

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006  
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: [www.royaltontownship.com](http://www.royaltontownship.com)  
25 May 2021  
Approved

7:35 p.m., 25 May 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. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of culverts. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 27 April 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$399,509.85 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 #10017-10050 in the amount of \$20,208.38. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Public Forum was offered. Les Orvis reported that he had talked with Pine County about chloriding Royalton Road. He has a bid from Knife River to chloride a portion in front of his house and would pay the bill himself. He requested that the board draft a letter of support. The board directed the office to compose such a letter.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Chair Olson reported that the amendment to the zoning ordinance increasing easement width, Mark Karpe's animal farm request, and Roger Teich's land split request will be forwarded to the working planning commission meeting for further study.

After discussion, Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve William Saumer's land split request for proposed lots 1 and 4 only as buildable sites with septic test results on file, to note specifically that lot 2 is not approved and that lot 2 needs specific distances of the septic tests from the lot line, and that lot 3 must remain attached to the parent parcel because it does not have adequate road frontage. The motion also authorized the office to report the board's decisions to Pine County. The motion carried unanimously.

The board acknowledged receipt from Dale Heidelberger of a four-page handout showing a diagram of the lot, exterior views of the proposed structure, and an interior floor plan for the building. He also distributed a schematic showing the Minnesota Department of Transportation's

WO\_\_\_\_\_ MP\_\_\_\_\_ JS\_\_\_\_\_ WT\_\_\_\_\_ DS\_\_\_\_\_

revisions to State Highway 70 to accommodate traffic. Regarding the latter, Mr. Heidelberger noted that a new driveway to the restaurant must be straight across Highway 70 from the existing driveway to his auction complex and that one (of two) existing field driveways to the west of the new driveway must be removed. Culverts will be installed as required by the state. Chair Olson noted that this project will also be on the working planning commission's agenda.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to adopt Resolution 2021-6, A Resolution Adopting a Claims Payment Policy as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of said resolution shall be part of these minutes.

Old Business:

Chair Olson announced that Commissioner Terry Lovgren was not present at tonight's meeting, so her broadband presentation will be postponed.

Clerk Swanson reported that Pine County had sent a list of 15 recent sales which the township had to review to ensure compliance with existing septic regulations. His summary septic report notes the specifics; he stated this list was one of the most positive. Three letters requesting copies of certificates of compliance were sent. One response is currently being evaluated; one owner has not responded. The recipients of the third letter, Chris and Toni Knoll, were present to discuss the situation regarding their 2119 Pokegama Lake Road property. Mr. and Mrs. Knoll stated that a contract for deed was signed in 2012 by Mrs. Knoll, then using a different surname, and that she had been resident on the property since then. In 2018 that contract for deed was extended. Clerk Swanson reminded the board that Royalton's zoning ordinance exempts properties from the septic compliance inspection if the contract for deed was signed before the town's ordinance was adopted in 2015. Administrator Thompson opined that it was up to the board whether or not the 2018 extension fell under the ordinance exemption. By consensus, the board agreed that this property was exempt from the ordinance because the initial contract for deed predated the ordinance adoption and directed the office to formalize that decision with a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Knoll.

The board noted the continuing efforts to remove plastic houses at 764 Greeley Road and, by consensus, removed this issue from the agenda with review at the 2022 road inspection.

Clerk Swanson and Supervisor Pearson updated the board on discussions with legal counsel regarding 3623 State Highway 70. Legal counsel recommended the board review the possibility of seeking an administrative search warrant to enter the property to review building and septic conditions. Counsel also recommended that an assessor might be able to enter the property to review assessment details. After discussion, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to authorize legal counsel to send a letter to the property owner seeking information on the property's status and requesting her appearance at the next board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding road issues: After consulting with Superintendent Saumer and John DeGray, it was decided that no new culvert would be needed on Hazelnut Road because it could be sloped appropriately. Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the draft email to be sent to Pine County seeking removal of a survey marker attached to a tree on Sage Drive. The motion carried unanimously. Superintendent Saumer has contacted Supervisor Stanley Iskierka

WO\_\_\_\_\_ MP\_\_\_\_\_ JS\_\_\_\_\_ WT\_\_\_\_\_ DS\_\_\_\_\_

of Nessel Township about graveling 540th Street west of Greeley Road and that project will move forward. Superintendent Saumer was given permission to order two new 36" culverts.

Tom Lundeen was present to report that tree cutting has ceased for the summer because of equipment issues and other priorities. Great progress has been made on Raspberry South but more needs to be done. Additional cutting on Timber Lane also is required.

In other issues, the grader has been serviced and is back on the job. Chloriding Maple Shores Drive is waiting for delivery. There is nothing new to report on the playground damage. Chair Olson noted updated information from the Pine City Fire Department had been provided.

New Business:

Regarding zoning issues: Supervisor Pearson updated the board on his conversations with residents of Riverbed Road who were complaining about a property with trailers and appliances. After discussion, Supervisor Pearson will invite those concerned to the next board meeting and will have a conversation with the primary taxpayer responsible for the property to seek an update. Clerk Swanson reported that a letter had been sent to the owner of 1702 Royal Heights Lane requesting that a permit be sought for the manufactured home on that parcel. The letter established a deadline of 19 June for a reply. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve sending the draft of a letter to 1677 Greeley Road requiring that the land split approved earlier be filed with the county and establishing a deadline of the next board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

Chair Olson noted information from the Rush City Fire Department explaining its billing and signed a thank you letter to Merrie Ann Hesselroth for volunteering to prepare 88 letters regarding the Heidelberger hearing for mailing.

FYI:

A thank you letter had been sent to the Rock Creek Lions for the donation to the playground. Newly appointed Assessor John Keefe returned his signed agreement. The 2020 Municipal Fee and Expense Report had been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

The next town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., 29 June 2021.

At 8:35 p.m., Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Wayne Olson, Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Marshall Pearson, Supervisor

Wendy Tchida, Treasurer