

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006  
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26 January 2021  
Approved

7:30 p.m., 26 January 2021, Chair Wayne Olson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order, with Supervisor Marshall Pearson, Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Treasurer Wendy Tchida, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider also attended, along with Planning Commission Chair Leslie Orvis and members of the public. Social distancing was observed, and masks were worn. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with two additions: trucking service and patrol and salt and sand policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 15 December 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$418,716.25 in the treasury. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #9881-9917 in the amount of \$15,380.63, with checks #9892-9003 being void. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Public Forum was offered. No one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Chair Olson noted that the planning commission recommended approval to the board of the draft ordinance regarding solar energy installations. He called for any comments from the floor and received none. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the draft. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to set a public hearing for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, 23 February 2021 to receive public input into the proposed ordinance. Zoning Administrator Kemen noted his approval of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson noted that the working planning commission would review the proposed policy regarding applications for minor subdivisions.

Chair Olson noted that the planning commission had made no recommendation on the proposed land split of Jeff Pangerl. Zoning Administrator Kemen will investigate with requestor's counsel.

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Old Business:

Clerk Swanson noted that the 2020 final report of septic issues was in members' packets, with most issues having been resolved or in the process of resolution. Chair Olson thanked Septic Inspector Amy Thompson for her attention to these issues during the past year.

Clerk Swanson noted that the 2020 final report of road issues was in members' packets, with those unresolved issues appearing in red. He noted those would appear on the 2021 report for use during the 2021 road inspection. Road Superintendent Saumer indicated his review of the report. Supervisor Pearson then distributed color coordinated maps showing the last five years of graveling activity and a proposed recommended next five-year plan. The plan would group roads into logical geographical units to achieve maximum efficiency in delivering and spreading gravel. Special situations could be addressed during each annual road inspection. Road Superintendent Saumer indicated his agreement, noting that the west part of 540th had not been done as indicated.

Chair Olson reported that no one is currently living at 3623 State Highway 70. The board will review that issue later in the year.

Karla Trammel, owner of 4201 State Highway 70, was present to respond to the board's notice of violation regarding excessive vehicles. Ms. Trammel noted that she has not been on the property since August, that litigation is in process to determine that she is the legal owner of the property, and that she agrees that the property is currently in violation of the town's ordinance provisions regarding the number of vehicles. She provided the town with a copy of a scheduling order from Pine County District Court which sets forth an August 2021 pretrial settlement conference date and an October 2021 trial date. Chair Olson asked Ms. Trammel if she would be willing to update the board on actions at its June 2021 meeting, and she indicated she would be willing to do so. By consensus, the board paused further enforcement action until June. Chair Olson thanked Ms. Trammel for appearing before the board.

No response had been received by the town or its zoning administrator to the second letter regarding plastic structures at 764 Greeley Road. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to proceed with action to enforce the ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

No response had been received from the owners of 4843 Brunswick Road in response to the town's invoice. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to move forward with collection activities as recommended by counsel. The motion carried unanimously.

Road Superintendent Saumer reported that Tom Lundeen had been hampered by equipment breakdowns but that he was hoping to resume tree trimming as early as next week.

Chair Olson received a quote of \$139,283 from McCoy Construction and Forestry for a 2021 John Deere 770G tandem drive motor grader, including new wing (includes trade-in value of \$135,000 on existing machine). Caterpillar declined to give a quote. Road Superintendent Saumer noted that the quote would likely carry through about a year. After discussion, the board decided to wait on a purchase decision for a year and to proceed with the servicing of the existing grader. Road Superintendent Saumer will arrange for servicing at a cost of

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approximately \$6,000, which includes transportation to Duluth. The grader will be out of service approximately one week.

New Business:

Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson reported that the town's legal counsel, Chelsie Troth, had left the firm of Ledin, Hofstad and Troth as of 31 December 2020. Our current contract with the Ledin firm runs through August 2021. Kevin Hofstad and Chelsie Troth have both submitted proposed contracts to continue to provide legal services to the town. After much discussion, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson to meet with both prospective counsels and determine what, if anything, is necessary to exit the current contract and to move forward with selection of a counsel. By this means, the litigation actions currently authorized by the board will be able to proceed without delay. The motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed 2021 gravel quotes. By consensus the specifications remained the same but the cubic yardage was reduced to "approximately 3,000 yards up to 5,000 yards". Clerk Swanson will prepare final wording for approval at the February meeting.

Chair Olson will order updated defibrillator pads.

Clerk Swanson provided a report on the town ownership of land in section 3. This one acre strip had been purchased in 1941 for "road purposes." No action was necessary, and none was taken.

Chair Olson had been asked by the Braham Fire Department if the town had a fire district service area map. Clerk Swanson reported that one exists in the 2009 comprehensive plan. He had shared a copy of with the chief of the Braham Fire Department. The chief said any recommendations for changes must come from the township. After discussion, no further action was deemed necessary.

In consultation with Supervisor Pearson, Clerk Swanson prepared an updated status report on potential zoning actions based on the 2020 road inspection. Issues needing review will be considered on the 2021 road inspection.

Based on recommendations from the Minnesota Association of Townships, Chair Olson will establish a remote link for persons wishing to participate in the annual meeting, assuming that the planned technology upgrades are in place by that time.

The board discussed the use of salt and sand during the winter months. By consensus, it was decided to use the scarifier before the application of salt and sand. The latter would be used at the discretion of the road superintendent and the road supervisor.

In an item not on the agenda, Roger Teich was present to discuss a proposal to split ten acres from a parcel owned by Brenden R.R. Teich at the intersection of Woodland and Wildflower roads. At issue is how to calculate road frontage when there is an existing easement held by the Department of Natural Resources that may limit the parcel to less than the required 300 feet road frontage. By consensus, the board referred this issue to the planning commission for review and recommendation.

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FYI:

Both Supervisor Olson and Supervisor Pearson have completed certificates for participation in the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization; Roylton CARES Act spending report was listed as accepted in a state report of 17 December; the Pine County Auditor's office corrected the town hall address in three Beacon entries. The following reports have been submitted: 2020 Subsurface Treatment Systems annual report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (thank you to Amy Thompson), 2020 report on building permits for new privately-owned housing from Census Bureau, and 2021 boundary and annexation survey from the Census Bureau.

The next town board meeting will be 23 February 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall. This meeting will include the annual board of audit. A public hearing on the proposed solar energy ordinance will be conducted at 6:30 p.m., 23 February 2021.

At 8:45 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