

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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29 November 2022
Approved

7:32 p.m., 29 November 2022, Chair Wayne Olson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order with Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor Marshall Pearson, and Clerk Duane Swanson present and Treasurer Wendy Tchida absent. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, and Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson 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.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 25 October 2022 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

In Treasurer Tchida's absence, Clerk Swanson read her report, noting that as of 31 October 2022, the township has a balance of \$565,550.95 in the treasury. The report noted that \$107,454.83 of that balance is ARPA/COVID-19 aid that is restricted to certain uses, leaving a spendable balance of \$411,932.60. 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 #10596-10633 in the amount of \$24,333.04. 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 board noted that the nonpermanent structures discussion was continuing to be researched.

The board noted that the commission had studied the Cole Newman minor subdivision request for 4201 State Highway 70 and the need for major changes to the proposed property lines and to the locations of the septic sites. The town will await updates from the applicant.

The board noted the commission's recommendation to approve the business sign permit application of Chris DeGray with certain conditions. Discussion ensued about the relation of the application to the ordinance requirements and the board's authority to grant variances. John and Patrice DeGray were present to answer questions about the proposed sign: it would be two-sided and unlighted; it would be approximately 40 feet from the road and 40 feet south of the driveway. The board noted that sufficient acreage existed at the site so that neighbors would not be impacted, and therefore, a public hearing would not be necessary. By consensus, the board gave preliminary agreement to the application on the condition that a variance application containing more specific data on the sign's location be completed. Formal action was deferred until the 13 December meeting.

Mr. DeGray then asked if a similar sign would be permitted on his property on the same road. The size of that proposed sign had not been finalized. The board noted that the size of the parcel was such that the impact on existing residences would be minimal. If the sign were to be larger than the ordinance permitted, a variance application and separate sign permit application would be required.

Old Business:

Chair Olson noted that the town had received final compliance inspection reports for the septic systems at 3546 State Highway 70 and 8311 Brunswick Road. Those items will be removed from the agenda. No further action was needed at this time regarding the septic system at 10343 Wildflower Road.

WO____ MP____ JS____ WT____ DS____

Chair Olson noted that the town had not received any response from 7876 Bluebell to its letter of 31 August 2022. An excessive amount of vehicles remained on this parcel. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a certified second letter to the property owner. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson reported that Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson had contacted the town about unpermitted buildings at 5214 Royal Woods Road (PID 295137000). This property lies within the Shorelands District. The county has issued no permits for the parcel, although the dwelling was ostensibly constructed in 2019. Clerk Swanson reported to Mr. Anderson that the township has issued no building or septic permits for this parcel. Mr. Anderson and Pine County will seek retroactive permits from the owners and will keep the town informed of the progress.

The board discussed tree and brush cutting on Clover Lane. Clerk Swanson noted that new guidelines issued by the Minnesota Association of Townships recommend that the town approve a resolution on tree and vegetation controls outlining the town's goals and priorities. Supervisor Pearson noted that it might be a good time to ask for tree cutting quotes. By consensus, the board postponed action until January.

Supervisor Schlaeger reported on the continuing discussion surrounding the formation of a fire district. He and Road Superintendent Saumer had attended meetings at which a resolution of intent to join the district was proposed. Given the uncertainty of the costs involved in this proposal and other issues surrounding the startup of the district, the board, by consensus, deferred action until a later time.

Chair Olson noted Clerk Swanson's written report to the board on the November elections. No action was needed.

New Business:

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve Resolution 2022-11 designating the town hall as the annual polling place for elections during 2023. The motion carried unanimously. Said resolution shall be part of these minutes.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to authorize Priscilla Schneider to assist Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson if needed. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

FYI:

Chair Olson noted that the town mileage certification report had been delivered to Pine County Public Works and that the signed copy of the Pine City fire contract had been received and filed.

The next regular town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 13 December 2022.

At 8:17 p.m., Supervisor Pearson 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