

12 December 2017 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

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

12 December 2017

Approved

7:30 p.m., 12 December 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 Superintendent Dan Saumer. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to add to the agenda Eagle Drive, playground area, safes for office, board of equalization training, and correspondence and to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 28 November 2017 as corrected (updating which roads had undergone tree cutting/ Mystic Dove not Majestic and Hazelnut not Bluebell). The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$300,967.50 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 #8614 - 8639 totaling \$15,215.43. 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 introduced the draft fence ordinance as approved by the planning commission, thanking commission members for their diligence in working on this draft. Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the draft and to begin the process of notifications and hearing to incorporate it into the township's ordinance. The motion carried unanimously; a copy of the approved draft shall be a part of these minutes.

Planning commission members Leslie Orvis and Gary Valvoda commented on their measuring of the Eagle Lane turnaround. Supervisor Olson discussed options to improve this turnaround. By consensus, the board authorized Supervisor Olson to contact relevant landowners and discuss the possible options.

The board reviewed the July 2007 postcard sent to landowners about the "junk" ordinance and, by consensus, instructed the planning commission to continue to draft a letter to be sent out in 2018 before the road inspection tour.

The board, by consensus, instructed the planning commission to continue working on model letters to be sent to landowners whose septic systems are not in compliance with the township's ordinance.

Old Business:

Supervisor Olson reported on the "junk" situation at 4843 Brunswick Road. No apparent action to mitigate the excessive number of vehicles had been done; township legal counsel had written another letter to the property owner (which resulted in a reply from the landowner noting that removal of vehicles would occur over a period of months); and that, in accordance with legal counsel's advice, the issue would proceed to the district court.

The camera for the snowplow truck continues to be tabled.

Tom Lundeen was present to update the board on the fall tree-cutting program. Much progress has been made since the last meeting. 700' of Bluebell has been cleared, with permission of all remaining landowners received. Several landowners had asked that a small number of individual trees not be cut; all of those requests were for trees not immediately adjacent to the road and Mr. Lundeen agreed that they could remain. Stumps on numerous roads still need to be

ground. Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to authorize the expenditure of an additional \$7,000 for tree cutting and stump removal. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Schlaeger all voting "aye."

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

Deputy Clerk Folkestad reported that correspondence had been received from Century Link that they needed a quote for labor and material to repair the damaged culvert on Timber Drive. Chair Pearson will contact Grasston Excavating to obtain a quote and relay it to the office for transmittal to Century Link.

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New Business:

Pine County officials will hold another meeting with local government officers on 30 January 2018 should any supervisors or others wish to attend.

Clerk Swanson distributed Deputy Clerk Folkestad's written report of the Pine County Township officials meeting of 28 October 2017.

The Braham Milaca building inspector contract had been received and was ready for signature. Chair Pearson and Clerk Swanson signed the contract which will be returned to the inspector's office for countersignatures.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to set the annual Board of Audit meeting for 27 February 2018, immediately following the regular board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A Board of Equalization training session has been scheduled for 31 January 2018. Supervisors were reminded to make sure that their certification was current.

Chair Pearson asked the board and audience for input on whether or not the township should pursue investigation into construction of a playground on town grounds. Deputy Clerk Folkestad reported that non-organizational rentals of the hall during 2016 were 6 and during 2017 were 7. Consensus of the audience was that a playground was a good idea. Chair Pearson asked the planning commission to investigate options, costs, and insurance issues.

Chair Pearson noted that the issue of safes for the office will be dropped for now.

Chair Pearson noted that Peggy Skalicky had been contacted by the Pine City Pioneer about a possible article about the mural on the maintenance building's wall.

Chair Pearson thanked those responsible for decorating of the hall for the holidays.

Clerk Swanson noted that the following correspondence had been received: A Christmas card from Brian Weidendorf (Lands and Cabins); an offer to purchase an advertisement in the Yellow Pages Directory (consensus was "no"); an advertisement for ice melting pellets (to Road Superintendent Saumer); and a cost breakdown analysis from the Braham Fire Department (passed around).

FYI

Town personnel and vendors were reminded to cash all checks as soon as possible so that end of the year paperwork can begin. Updates to the MnDOT map have been forwarded to the state. No responses to the townline road agreements have been received. Board of Equalization meeting at Royalton has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Monday, 23 April 2018. The township has received information on a call by the Pine City Fire Department to a township landowner. No recommendation on a new flag pole for inside the town hall has been made. State inspection and upgrades to the township truck have been completed. The filing period for one supervisor and one clerk position in the March 2018 election is 2 January - 16 January 2018. The next town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 30 January 2018.

At 8:33 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Chair/Supervisor: Marshall Pearson

Supervisor: Wayne Olson

Supervisor: Jeffery Schlaeger

One Attachment to follow.

APPROVED DRAFT - 12 December 2017

FENCING, SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING:

The placement of fences, screening, and landscaping shall be subject to the following requirements, except for agricultural fences. Specific requirements shall be subject to the recommendations of the zoning administrator and approval of the board of supervisors.

- a. No fence shall be permitted on public rights-of-way.

b. No fence, screen, or structure which obstructs the view shall be located within twenty-five (25) feet of the corner formed by the intersection of street or railroad rights-of-way as measured from the intersecting property lines.

c. That side of the fence considered to be the face, opposite the side with the fence posts, shall face the abutting public or private property.

d. All fences shall be constructed of material such that the appearance is not deemed detrimental to the property values of the area by the zoning administrator and/or the board of supervisors. A fence constructed, or having the appearance, of masonry, wood, or steel must be compatible with surrounding structures. No snow fencing, construction security fencing, or silt fencing shall be allowed, except during construction and winter conditions.

e. No fence shall exceed four (4) feet in height in the front yard or eight (8) feet in height in the side and rear yards as measured from the average point between the highest and lowest grades.

f. Notwithstanding paragraphs "d" and "e" above, open chain link, wire, and similar fences may be constructed and may exceed eight (8) feet in height for animal control or protection of vegetation [e.g. gardens]; such enclosures do not require a fence permit.

g. In the case of a non-residential use abutting a residential use, the township board may require screening above six (6) feet in height.

h. Any nonconforming fence which is destroyed or in disrepair, requiring more than fifty (50) percent of its replacement cost to repair, shall be removed and only be rebuilt if in compliance with the standards set forth in this section.

i. Any fence, wall or similar barrier which is not properly maintained so as to create an eyesore or nuisance shall be removed by owner upon action of the town board at the owner's expense.

j. If a green belt planting strip is used in lieu of a fence, it shall consist of living vegetative cover of sufficient width and density to provide an effective screen year around.