

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006  
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: [www.royaltontownship.com](http://www.royaltontownship.com)  
30 May 2023  
Unapproved

7:30 p.m., 30 May 2023, Chair Marshall Pearson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order with Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor John Graham, Treasurer Jenessa Saumer, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Secondary Road Operator Alex Anderson also attended, along with members of the planning commission and members of the public. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented, with two additional items (culvert at 10601 Country Drive and PERA). The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 25 April 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Saumer read her April report, noting that as of 30 April 2023, the township had a balance of \$563,778.65 in the treasury. After including income and outstanding checks, the balance was reduced to \$540,691.02. The report noted that \$104,229.84 of that balance is ARPA/COVID-19 aid that is restricted to certain uses, leaving a spendable balance of \$436,461.18. Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Graham seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pearson called for discussion of checks #10790-10825 in the amount of \$47,822.22. Supervisor Schlaeger requested details about check 10815 to Grasston Excavating & Landscaping in the amount of \$17,730.00. Treasurer Saumer noted that this was for emergency repairs on Bluebell, Raspberry North, Eagle, and Church roads. Supervisor Schlaeger opined that this was a high amount for one supervisor to approve and that a special meeting should have been called to authorize the expenditure. Chair Pearson said he had been contacted and decided that a special meeting was not necessary, that the repairs had to be done, and that the supervisor in charge of roads had made the necessary decisions. Supervisor Graham questioned check 10807 to TrueNorth Steel for culverts. He opined that the invoice included purchase of six 30" culverts and that none had been ordered on the road inspection. Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Graham seconded, to approve payments of the checks as presented with the approval of check 10807 contingent on verification of the number of 30" culverts received. The motion carried 2-1 with Chair Pearson and Supervisor Graham voting "Aye" and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Nay." [After the meeting concluded, Road Superintendent Saumer verified that six 30" culverts had been received, and the check was sent.]

Public Forum was offered. Kyle Bowman was present to request permission to chloride part of Cabin Drive for dust control. Road Superintendent Saumer noted that Cabin Drive was scheduled to be graveled, possibly as early as 19 June and that application of chloride should wait until the new gravel was on the road. With that stipulation, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Graham seconded, to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously.

Robert Myhre of Royal Heights Lane expressed dissatisfaction with how the retrieval of his truck from the flooded portion of Bluebell Road was handled and that he could have retrieved it with the aid of neighbors. When asked why he had driven around the "Road Closed" signs that had been erected the previous evening, Mr. Myhre left the meeting without finishing his statement.

Leslie Orvis commented that town hall rentals have been increasing and the grounds need to be cared for better than currently – weeds need to be removed from around the buildings and flower beds; the entrance pillar stone

JG\_\_\_\_\_ MP\_\_\_\_\_ JMS\_\_\_\_\_ JS\_\_\_\_\_ DPS\_\_\_\_\_

needs to be remounted [which he will do]. Snow removal needs to be done quickly at the town hall. He further commented that the road superintendent needs to go when called out for work like tree removal from town roads, instead of complaining about it. Chair Pearson noted that he had been in contact with Secondary Road Operator Alex Anderson about the possibility of accepting greater responsibility for grounds work and that those discussions would continue.

Doug Stanger requested permission to chloride a portion of Raspberry Road South in front of his property (about 800') as he had done last year. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve the request with the township reimbursing Mr. Stanger for one-half of the cost, upon receiving a proper invoice. The motion carried unanimously.

Percy Schneider reported that Maple Shores will not be chlorided this year.

Planning Commission recommendations:

No planning commission recommendations required action.

Old Business:

There were no new septic issues.

Clerk Swanson reported that he had not received photographic documentation regarding 7876 Bluebell and, therefore, consultations with legal counsel had not been held. Regarding 5214 Royal Woods Road, he called attention to letters from Caleb Anderson of Pine County planning ordering county permits to be requested. The township will continue to monitor these developments.

Supervisor Graham noted that he had requested repair estimates from nine contractors for various projects authorized during the road inspection. He had divided the township into quadrants and requested estimates for the necessary repairs in each quadrant. After discussion, it was determined that, following the regular order of business, the board would review the estimates and make decisions whether to award or not.

Leslie Orvis noted that he, along with Clerk Swanson, had attended the Federal Emergency Management Agency meeting and that FEMA would not approve re-imbursement for culvert replacement if the new culvert were larger than the existing one. To do so usually causes more problems down current unless hydrological studies confirm such a need.

Road Superintendent Saumer reported that he had measured Sage Drive; supervisors received a copy of his report, showing the 1,350 feet of maintained town road. Chair Pearson directed the office to research the history of the road to determine the township's length of responsibility.

Road Superintendent Saumer reported that he had measured Clover Lane; supervisors received a copy of his report, showing the 1,950 feet of maintained town road. Chair Pearson asked Dan Downing to report on his research in the town, county, and other records relating to the history of Clover Lane. Supervisors received a copy of his detailed report with copies of maps. His conclusion was that the road extended farther than the 1987 recording of the existing road and requested that the board determine that the road extended north to his south property line. Chair Pearson noted that this issue would be referred to legal counsel for review and thanked Mr. Downing for this report.

An account has been set up to purchase a new swinging stand for Carol Gaard's mailbox. Road Superintendent Saumer will order a stand and install it.

Supervisor Schlager updated the board on the proposal to establish a southern Pine County fire district. He recommended approval of Resolution 2023-4 supporting the submission of a grant application to the state of Minnesota to study the feasibility of establishing said fire district and authorizing the clerk to forward said

JG\_\_\_\_\_ MP\_\_\_\_\_ JMS\_\_\_\_\_ JS\_\_\_\_\_ DPS\_\_\_\_\_

approval to Pine City Township. Royalton’s estimated cost would be \$187.50. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of said resolution shall be part of these minutes.

Supervisor Graham and Road Superintendent Saumer updated the board on negotiations for the purchase of a new grader. Superintendent Saumer had driven both a John Deere and a Caterpillar model and declared either one acceptable. VJ Polkus of ZieglerCat addressed the board noting that his firm had proposed a lower price than previously stated. Supervisor Graham moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to enter into a purchase agreement to acquire a John Deere 770GP Joystick model for a quoted price of \$276,677.50 to boot, allowing \$160,000 for the existing grader and allowing the township to sell the existing machine outright up to one day before the receipt of the new grader. Said funds to purchase this machine would come partially from American Rescue Plan Act monies. The anticipated delivery date is six months after the agreement is signed. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Schlaeger, and Supervisor Graham voting “Aye.”

New Business:

Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve Resolution 2023-3 accepting a \$699.00 donation from the Rock Creek Lions Club and forwarding said monies to the Royalton Memorial Cemetery. The motion carried unanimously.

By consensus, the board determined to study further the proposed contract with the City of Pine City to provide fire services for parts of Royalton Township from 1 January 2024 through 31 December 2032.

The board received further updates from Clerk Swanson and Leslie Orvis about their attendance at the FEMA disaster meeting.

Supervisor Schlaeger noted that East Central Electric had buried cable under Steve Asher’s driveway on Country Drive causing the culvert to flow the wrong direction. Supervisor Graham was authorized to contact ECE to fix the cable.

Chair Pearson and Treasurer Jenessa Saumer updated the board on issues regarding her membership in PERA. Former Treasurer Wendy Tchida had enrolled Treasurer Saumer in the coordinated plan, for which she is not eligible. She has been re-enrolled in the defined contribution plan for which she is eligible, as are all elected township officials. Treasurer Tchida had been qualified to enroll in the coordinated plan, which apparently was an option years ago when she was enrolled. By consensus, the board will consider this issue closed.

Correspondence:

Clerk Swanson noted the Rum River Consultants newsletter in member’s packets.

FYI:

Clerk Swanson noted that a “thank you” letter had been sent to the city of Braham and its fire department for their presentation at the April meeting and for the fire department’s assistance in the retrieval of a vehicle in flooded Bluebell Road.

The board then considered the awarding of contracts for the repairs of flood damaged roads. Estimates had been received from Grasston Excavating & Landscaping, Mell Construction, Rydberg & Sons, Ramberg Excavating, and DW Co. After comparing the estimates for each project, Supervisor Graham moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to award the following estimates to Mell Construction, with the proviso that actual costs may not exceed 10% of the estimates and upon condition that a certificate of insurance in the amount at least \$1.5 million is filed with the township:

- Bluebell Road: installation of two culverts and resetting of one culvert: \$2,590.00.
- Installation of culvert on Church Road: \$750.00.
- Installation of culvert on Grasston Court: \$400.00.

JG\_\_\_\_\_ MP\_\_\_\_\_ JMS\_\_\_\_\_ JS\_\_\_\_\_ DPS\_\_\_\_\_

Installation of culvert on Eagle Lane: \$400.00.

Installation of two culverts on Raspberry Road North and additional ditching: \$1845.00.

The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Schlaeger, and Supervisor Graham voting “Aye.”

The next regular meeting of the town board will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 27 June 2023.

At 9:29 p.m., Supervisor Graham moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Marshall Pearson, Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Vice Chair/Supervisor

John Graham, Supervisor

Jenessa M. Saumer, Treasurer