

## July 25, 2017 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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25 July 2017 - Approved

7:30 p.m., 25 July 2017, 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 and Road Maintenance Person Dan Saumer. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to add to the agenda the following 11 items: brushing at Sherwood and Highway 70, brushing of Raspberry Road South, building contractor injury, brushing report (generally), snow plow wing blade and grader blades, purchase of culverts and pallet forks including culvert for Dan Eklund, signs on Royal Woods Road, Board of Adjustment report, spraying roads, noise issue on Canary Road, and turnaround on Mystic Dove and to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 27 June 2017 as distributed, with the notation that the minutes for signature contain a correction on page two, last paragraph, from "Chair Olson" to "Chair Pearson". The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to approve the minutes of the Board of Equalization and Appeals meeting of 24 April 2017 as distributed with the incorporation of the report from Pine County Assessor Kelly Schroeder. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$282,632.47 in the treasury. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #8406-8444 in the amount of \$18,726.55. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye."

Public Forum was offered; no one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

By consensus, the board agreed with the commission's recommendation to leave the blight and nuisance ordinances as is for the present time and directed the commission to continue working on the town line road and fencing (blight only) ordinance drafts.

Old Business:

The board noted that the fence permitted at 3623 State Highway #70 (PID #29.0241.000) appears to be finished, completing that requirement. Chair Pearson permitted audience members to comment on this property. Several attendees asked if individuals were living at this property and if it were approved as a residential site. Board discussion noted that it was not currently approved as a residential site (due to lack of water and sewer facilities), but that occasional camping was permitted.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to send a letter to the property owner thanking her for completing the fence and reminding her that, per Royalton's zoning ordinance, the property is not currently a residential site. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger updated the board on the Century Link cable cut through the township culvert. He has had discussions with the Claims Department who wanted to know when this was done. The board directed the town office to contact Century Link claims (1-866-864-2255), report that it had been discovered on the April 2016 road inspection, and forward pictures as necessary. If this cannot be resolved, the township will consider reporting this to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Calcium chloride has been applied to Maple Shores Drive and Apple Road as previously directed by the board. Both roads look good. Audience members shared their positive comments.

Supervisor Olson noted that where the culvert used to be on Royal River Road is currently draining and is, at this time, not affecting Bluebell Road. No recommendations were needed on these issues at this time.

Chair Pearson also reported that the Pine County Sheriff had called him regarding the disappearance of signs on Royal River Way. He confirmed to the sheriff that the road is a private road, that signage and maintenance is the responsibility of the residents, and the township did not know who originally placed the signs there. Several audience members voiced their concerns over the disappearance of the signs in this development. They were also told that the three-way stop sign on Bluebell was on the private road and past the end of the town's responsibility.

Chair Pearson reported on his attendance at the Pine County Board of Adjustment's variance hearing for property at 12961 Pokegama Lake Road (PID #29.0003.000). He thanked Pine County zoning officials for their willingness to inform the township of such variance requests and stressed the need to continue communication, especially as it relates to building and site permits in the shorelands district. Discussions will continue on this issue.

Road Maintenance Person Saumer and John DeGray had investigated the drainage issue on Church Road, noting that the ditch near the intersection with Highway 70 appears to be functioning but that about 100-150 yards south drainage is not functioning appropriately in part because the area has been used as a driveway into the adjoining field. Leslie Orvis reviewed the long history of this issue with the board. By consensus, the board concluded that no action is needed at this time.

The Crestview Avenue driveway/culvert issue is being addressed. The culvert has been procured and will be installed shortly.

#### New Business:

The township had received a letter from Wright-Hennepin Cooperative noting that it could no longer continue monitoring the township's security system, but not giving a reason for the action.

However, subsequently, the township has received a second letter rescinding that action and noting that service has been restored.

Deputy Clerk Folkestad noted that the township had received an overpayment of \$3.96 on a permit issued to Ray Dhaemers and asked whether or not a refund should be made. Supervisor

Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the refund and to authorize that a check be cut as soon as possible. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye."

