

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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25 July 2023
Approved

7:41 p.m., 25 July 2023, Chair Marshall Pearson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order, with Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Treasurer Jenessa Saumer, and Clerk Duane Swanson present in the meeting room and Supervisor John Graham present via electronic means. 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 Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of yardwork. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 27 June 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Saumer read her June report, noting that as of 30 June 2023, the township had a balance of \$583,698.31 in the treasury. After including income and outstanding checks, the balance was reduced to \$577,200.02. 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 \$472,970.18. Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pearson called for discussion of checks #10857-10884 in the amount of \$41,865.37. Clerk Swanson noted that a question was asked at the June meeting about the gravel bill from Hass Construction and that the \$952.00 segment for gravel dropped on Canary Road of that invoice had not been paid because Canary Road is a county road. Mr. Hass submitted a correction, contained on the invoice with the current month's bill, that the gravel was dropped on Grasston Court and recommended payment of the revised bill. Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of the bills. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Pearson, Supervisor Schlaeger, and Supervisor Graham voting "Aye."

Public Forum was offered. No one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the flow chart for accessory (secondary) building permits as recommended by the Planning Commission. Supervisor Graham indicated that he had reviewed the chart via email. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pearson directed the planning commission to continue to work on the cannabis issue with Mr. Joe Zappa and make it a priority issue.

No other recommendations from the commission were forthcoming.

Old Business:

Septic report: Septic Administrator Thompson noted that there were no updates to the septic questions on Mitchell Thompson's properties on Bears Ear and Oakwood. She is waiting for answers from the designer.

Zoning issues: Supervisor Graham noted that the property at 7876 Bluebell Road (PID 295103000) had been cleared of excess vehicles and that this item could be removed from the agenda.

JG_____ MP_____ JMS_____ JS_____ DPS_____

Chair Pearson noted that Pine County had sent a third (and final) notice of non-compliance for building permit issues at 5214 Royal Woods Road (PID 295137000) and that the signage issue at 110 Greeley Road was in the hands of the planning commission.

Road report: A new culvert has been installed under Steve Saumer's driveway on Raspberry Road north and the related ditching has been completed.

Culvert repairs, with ECE assistance, at 10601 Country Drive are scheduled for 9 August.

Beaver remediation on Sage Drive has been successfully completed, and Mr. Jared Lucht has removed his traps. Monitoring will continue.

Culvert replacement at the intersection of Bears Ear and Bear Claw is scheduled for 11 August. Clerk Swanson noted that he had not sent letters regarding the relocation of two mailboxes at the intersection, but that Supervisor Graham had personally visited the owners of both boxes. Casey Sauter and Della Dennison were present to update the board on the status of their mailboxes. Both property owners indicated that boxes were already situated dangerously for them to access, that moving them further away would increase the risks, and that they had requested of the Pine City Post Office that they be allowed to move their mailboxes to their individual driveways. That request had been denied by the postmaster. Supervisor Schlaeger, who is the mail carrier on that route, suggested that they approach the post office again, relaying his recommendation that the mailboxes be moved. He will also reiterate that to the post office. Mr. Sauter and Mrs. Dennison then left the meeting.

Tom Madison was present to remind the board that the dust issue from the Wayde Lerbs pit was still present, especially with a north wind. Clerk Swanson noted that a letter had been sent to the owner, with a copy to Mr. Madison. Dick Doenz, who operates equipment in the pit, noted that the house from which the pictures were taken was 240 yards from the pit and questioned if the dust traveled that far. Chair Pearson reviewed both the ordinance language and the interim permit language opining that the permit only referenced dust control on Frost Drive. Chair Pearson asked Mr. Madison to work with the planning commission on any further issues.

There were no updates on the forming of a fire district.

Road Superintendent Saumer and Supervisor Graham updated the board on the grader purchase. It will be made 13 October, then forwarded to be fitted with the winter equipment, with delivery anticipated in the first week of November. Meanwhile, Road Superintendent Saumer will get specifications of the current grader to share with potential buyers.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve the proposed contract with the city of Pine City for fire protection for 2024 to 2032. Supervisor Schlaeger commented that Pokegama Township said if a fire district was formed, the contract with Pine City would be null and void. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Chair Pearson noted the upcoming election for Minnesota Association of Townships district 7 director to be held in Cambridge. By consensus, Clerk Swanson was authorized to attend if his schedule permitted.

Clerk Swanson updated the board on the town hall security malfunctions. A repair person from Wright-Hennepin was out for several hours but could not find the source of the communication issue with the towers. The system remains in force for security but has been reconfigured to prevent random setting off of the alarm.

Chair Pearson noted that he authorized Jeff's Lawn Service to come on a one-time basis to trim the shrubs, weed whip the entire building area, and apply weed killer. That bill was authorized for payment earlier in the meeting. Chair Pearson also requested that the contractor supply estimates for regular lawn maintenance. Other estimates will be solicited.

JG_____ MP_____ JMS_____ JS_____ DPS_____

Secondary road operator Alex Anderson noted that he does not have time to perform yard work and that it is his intention to resign from the backup operator position. For that to be effective, a formal letter of resignation will have to be submitted.

Correspondence:

Clerk Swanson noted that there is a free legal seminar in Rutledge on 16 September that concerns numerous activities of township administration. By consensus, the board authorized attendance at that meeting should schedules permit.

FYI:

Chair Pearson noted that the 2022 municipal fee and expense report had been filed with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, that an invoice had been sent to Pokegama Township for one-half the cost of graveling Mystic Dove Drive, and that Road Superintendent Saumer had installed new emergency defibrillator pads in the town hall AED.

The next regular meeting of the town board will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 29 August 2023.

At 8:31 p.m., Chair Pearson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Marshall Pearson, Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Vice Chair/Supervisor

John Graham, Supervisor

Jenessa M. Saumer, Treasurer