

November 28, 2017 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

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

28 November 2017

Approved

7:30 p.m., 28 November 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, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Road Superintendent Dan Saumer. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to add to the agenda training classes for the road superintendent, MnDOT inspection of the truck, information letter, and March election and to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously. Not added to the agenda was a new pole for the indoor flag. Deputy Clerk Folkestad was asked to research possibilities for replacing the existing pole.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 31 October 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$310,831.60 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 #8584 - 8613 totaling \$10,814.78. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye."

Public Forum was offered; no one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Clerk Swanson reported that the draft town line road agreements with Nessel and Pokegama townships had been sent to their respective clerks; no responses had yet been received.

A revised draft of a fence ordinance will be reviewed by the commission at its next working meeting. The current draft consists of a set of basic principles and guidelines that does not get too detailed.

Old Business:

Supervisor Olson read a letter from Barbara Ripley, dated 14 November 2017, regarding the excess vehicles on her property at 4843 Brunswick Road. Ms. Ripley noted that her son would be removing some of his vehicles on 1 December and that they had started to construct a fence.

There has been difficulty setting the poles for the fence, but it is hoped that it will be finished by 1 December. The letter also references alleged discriminatory practices against this property. This letter has been shared with township legal counsel Kevin Hofstad who is reviewing its contents. Board discussion noted that this property was identified during the annual road inspection on 24 April 2017 along with several other properties as having excessive numbers of vehicles. Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to move forward with legal proceedings to clean up the property but also noted this situation could change after 1 December if the property is compliant by then. The motion carried unanimously.

The board and planning commission are still working on the forms necessary to register the turnaround on Eagle Lane.

The camera for the snowplow truck was tabled until next month.

There is nothing to update on the Raspberry Road south culvert; the issue will be removed from the agenda.

Tom Lundeen was present to update the board on the fall tree-cutting program. The tree situation on township roads is much improved. Bears Ear is almost done; Mystic Dove will be done this week but Road Superintendent Saumer may be asked to do a bit of regrading. Hazelnut has not been started because one of the trees will have to be dropped in a field of standing corn. Supervisor Schlaeger will contact the renter who owns the corn to see if several rows could be harvested. Property owners generally have been very supportive of the tree cutting activities.

Clerk Swanson reported that he has received information from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension with the forms necessary to request an Originating Agency Identification number required to receive a share of district court fines originating in the township. He will continue to investigate.

The board reviewed the township map sent by the Minnesota Department of Transportation; Clerk Swanson had made the changes recommended at the last planning commission and board meetings. Most changes related to roads for which the township was responsible but were not listed as such and roads for which the township was listed as responsible but is not. Locations of the town hall, one church, two cemeteries and the Stumne burial mounds were added. Also added was the extension of the Snake River to western boundary of the township. Clerk Swanson noted that the updated map needed to be returned to MnDOT by the end of the month.

New Business:

Supervisor Olson reported that three online classes (regarding signage, culvert maintenance, and road grading maintenance) are being offered. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize payment of \$175 total for these three classes and to authorize Road

Superintendent Saumer to take them. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

An appointment for the truck to receive its MnDOT inspection has been made for later this week.

Supervisor Olson proposed that the planning commission draft a letter for the board that can be sent to all property owners noting the history and contents of the "junk" ordinance and encouraging residents to be mindful of their responsibilities under it. By consensus, this issue will be placed on the agenda for the next working planning commission.

Clerk Swanson noted that the board needs to set hours for the township election on 14 March. Required hours are from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., but the board can authorize beginning hours as early as 7:00 a.m. Traditionally, Royalton town elections have opened at 12:00 noon. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to establish voting hours for the March 14, 2018, town election as 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

FYI

No word has been received from the phone company about who does the work on the Timber Drive culvert. Notices have been issued that filing for town offices (one supervisor for three years and one clerk for two years) will be received from 2 January 2018 through 5:00 p.m., 16 January 2018. The next town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 12 December 2017.

At 7:55 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Marshall Pearson, Chair

Wayne Olson, Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor