

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006  
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30 January 2024  
Approved

7:31 p.m., 30 January 2024, 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. Zoning Administrator John Kemen, 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, Supervisor Graham seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 19 December 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Saumer read her report, noting that as of 31 December 2023, the township had a balance of \$591,343.60 in the treasury. Deposits were \$201,935.19; disbursements were \$505,619.70, leaving an ending balance of \$287,659.09. Outstanding checks were \$1,767.46 and the restricted COVID Fund of \$104,229.84, leaving a spendable balance was \$181,661.79. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Graham seconded, to authorize the transfer of the remaining balance in the COVID Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund. The board previously authorized the remaining COVID funds to be spent on the purchase of the new grader. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pearson called for discussion of checks #11025-11062 in the amount of \$13,357.54. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Pearson 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. Leslie Orvis addressed the board on rumors of allegedly stolen materials and files, stating that this discussion must stop, and, if it did not, civil lawsuits may be an option. Chair Pearson responded that such statements were not in order, and noting that Mr. Orvis's two minutes were exhausted, asked him to take a seat.

Planning Commission recommendations:

The board noted that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing earlier in the evening on the application of Daniel Smith for a vehicle detailing facility at 110 Greeley Road, Braham. The next working commission meeting will be finalizing the Findings of Fact for the board to consider.

It was noted that the Planning Commission had recommended that signs prohibiting smoking (as defined in law) within thirty (30) feet of the entrances/exits be posted at all the entrance and exit doors to the town hall and sheds.

Old Business:

Septic issues: Chair Pearson noted the final 2023 septic report in members' packets and thanking staff for the progress made in upgrading subsurface sewage treatment systems during the year.

Zoning issues: Clerk Swanson reported that he had contacted Pine County Auditor-Treasurer for an update on the process of addressing the septic system at 5214 Royal Woods Road. Auditor Schroeder had contacted the county attorney's office and had been informed that a citation was in the process of being issued and that progress should be made shortly.

Clerk Swanson reported that the unpermitted improvements at 7876 Bluebell now have official paid permits and that this issue can be removed from the agenda. The building official will review the installations.

Road report: The "Dead End" sign on Sage Drive has been installed. Road Superintendent Dan Saumer reported that another needs to be installed on Riverbed Road and that several more are in poor shape and need to be replaced.

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

There was no new information on the establishment of a fire district, and there is no likelihood of updates soon. This issue will be removed from the agenda.

Superintendent Saumer is getting used to the new grader and the new plow truck. Insurance coverage on each of these pieces has been added through MATIT. These issues will be removed from the agenda.

Chair Pearson reported that corner stakes have been installed on the corners of the town's gravel pit that is slated for sale. Their placement will be reviewed during this spring's road check. The clerk was authorized to contact the interested buyer for an update.

Clerk Swanson noted that the township is expecting payment shortly from FEMA for the Grasston Court project. The gravel roads project is under peer review; the Bluebell/Church roads project is awaiting final development by FEMA.

Chair Pearson reported that the T-13 road question remained in Kevin McFerran's hands. Chair Pearson had discussed possible options with Mr. McFerran and with the town legal counsel.

The turnaround issue on Royal Heights Lane seems to have been resolved and will be removed from the agenda.

New Business:

Chair Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve Resolution 2024-1 appointing election judges and absentee ballot board for the 12 March township election. The motion carried unanimously. Said resolution shall be a part of these minutes.

The board noted the request of Central Right of Way services to do shoulder mowing for 2024; Road Superintendent Saumer will be responsible for roadside mowing.

Clerk Swanson updated the board on his attendance at the DW Companies government open house, reporting that the presentation by Isanti County wetland officials was very valuable and reminded the township that it has responsibility for not causing the degradation of wetlands during its road work. Zoning Administrator John Kemen asked the board about the possible use of double-lined plastic culverts in certain instances. By consensus, the board concurred with their use when approved by the zoning authorities.

Clerk Swanson gave an update on the presidential nomination primary to be held 5 March and the township election to be held 12 March.

Correspondence:

The board noted that the standard mileage reimbursement rate increased to 67 cents per mile, 1 January 2024.

The board noted the CenterPoint Energy rate increase hearings that will be held by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

FYI:

Chair Pearson reported that the following reports had been submitted: Report of Building Permits for new housing to the United States Census Bureau, absentee ballot application sent to individual on recurring absentee ballot list, Boundary and Annexation Survey to the Census Bureau, and 2023 SSTS annual survey to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The next regular meeting of the town board will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 27 February 2024, at which time the board will convene as the Board of Audit.

At 8:06 p.m., Supervisor Graham moved, Chair Olson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Marshall Pearson, Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Vice Chair/Supervisor

John Graham, Supervisor

Jenessa M. Saumer, Treasurer