

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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30 March 2021
Approved

7:34 p.m., 30 March 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, Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider also attended, along with members of the planning commission and members of the public. Social distancing was observed, and masks were worn. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with four additions: broadband, wood chips, sidewalk, and storage area. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 23 February 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to acknowledge receipt of the draft minutes of the annual meeting of 9 March 2021; the minutes will be approved at the 2022 annual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the board of canvass meeting of 9 March 2021 as presented.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$419,791.18 in the treasury. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #9945-9985 in the amount of \$21,596.29. 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 Township had received no information on Roger Teich's proposed land split and related issues. Chair Olson pointed out the list of policies reviewed by the commission. The commission will discuss a draft driveway/culvert policy and a draft amendment to the zoning ordinance at its next working meeting. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of Mark Karpe's proposed learning project with exotic animals.

Old Business:

Clerk Swanson and Septic Administrator Thompson gave the septic status report, noting that no

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formal action was required of the board. The office was directed to send a letter to owners of PID #290211001 (1238 Sherwood Street, Braham) reminding them of the upcoming deadline to have their system repaired.

Regarding 764 Greeley Road, the plastic structures appear to be slowly being removed. By consensus, this issue will be reviewed at the road inspection.

At the public hearing held earlier in the evening, the board adopted Resolution 2021-3, A Resolution Adopting Assessment, so no further action was required at this time.

The situation at 3623 State Highway 70 will be reviewed during the road inspection.

Road Superintendent Dan Saumer reported that tree cutting on the west side of Raspberry Road south continues with most of the west side completed. Cutting is paused due to soft ground.

Servicing of the grader is on schedule after road restrictions are lifted.

Road Superintendent Saumer has replaced the defibrillator pads and purchased and installed fire extinguishers in the office and in the tractor.

Clerk Swanson delivered to the board three sets of gravel quotes that had been received by the published deadline. Board members opened each quote and state certification. All submissions included the required certificate of insurance and state certification reports. Chair Olson read the quotes: Bjorklund Companies, \$12.15/cy; Rydberg & Sons, 10.93/cy; and Keith Hass Construction, \$11.22/cy. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to award the gravel contract to Rydberg & Sons with a quote of \$10.93/cy. The motion carried unanimously.

The board noted the announcement of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting to be held by telephone and directed the office to request a Webex link so that the town hall sound system could be used during the meeting.

New Business:

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to accept with regret the resignation of Township Assessor Dan Squyres. The motion carried unanimously. After discussion, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to contact the individuals identified by Assessor Squyres as having expressed interest and to advertise the position. The motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the short term extension of the Pine City fire contract as proposed. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve and sign the contract extension to 1 July 2021. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no new zoning issues.

The board reviewed the 2021 Pine County tax forfeit land auction, which includes PID #290002001, a 0.05-acre parcel along the river. The board did not express objections to its sale.

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The town's eligibility to receive state and federal surplus property with the Minnesota Department of Administration is about to expire. By consensus, the board authorized extension of eligibility and signed the necessary forms, suggesting that road equipment and office supplies may be available.

The board discussed the annual road inspection, which will occur after the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting on 26 April. Any members of the public wishing to accompany the road inspection must inform the town office by 15 April so that appropriate travel arrangements can be made.

During the meeting, Travis Kemen demonstrated use of the new audio-visual equipment purchased with CARES Act monies. The equipment is a major upgrade to the town's capabilities to hold remote meetings and to make in-person meetings more audience-friendly. Chair Olson thanked Mr. Kemen for his assistance. The board then considered the potential impact on its insurance coverage for audio-visual equipment, which currently carries coverage for about \$9,400 worth of materials. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize that limit to extend to \$30,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson reported that an email had been received from Pine County Commissioner Terry Lovgren expressing her willingness to meet with the board about expanding broadband coverage in the county. By consensus, the board extended an invitation to the April meeting.

Supervisor Schlaeger reported that the Rock Creek Lions may be interested in funding and installing additional wood chips on the playground. By consensus, the board decided to pursue this potential offer. Treasurer Tchida will research how many yards of chips were used during the initial installation.

In the event that stimulus monies may be directed to townships, the board discussed possible projects, including stabilizing the front entrance cement, possibly installing gutters to the front of the building, and possibly considering a sidewalk from the emergency entrance on the north. No decisions were made.

Les Orvis noted that the bathroom wall near the storage room is frequently damaged from moving tables in and out of storage. He suggested installing some protection on the wall and corner. The board will consider this issue in the future.

Clerk Swanson reported that the late submission of claims has been causing significant hassles for the office. Such claims come within hours of the meeting, after all the paperwork has been completed. Chair Olson asked the planning commission to consider ways to alleviate this issue.

Correspondence:

The board acknowledged the email from Josiah Kircher soliciting business for resurfacing projects. Clerk Swanson had responded that no projects were currently anticipated.

FYI:

Treasurer Tchida has filed the 2020 annual financial report with the state auditor.

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The next town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., 27 April 2021.

At 8:20 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Wayne Olson, Chair/Supervisor

Marshall Pearson, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor

Wendy Tchida, Treasurer