. The total levy for 2018 is \$219,000. Much discussion centered on allocation of the levy among the various funds, the total amount of the levy, and the township's current financial status. Proposals ranged from retaining the current levy to reducing it by \$40,000. Chair Pearson urged board members to consider this issue before the next meeting and asked that the office provide a spreadsheet detailing the levy, receipts, and expenditures by fund for the last five years.

Clerk Swanson presented resolution 2018-1 establishing an absentee ballot board and appointing election judges for the March 13, 2018, township election. The resolution names Wendy Tchida (head judge), Gary Valvoda (judge and alternate head judge), Merrie Ann Hesselroth (judge), and Roberta Folkestad (alternate judge) and authorizes payment and mileage according to the regular township schedule. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of this resolution shall be part of these minutes.

Clerk Swanson noted that Supervisor Schlaeger had completed board of equalization training and had filed certification in the township office.

After discussion, the board recommended Zoning Administrator Kemen begin paperwork to call a public hearing on the proposed fence ordinance before the April regular board meeting.

FYI

Chair Pearson noted that the board of audit will be held after the February meeting, that Century Link has authorized a check for \$1,592.08 to cover replacement costs of the damaged culvert on Timber Drive, that the board of equalization is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., 23 April 2018 at the town hall, that a Pine County local government officials' meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on 30 January, and that a Region 7E round table on broadband internet will be held at the Kanabec County courthouse on 5 February 2018. The next regular town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 27 February 2018.

At 8:35 p.m., Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Marshall Pearson, Chair

Wayne Olson, Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor