

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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31 January 2023
Approved

7:30 p.m., 31 January 2023, Chair Wayne Olson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order with Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor Marshall Pearson, Treasurer Wendy Tchida, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, and Zoning Administrator John Kemen also attended, along with members of the planning commission and members of the public. Planning Commission member Gary Valvoda attended via zoom, with both visible and audible connection. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the following four additions: tax forfeit sale update, snow plowing on Maple Shores, donation of a coffee maker, and overtime pay. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 13 December 2022 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida read her report noting that, as of 30 December 2022, the township has a balance of \$594,004.77 in the treasury. The report noted that \$104,339.83 of that balance is ARPA/COVID-19 aid that is restricted to certain uses, leaving a spendable balance of \$489,664.94. Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve payment of checks #10657-10688 in the amount of \$18,746.35. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Public Forum was offered. Planning Commission Chair Les Orvis questioned the permit status of two ongoing or recent building projects. By consensus, the board asked Clerk Swanson to investigate and report back at the next meeting.

Planning Commission recommendations:

The board noted that the nonpermanent structures issue was continuing to be researched.

Based on discussion and recommendation of the Planning Commission, the board, by consensus, endorsed the denial of Cole Newman's minor subdivision request for 4201 State Highway 70 and authorized Supervisor Pearson to discuss with Mr. Newman the additional requirements about the proposed septic placements that need to be on the certificate of survey.

Old Business:

Regarding septic issues, Administrator Thompson updated the board on the status of a new system at 10056 Apple Road and clarified that what appeared to be a septic mound at 3061 State Highway 70 is not part of the septic system.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to authorize a second letter regarding excessive vehicles at 7876 Bluebell Road (PID 295103000). The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson will follow up with Caleb Anderson regarding 5214 Royal Woods Road.

There was nothing new for the road report.

Supervisor Schlaeger noted that discussions about formation of a fire district continue and that the city of Pine City has entered into discussions more fully.

WO____ MP____ JS____ WT____ DS____

New Business:

Road Superintendent Saumer updated the board on his quotations for a new plow truck. He received two quotes from truck firms and one from an accessory firm. Quotes seem to be in the \$230,000 to \$250,000 range. A general discussion of the town's financial status occurred, noting that the balances have been steady or growing over the past few years. The assembly discussed how this purchase would affect the planned replacement of the grader within the next two or three years. There seemed to be a consensus that a grader was a higher priority than a new truck. Chair Olson will seek quotes for a new grader from McCoy. If the COVID monies (approximately \$104,000) could cover a new/used truck, that possibility also should be reviewed. Superintendent Saumer will continue to investigate.

Clerk Swanson noted that the Minnesota Association of Townships Spring Short Course would be held in Duluth on April 7. Special tracks will be available for clerks/treasurers, new officers, and supervisors.

Clerk Swanson reported that a tax-forfeit parcel on Sherwood Street contains personal property and the former owners will have a limited time for reclaiming it before the county determines whether to sell the parcel and its contents.

Clerk Swanson reported that an individual had complained about snow being placed by private individuals on property at 8962 Maple Shores Drive. During discussion it was determined that any snow so deposited was on the road right-of-way. At this time, this issue is closed.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to accept with thanks the donation to the township of a large coffee maker from Wayne and Lisa Olson. The motion carried unanimously.

The issue of overtime pay for employees was discussed. Minnesota state law requires that employees receive overtime pay if they work more than 48 hours during a seven-day period. The federal Labor Standards Act (under which the township also falls) requires such pay for time over 40 hours per week. In discussions with Treasurer Tchida, it was determined that no current employee has worked over that limit at this time.

Correspondence:

The board acknowledged receipt of a request for funds from New Pathways in Cambridge. Royalton's policy has been that donations to private organizations, even if permitted by law, remain with individual choice and not from town coffers.

FYI:

Chair Olson announced that reports of building or zoning permits for new housing units and for boundary adjustments have been submitted to the U.S. Census Bureau, that the 2022 SSTS annual report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has been submitted, that absentee voting for the 14 March 2023 township election would begin on 10 February, that Supervisor Schlaeger completed certification for the Board of Appeals and Equalization, and that effective 1 January 2023, federal mileage reimbursement is \$0.655 per mile.

The next regular town board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 28 February 2023, and will include the Board of Audit.

At 8:10 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