

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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27 October 2020
Approved

7:30 p.m., 27 October 2020, Chair Wayne Olson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order, with Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger and Clerk Duane Swanson present in the meeting room and Treasurer Wendy Tchida attending via remote electronic means and Supervisor Marshall Pearson absent. Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Septic Inspector Amy Thompson, and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider also attended, along with Planning Commission Chair Les Orvis and commission member Gary Valvoda 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 the addition of PID 290241000, PID 290257000, road inspection report, and building upgrades. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 29 September 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$409,680.80 in the treasury. She noted the receipt of \$28,275.00 in CARES Act relief funds. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #9766-9800 in the amount of \$40,090.84. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Public Forum was offered. No one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Chair Olson announced that the proposed extinguishment of the town's interest in a portion of Riverbed Road, solar energy ordinance, and equipment levy/budget would continue to be studied at the next working meeting. There were no updates to the policy book.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the draft of the variance application form as recommended by the planning commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Septic Inspector Thompson and Clerk Swanson updated the board on septic issues: Regarding 4569 Hummingbird Road, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize counsel to proceed as recommended to enforce compliance with the ordinance. The motion carried unanimously. Regarding 5389 Hummingbird Road, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a second letter requesting action by 17 November or the issue will be forwarded to counsel. The motion carried unanimously. Regarding 1238 Sherwood Street, owners had contacted Inspector Thompson explaining that they were en route to Texas for the

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winter and could do nothing. Inspector Thompson granted owners until 1 July 2021 to have defects corrected or a new system installed. By consensus, the board approved this action and authorized Clerk Swanson to send a letter confirming the extended deadline. In new actions, non-compliant system reports had been received regarding 4985 Hummingbird Road (failing to protect groundwater) and 1255 Royal Heights Lane (imminent threat to public health and safety). By consensus, the board authorized the first letter to be sent to the former. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a letter to owners of 1255 Royal Heights Lane formally noting that they have 10 months to correct the violations. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding zoning issues, the board took the following actions: By consensus, the board authorized sending a letter to 1390 Sherwood Street noting that owners had verbally promised to remove or repair the burned garage some time ago, but that repair/removal has not happened and requesting an update by 17 November 2020 in order to avoid legal proceedings. Clerk Swanson and Inspector Thompson reported that 1255 Royal Heights Lane had been essentially cleared of garbage and other detritus. The living in camper issues at 1605 Royal Heights Lane were tabled for further information. Clerk Swanson updated the board on counsel's need for evidence regarding living in camper issues at 10696 Pine Bough Road. By consensus, the board authorized Clerk Swanson to seek direction from counsel about the nature of the evidence needed. Chair Olson will review 764 Greeley Road prior to seeking legal redress for the myriad of plastic structures.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize the office to work with counsel to recover legal costs associated with the clean-up of 4843 Brunswick Road. The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Schneider reported that a successful meeting had been held with the website designer and that a follow-up meeting is being scheduled.

Road Superintendent Saumer and Tom Lundeen updated the board on tree-cutting activities, noting that Royalton Road, Clover Lane, Pine Bough Road, and Timber Drive had been completed. Raspberry Road south remains to be done.

Clerk Swanson reported that a report of CARES Act funding had been submitted to Minnesota Management and Budget showing expenditures of \$979.84 through the end of September and that additional expenses will occur in October and November. Any unused funds, as of 15 November, will be returned to the county. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize the Treasurer to write a check for the remaining balance in order to comply with the 15 November deadline. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye."

New Business:

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve and sign the proposed fire contract with the city of Braham for the years 2021-2023. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson read an e-mail from township assessor Daniel Squyres updating the board on his significant progress in assessing and noting that no issues had surfaced.

Follow-up on Building Inspector Marshall Lind's zoning letters was tabled until the November meeting.

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Chair Olson noted that the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is scheduled for 26 April 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Royalton Town Hall. The certifications of Chair Olson and Supervisor Pearson have expired and will need to be renewed before 1 February 2021.

Clerk Swanson reported that election equipment and furniture have been received, that a full slate of judges is in place, and that polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Chair Olson thanked those involved in the election for their diligence.

Chair Olson reported on his discussions with the security firm, that the myriad of motion detection calls in the maintenance shed likely relates to air flow from the heating system, and that a new motion detector would cost upwards of \$250 with no guarantees of service improvement. By consensus, the board decided to leave the motion detector inactivated.

Clerk Swanson reported that he had attended the Pine County Township Officers Association fall meeting on 24 October 2020. Numerous politicians and county officials made presentations.

Clerk Swanson called attention to the update of the Road Inspections Notes report in members' packets. Substantial progress has been made on issues identified in the report, but more ditching and culvert work remains undone.

Clerk Swanson updated the board on building improvements made by Gary Valvoda, including repairs to the lock box, the posting board, and the assembly of two election tables and stools. He also mounted a bracket on the sign at the parking lot entrance to which Road Superintendent Saumer can attach the 911 address sign that is in storage. Chair Olson thanked Mr. Valvoda for his work.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to send a letter to owners of PID 290241000 (3623 State Highway 70) informing them that that parcel is unsuitable for living (no septic system, no adequate dwelling) and requesting a response by 17 November 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a letter to owners of PID 290257000 (4201 State Highway 70) informing them of potential violations of the ordinance regarding vehicle storage and requesting a response by 17 November 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Road Superintendent Saumer reported that the town truck had been inspected by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which found a broken spring. Repairs will cost approximately \$760.00 plus the inspection costs. By consensus, the board authorized Superintendent Saumer to proceed with repairs.

FYI:

Chair Olson reported that Jeff Pangerl's land exchange approval had been forwarded to Pine County and that the monthly report of CARES expenditures had been sent to Minnesota Management & Budget.

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The next town board meeting is 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 24 November 2020, at the town hall.

At 8:20 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson 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