

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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27 April 2021
Approved

7:32 p.m., 27 April 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.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with two additions: Rock Creek Lions check and Roger Teich's land split request. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the minutes of the 30 March 2021 public hearing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the 30 March 2021 reorganizational meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 30 March 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the 26 April 2021 local board of appeal and equalization as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the 26 April 2021 road inspection meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$401,598.90 in the treasury. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #9986-10016 in the amount of \$9,429.43. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Public Forum was offered. Patrice DeGray asked about the composition of the planning commission and how one becomes a member. She was told that the commission currently has five members and that any interested resident may apply to the board to become a member. Clerk Swanson provided Mrs. DeGray with the ordinance page that established the commission with a minimum of five members.

WO_____ MP_____ JS_____ WT_____ DS_____

Planning Commission recommendations:

Member Schlaeger presented the draft driveway/culvert policy as recommended for passage by the planning commission. Member Schlaeger moved, Member Pearson seconded, to approve Resolution 2021-5, a resolution adopting a driveway and culvert policy. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of said resolution shall accompany these minutes.

The proposed zoning ordinance amendment and the Mark Karpe exotic animal farm project were forwarded to the working planning commission meeting.

Clerk Swanson introduced Resolution 2021-4, a resolution accepting a donation from the Rock Creek Lions of \$800 for wood chips for the playground, as recommended by the planning commission. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the resolution with thanks. The motion carried unanimously.

The board then considered William Saumer's revised land split request. The board acknowledged the receipt of Jones Construction Services submission of borings on all four proposed lots and the revised survey of lot #1 by Alan Hancock. By consensus, it decided to take no action on the request until revised paperwork was received identifying the lot number and specific locations of the septic test sites on the survey.

Dale Heidelberger's conditional use request will be studied at the next working planning commission meeting.

The draft policy on claims will be studied at the next working planning commission meeting.

Old Business:

Clerk Swanson announced that Commissioner Terry Lovgren was unable to attend tonight's meeting because of a family emergency, so her broadband presentation will be postponed.

Clerk Swanson and Septic Administrator Thompson gave the septic status report, noting that a letter had been sent to owners of PID #290211001 (1238 Sherwood Street, Braham) reminding them of the 1 July 2021 deadline to have their septic system repaired. Administrator Thompson also noted that, if individuals are living at 12254 Farming Road, they have no approved septic system because former owners had abandoned it. That constitutes an imminent health threat. During the road inspection the board noted that the property appeared to be inhabited. Member Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize the office to send the standard imminent health threat letter #1 to owners. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding existing zoning issues: Chair Olson moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to authorize the office to send a letter to owners of 764 Greeley Road acknowledging their partial removal of the plastic structures, thanking them for the progress, and encouraging its continuation. The motion carried unanimously. The board discussed the situation at 3623 State Highway 70. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson to discuss this issue with legal counsel. The motion carried unanimously.

WO____ MP____ JS____ WT____ DS____

Board members reviewed the town assessor position following the resignation of Assessor Daniel Squyres. Members discussed the application and credentials of Mr. John Keefe, who has expressed interest in succeeding Mr. Squyres, and the proposal by County Assessor Lorri Houtsma, who submitted a plan to have the town's assessing functions performed by Pine County. After substantial discussion, Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve and sign an assessment agreement with John Keefe by which he will provide assessing services for the assessment year 2022 at a price of \$7.50 per parcel. The motion carried unanimously.

Road Superintendent Saumer updated the board on the progress of Tom Lundeen's tree cutting operations. Mr. Lundeen's activities on Raspberry Road south have paused as the equipment is unable to function in the wet soil. He will continue finishing work from 2020 as conditions permit.

Servicing of the grader is scheduled from 3 May to 6 May in Duluth.

Kathy Edwardson, on behalf of residents along Maple Shores Drive, requested that the board endorse the chloriding of Maple Shores as was done last year, noting that this year the residents request that the full width of the roadbed be done. The residents would pay one-half the cost of materials and application. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the request in accordance with the town's established policy on chloriding roads. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve and send the draft letter to Nessel regarding 540th Street, east of Greeley Road, requesting that Nessel contribute one-half the costs of graveling and repairing the sinkhole and extruded planking. The motion carried unanimously.

By consensus, the board requested that Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson discuss with legal counsel the trailer house brought into 1702 Royal Heights Lane (PID 205234000) to verify that it meets township specifications. Other road inspection issues will be addressed at a future meeting.

Supervisor Pearson will investigate the damage that occurred recently to the playground (one plastic wheel broke off its support) and will seek repair.

Roger Teich was present to request approval of a land split for a 78-acre tract in section 10 (PID 290110000). He submitted a survey from Hancock Surveying, dated 16 September 2020. Chair Olson told Mr. Teich that such splits must go to a working meeting of the planning commission, that no decision will be made at this meeting, and that he should attend the next working commission meeting on 11 May. Mr. Teich was also told that unless soil borings were completed, the new parcel without structures would be declared unbuildable and that if the parcel with the house were sold, the septic compliance inspection would have to be completed.

WO____ MP____ JS____ WT____ DS____

Correspondence:

Clerk Swanson reported that he had received from the County Assessor the comparative assessment land schedule for taxes payable in 2020 showing valuation rates in each jurisdiction. Copies were made available for anyone wishing to study the schedule.

FYI:

Chair Olson reported that the Pine City fire contract extension had been delivered to Pine City city hall; the statement of town offices had been completed and returned to the County Auditor; the town officers list had been mailed to the Minnesota Association of Townships; the eligibility to receive surplus property from the Minnesota Department of Administration application forms had been completed and mailed; MATIT has increased insurance coverage for the town's audio-visual equipment to \$30,000; and the Heesch-Ripley "certificate of assessment" has been filed with the Pine County Auditor.

The next town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., 25 May 2021.

At 8:30 p.m., Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger 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