

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: www.royaltontownship.com
26 October 2021
Approved

7:30 p.m., 26 October 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, Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider also attended, along with members of the planning commission and members of the public. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with four additions: site permits, tree cutting, insurance survey, and ditching. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 28 September 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$485,173.80 in the treasury. Chair Olson reminded the board that \$61,268.06 of the balance is COVID-19 aid that is restricted to certain uses and cannot be used for general fund items. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #10175-10208 in the amount of \$12,387.65. 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 amendment to the zoning ordinance increasing road frontage and the permit checklist were deferred. No information had been received on the Teich land split proposals.

Chair Olson noted that the planning commission had recommended waiting until spring to consider purchase of a replacement truck. He thanked Road Superintendent Saumer and Planning Commission Member Gary Valvoda for their searching and instructed the planning commission to continue to revise specifications needed for the replacement vehicle.

The board noted that Supervisor Schlaeger had contacted an individual who expressed interest in the deputy clerk position and encouraged that individual to contact the office for more information, meet with Clerk Swanson and Deputy Clerk Schneider, and encouraged her to come to the November working planning commission and board meetings to better understand the duties of the position.

Old Business:

Clerk Swanson distributed an update to the 2021 septic report. Chair Olson noted that numerous projects had been completed and that new ones had been added. Clerk Swanson also distributed drafts of an agreement for prosecution services with the Pine County Attorney and an agreement for law enforcement services with the Pine County Sheriff. The board expressed interest in approving each agreement once the planning commission and counsel had reviewed them. Because of these agreements, action on 3546 State Highway 70 septic compliance enforcement was deferred.

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Clerk Swanson reported that no progress had been received regarding the septic situation at 4500 Buffalo Road; the town's certified letter to the owner had been returned, but the regular USPS letter had not been returned. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to refer this issue to counsel. The motion carried unanimously.

A general discussion about septic concerns followed. Supervisor Pearson questioned whether drive-bys by the board were productive because, in many instances, little could be determined from the road. He stressed the need for Septic Administrator Thompson's early involvement in these issues. By consensus, the board directed the office to draft letters to designers re-enforcing Royalton's specifications for land splits and septic requirements.

Karla Trammel was present to update the board on the situation at 4201 State Highway 70. She has a court date of 24 January 2022 to determine the ownership issue with the property. She had talked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency about the probable disposal of hazardous wastes, but the MPCA said they could do nothing without more evidence. Pine County Zoning referred her back to Royalton. Ms. Trammel indicated that, if she is declared the owner, she would anticipate a short turnaround time before the property would be cleaned up.

There was no new information on the situation at 1702 Royal Heights Lane. The situation at 3623 State Highway 70 was tabled until new developments occur on the property.

Chair Olson is awaiting information on the sound system upgrades.

Clerk Swanson reported that a letter had been sent to 3160 540th Street regarding pulling gravel off the road. No response has been received. He is waiting on a response from Pokegama Township about road certification for mileage on Mystic Dove Drive. Road Superintendent Saumer reported on a car that has been in the road right-of-way of Hazelnut Road for several weeks. It will be hit by the snowplow if it is not removed. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize Road Superintendent Saumer to call Leaf's Towing and have it towed to the impound lot.

In other updates, the grader blades have been received and the ZOOM subscription canceled.

New Business:

Chair Olson noted that Minnesota's demographer has established Royalton's 1 April 2020 population at 1,034, down 102 from the 2019 estimate and that the 2022 Board of Appeal and Equalization Review will be held at 9:00 a.m., 25 April 2022 at the Royalton Town Hall.

The board discussed the need for a site permit from Dale Heidelberger and from other building projects, especially those for new primary dwellings. Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson will attempt to meet with Building Official Steve Thorp to discuss the non-issuance of permits until a site permit is on file.

Road Superintendent Saumer will speak with Tom Lundeen about continuing the tree-cutting activities from last year, including Raspberry Road South, Timber Drive, Bear Claw Drive, Acorn Drive, and Sage Drive.

Treasurer Tchida and Clerk Swanson reported on the insurance survey that had been completed on 26 October. The surveyor expects to have a report in about a month. The surveyor had asked about smoke detectors in the hall; it appears that the only one is in the office. Supervisor Pearson noted that whatever was code when the building was built was installed.

John DeGray was asked if it would be possible for additional ditching to be done this fall. Several

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projects from 2019 remain undone. Mr. DeGray hoped this was possible. The board prioritized Acorn Drive, Pine Bough Road, and then Buffalo Road.

The board acknowledged rumors that William Saumer's back 40 had been sold and asked Zoning Administrator Kemen to call Mr. Saumer's realtor to verify and to note that no land split had been authorized.

Correspondence:

The board acknowledged receipt of information about a Pine County child care survey.

FYI:

Chair Olson noted that the finalized conditional use permit had been delivered to Dale Heidelberger.

The next town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 30 November 2021.

At 8:29 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson 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