

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: www.royaltontownship.com
15 December 2020
Approved

7:30 p.m., 15 December 2020, 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, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the Bill Saumer land split. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 24 November 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$420,556.08 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 #9849-9878 in the amount of \$13,591.47. 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 directed the planning commission to review further the solar energy ordinance draft #5 at its next working commission meeting. Chair Olson also noted that the next working commission meeting would review the list and contents of town policies. No levy/equipment updates were available.

Old Business:

Michael Murphy was present to respond to the board's letter regarding the board's decision to continue to maintain a portion of Riverbed Road. Mr. Murphy expressed his disappointment in the board's decision, noting that he had spent a considerable sum of money to have a survey done, that if the board had an unwritten policy not to abandon roads that it should have been made known, that no maintenance by the township had been done for the last seven years on that portion of the road, and that the quality of gravel on the road surface was very poor. He also noted that he had maintained the road by adding gravel. He asked about how maintenance would be done considering the narrow nature of the road. He requested that a "dead end" sign be installed to help prevent the numerous people who continue to use it as a through way. The board responded that a "dead end" sign would be installed but possibly not until next spring. The board and Road Superintendent Saumer reported on maintenance guidelines and discussed at

WO_____ MP_____ JS_____ DS_____

length the maintenance of this portion of Riverbed. Supervisor Schlaeger said Mr. Murphy's mailbox would not have to be moved with the current road configuration.

Clerk Swanson explained the septic spreadsheet in the board packet. It represents activities during 2020; items in yellow have been completed; items in gray have deadlines upcoming in the future and require no action now. The four items in white are currently in progress, with two expected to be finished soon. Nothing requires immediate action by the board.

Regarding zoning issues, the board received the following updates: Regarding 3623 State Highway 70, this issue will be sent to counsel later in the week. Regarding 4201 State Highway 70, counsel is studying this issue and will take action as needed.

In other zoning issues: Regarding 1605 Royal Heights Lane, the board, by consensus, postponed action until the 2021 road inspection. Regarding 764 Greeley Road, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to send another letter to owners asking that the plastic structures be removed. The motion carried unanimously. Clerk Swanson reported that a certified letter had been sent to the owners of 4843 Brunswick Road containing an invoice for payment of abatement legal fees, with a due date of 5 January 2021. By consensus, the board authorized this issue to be referred to counsel should the invoice remain unpaid.

Clerk Swanson explained the road report update in the board packet. It details the status of road work authorized during 2020. Work that remains unfinished appears in red. Road Superintendent Saumer reported that more tree cutting remains on Timber Drive and that should be added to the report.

Deputy Clerk Schneider and Clerk Swanson reported that the new website is live and that a set of instructions for updating it has been received. The upgrade will allow staff to make many more updates than were able to be done with the previous site.

Road Superintendent Saumer reported that Tom Lundeen will be returning in the near future to complete tree cutting on Timber Drive and to begin on Raspberry Road South.

Road Superintendent Saumer reported that an account has been set up with Beaudry Oil and can be used at any time.

New Business:

The board discussed attending the Pine City Fire Committee meeting in January. Road Superintendent Saumer had attended previous meetings as a representative of the city of Rock Creek. The department is considering purchase of a new pumper. Such a purchase will affect how much each township will be charged.

The board discussed the quote for the 2,000-hour servicing of the grader. Road Superintendent Saumer was asked to investigate local haulers that might be able to truck the grader to Duluth for the required servicing and was authorized, by consensus, to make an appointment for mid-May with McCoy Construction & Forestry. The board also, by consensus, authorized Road Superintendent Saumer and Chair Olson to begin investigations into the potential purchase of a new grader.

WO_____ MP_____ JS_____ DS_____

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve Resolution #2020-8 appointing election judges and the absentee ballot board for the March 2021 town election. The motion carried unanimously. Said resolution shall be part of these minutes.

There were no new zoning issues.

At the recommendation of Treasurer Tchida, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to transfer \$15,000 from the general fund to the fire fund and \$50,000 from the general fund to the road and bridge fund. These transfers are necessitated to create positive balances in those funds at the end of the year. The motion carried unanimously.

The board then considered the planning commission's recommendation regarding Bill Saumer's land split request. After much discussion, including statements by Mr. Saumer, his realtor Daniel Berkness, and Zoning Administrator Kemen, Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the land split of some 40 acres from a portion of section 23 (PID#290244001) based on a survey of Hancock Surveying dated 15 December 2020 but declaring the new parcel an unbuildable property until positive septic tests from a licensed septic designer for both a primary and a secondary septic site have been filed with the township. The motion carried unanimously.

FYI:

Chair Olson reported that the annual report of outstanding indebtedness had been filed with the Pine County Auditor and that filing for town offices (one supervisor, one treasurer) will open 29 December 2020 and close 12 January 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Said notice has been published in the Pine City Pioneer.

The next town board meeting will be 26 January 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall.

At 8:25 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson 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