The board authorized Road Maintenance Person Saumer to investigate the obstructed "Building Permits Required" township sign at the intersection of Sherwood Street and State Highway #70 and to remove the brush.

Supervisor Olson reported that he had received some complaints and numerous approvals for the brushing on Raspberry Road South. One individual had taken the brush from the ditch and placed it back on the road. A police report (#17163149) has been filed for record and a deputy reportedly has talked with the landowner. Road Maintenance Person Saumer removed the debris from the road.

Chair Pearson reported on a personal injury to a painter working on the town's buildings. The injured party is now doing well and has submitted claims to his insurance. Paperwork still needs to be filed with the township.

Road Maintenance Person Saumer reported that brushing went very well, that he had spent 45 hours with the brusher, that numerous roads still require work, and that he had occasionally gone over parts of the ditches several times in order to minimize size of the debris.

The board discussed the possibility of purchasing additional snow plow wing blades and grader blades to have on hand, with an expected cost of \$3,000. Road Maintenance Person Saumer noted that there are different qualities of blades with the current blades having carbide cutting edges being more expensive but also lasting longer. He will continue to investigate costs and vendors. The board took no action on this issue.

The board had an extended discussion on whether or not to order a supply of culverts in order to receive free shipping. Storage and access issues included moving the culverts upon arrival. Road Maintenance Person Saumer was authorized to consult with Anders McGriff about the possibility of making pallet forks (or spears) to facilitate moving and to check with suppliers about pricing. By consensus, the board decided to wait on bulk purchase until the next meeting.

The culvert discussion has a more immediate issue with a request by Dan Eklund for the installation of a culvert into one of his fields. Supervisor Schlaeger was authorized to report to Mr. Eklund that site and driveway permit fees would total \$150 and, because this is the first culvert installation at this location, additional costs of approximately \$400 - \$450 would be required. Final action was postponed until August.

The board discussed the application of herbicides to brushed roadways. Nothing is scheduled for this year. The board recognized the need for tracking which roads have been done at which times. Treasurer Tchida has developed a database on road maintenance.

Maybe herbicide applications could be incorporated into that database.

Chair Pearson reported that James Truehart of Northern Hollow Winery had reported excessive noise on Canary Road from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. recently. No formal notice of such complaint has been received.

The board discussed the proposed turnaround on Mystic Dove Road. Apparently, the land owners are not in favor of a turnaround. By consensus, this issue will be left alone for now. The landowners had received letters noting that brushing and vertical cutting was going to be done; the landowners did not express disapproval of the cutting.

For your information:

Deputy Clerk Folkestad called Dave Latourelle regarding permission for the turnaround on Eagle Lane. He forgot to mail back the permission form, but will find it and return it. The permission

form has not yet been received. He also asked if gravel could be placed on Eagle Lane. The road inspection had revealed that gravel was needed and laying it is on the schedule.

A second letter to landowners at 4670 Canary Road has been sent noting that the field driveway can remain as is, but if it is changed in the future a permit will be needed. This issue is now complete.

A second letter to the landowner about changing the field driveway from Raspberry South to Apple has been sent. The issue has been corrected and is now complete.

Excessive vehicles at 4843 Brunswick Road and 2667 Greeley Road have not been removed. The board tabled these issues until the August meeting for further action.

Excessive vehicles at 4673 Canary Road appear to have been removed, and this issue is now complete.

As directed by the board, a letter was sent to the Animal Humane Society detailing Royalton's animal/kennel ordinance.

The board noted that the Pine County Commissioners will be meeting at the Royalton Town Hall on 8 August 2017.

The next town board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., 29 August 2017. This meeting will include continuation of the recessed annual meeting of 7 March 2017.

Clerk Swanson reported that the town had received from the Minnesota State Demographer the official population estimates as of 1 April 2016. The report shows a population estimate of 1,114 and a household estimate of 405.

At 8:52 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Marshall Pearson, Chair

Wayne Olson, Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor