

May 26, 2020 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

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

26 May 2020

Approved

7:34 p.m., 26 May 2020, Chair Wayne Olson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order, with Supervisors Marshall Pearson and Jeff Schlaeger, Treasurer Wendy Tchida, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Zoning Administrator John Kemen, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Septic Inspector Amy Thompson, and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider also attended, along with members of the planning commission and the public. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of parking lot, budget, Marshall Lind, Raspberry South, new computers, Bill Cort, and correspondence. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda with seven additions. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the 28 April 2020 reorganizational board minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 28 April 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the 18 May road inspection as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$367,947.44 in the treasury. Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve payment of checks #9580-9605 in the amount of \$6,977.59. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Public Forum was offered. No one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

The board reviewed the commission's recommendation to approve the easement request of Jerry Effertz for land south of Apple Road (PID 290280000) dated 13 April 2020. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the request and forward the approval to Pine County. The motion carried unanimously.

No activities had occurred on the Saumer land subdivision proposal or the Gross/McFerran easement possibility. There were no updates on the solar energy ordinance, policies or levy/equipment funds.

The board considered the commission's recommendation regarding the 9453 Riverbed Road request for a variance to enlarge a building in the Shoreland District. By consensus, it was recommended to thank the county for notifying the township of this request without expressing a recommendation on the variance.

Supervisor Pearson suggested that the commission look at how the budget is presented in the Treasurer's report. As currently presented, the report appears to show significant balances in the accounts. While that is true, these accounts contain monies that, theoretically, have been set aside for future equipment purchases, etc., and are essentially committed. Chair Olson noted that the levy had not been raised in more than a decade and that legal costs associated with zoning violations, while most may be recouped eventually, will not be immediately available. Chair Olson directed the commission to study this issue and report back to the board.

Old Business:

No response had been received from 7995 Bluebell Road regarding the board's second request to receive a copy of a contract for a new septic system at the property (PID 295095000). Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to request that counsel send a letter to begin enforcement of the ordinance and to assess costs to the property. The motion carried unanimously.

The conflicting septic inspections at 9003 Wildflower Road (PID 290112000) have not been resolved because the "approving" inspector will not discuss the results with the township inspector as required by the ordinance. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to declare the system non-compliant and, with Septic Inspector Thompson's assistance, compose a letter to that effect to the owner. The motion carried unanimously.

The owners of Royal River Run, lot 8, block 3 (PID 295141000) have not responded to the first point of sale letter requiring an inspection, if a system exists on the property. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a second notice requiring a response by the June meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The road inspection considered the septic issues at 12254 Farming Road (PID 290382001). Owners appear not to be living there, but animals are present and garbage service is utilized. If no one is living there, Septic Inspector Thompson noted that the system must be abandoned with proper methodology. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a notice to that effect, requiring progress on abandonment by the June meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson updated the board on counsel's work regarding excessive vehicles at 4843 Brunswick Road. A stipulation and order for cleanup has been forwarded to the owners and renters. If that is signed, the owners will have 45 days after the governor's "Stay-at-

Home" order expires to clean up the property or the township can arrange to have it cleaned up. This will likely not happen before the June meeting.

Supervisor Pearson updated the board on the situation regarding 1255 Royal Heights Lane. He was told that the contract for deed holder is attempting to repossess the property and will then clean it up.

Clerk Swanson noted that the owners of 5536 Pokegama Lake Road had contacted the township requesting names of septic inspectors in response to the second notice sent to them. Said information has been sent. Action will be postponed until the June meeting.

Clerk Swanson noted that action on 1605 Royal Heights Lane (living in campers) will be postponed until the June meeting; a second notice letter will be sent.

The board has received a response to the second notice letter from owner of 10696 Pine Bough Lane promising that one camper will be removed by the end of May. The issue will be reviewed at the June meeting.

The board reviewed the excessive vehicles issue at 9451 Brunswick Road. Vehicles have been removed out of sight, and this issue will be removed from the agenda.

Deputy Clerk Schneider noted that chloriding of Maple Shores Drive had been completed, with adjacent property owners paying \$686.40 and the township paying \$650.00. Road Superintendent Saumer was asked to maintain careful records of grading activities so that the board can determine the amount of funds saved by grading the road less.

Dan Squyres, certified appraiser, was present to introduce himself and request that he be appointed township assessor, noting that he had been working jointly with Linda Wiener in Pine City Township. He answered questions about his responses to owners that forbid him from entering their properties. He presented two proposed contracts, one for two years and one for one year, along with the required certificate of liability insurance. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the one-year contract. The motion carried unanimously, and the contract was signed.

The purchase of additional filing cabinets and election furniture is continuing. There is no update on the town hall carpeting.

New Business:

Chair Olson reported on the need for the WH Security cell dialer upgrade to keep the security system activated. This upgrade costs \$406.88. He also noted that there is a malfunction in the system that requires a service call. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve both these items. The motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed the extensive list of properties identified in the road inspection report. Some will require more study before actions are recommended. The following decisions were made:

Administrator Kemen will visit 5300 Royal River Road (PID 295116000) to ascertain the extent of garbage and public safety. Les Orvis will talk with owners of 6051 Royalton Road (PID 290172000) and 430 Greeley Road (PID 290374005) about excessive vehicles. After review, 2667 Greeley Road (PID 290293003) will be removed from the agenda as vehicles continue to appear to be licensed.

The following motions were made to send standard excess vehicle letters, with a request to report progress by 30 June and with notations that any legal costs will be assessed to the property: Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, regarding 5639 Red Oak Road (PID 290220000). Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, regarding 4670 Canary Road (290089000), 4673 Canary Road (PID 290083000), and 5017 Canary Road (PID 290095000). Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, regarding 3493 Pokegama Lake Road (PID 290062000). All motions carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to send standard excess vehicle letters, with a request to report progress by 30 June and with notations that any legal costs will be assessed to the property to 10278 Bear Claw Drive (PID 290124004) and to send a separate standard letter regarding the septic issues at this address. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to send standard excess vehicle letters, with a request to report progress by 30 June and with notations that any legal costs will be assessed to the property to 9435 Apple Road (PID 29027002). The motion carried 2-0-1 with Supervisor Schlaeger and Supervisor Pearson voting "aye" and Chair Olson voting "abstain".

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to authorize counsel to draft a letter regarding fence in right-of-way along 3316 Raspberry Road (South) (PID 290266003) and private maintenance of ditch. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding a resident complaining about a barking dog, Supervisor Pearson will discuss with the complainant.

Chair Olson reported that the new computers have been received and will soon be installed. Chair Olson will also stop and discuss with Bill Cort the need to submit payment for the public hearing held for his interim use permit.

Supervisor Pearson brought a quote from Prefer Seal Coating of Harris to fill cracks, clean, seal coat, and stripe the town hall parking lot at a cost of \$1645.00. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to ask for a second quote and, if the second quote is higher, to authorize Supervisor Pearson to proceed with the original quote. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize Supervisor Pearson to meet with Building Inspector Marshall Lind to continue discussions about exchange of information regarding building permits and practices. The motion carried unanimously.

By consensus, Road Superintendent Saumer was directed to meet with County Engineer Mark LeBrun to discuss a long term solution to the sinking of Raspberry Road (South). Chair Olson directed Superintendent Saumer to proceed with the replacement and lowering of the existing culvert on Raspberry Road (South) taking care to the various utility lines in the vicinity.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to order seven additional culverts as well as extenders for the 48" culvert on Bluebell Road. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Supervisor Pearson asked for board input about legal consultations regarding zoning and other issues. By consensus, the board directed Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson to meet with legal counsel to discuss issues in person.

Correspondence:

Clerk Swanson noted a communication, in board packet, from the Pine County Auditor stating that current tax collections are down very slightly from normal, so that is good news for the town's apportionment. He distributed membership cards to the board from the Minnesota Association of Townships. He also noted a communication from the Pine County Soil & Water Conservation District stating that a Snake River Watershed District plan is being drafted and solicits input from the township. The clerk will forward copies to the supervisors.

The board then discussed the extensive letter from Jennifer Cross about issues in the Royal River developments. By consensus, the board directed Clerk Swanson to reply thanking her for her input and reporting that the board is reviewing its contents.

FYI:

Chair Olson reported that the statement of town officers elected has been filed with Pine County Auditor, the report of town officers has been filed with the Minnesota Association of Townships, the Boeck and Effertz land split approvals have been sent to Pine County, the request for advanced settlement and authorization for direct payments have been sent to Pine County, and the election equipment has been returned to Pine County for maintenance.

The next town board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 30 June 2020, at the town hall.

At 9:00 p.m., Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Wayne Olson, Chair/Supervisor

Marshall Pearson, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor