

Royalton Township Annual Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: www.royaltontownship.com
12 March 2024
Approved

8:16 p.m., Tuesday, 12 March 2024, Clerk Duane Swanson called the Royalton Township annual meeting to order, with approximately 23 residents and two guests present. Supervisors Jeff Schlaeger and John Graham and Treasurer Jenessa Saumer were present. Clerk Swanson noted that this meeting had been duly posted and published. The assembly recited the pledge of allegiance.

8:18 p.m., The assembly's first order of business was to elect a moderator. Wayne Olson agreed to be moderator, assumed the chair, and stated the order of business.

8:19 p.m., Gary Folkestad moved, John DeGray seconded, to adopt the agenda as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

8:20 p.m., Jeff Schlaeger moved, Chris Wurm seconded, to dispense with the reading of the annual meeting minutes of 14 March 2023 because they were printed in the annual meeting packet that was available to each attendee and, further, to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

8:21 p.m., Moderator Olson noted that the treasurer's report as prepared by Treasurer Jenessa Saumer was included in the annual meeting packet. Patrice DeGray moved, Duane Swanson seconded, to approve the treasurer's report as printed in the annual meeting packet. The report showed a township net worth of \$287,655.46 as of 31 December 2023, with no indebtedness and no investments. The motion carried unanimously.

8:22 p.m., Moderator Olson noted that the annual road report, as required by statute, and the supplemental reports of the board and planning commission were included in the annual meeting packet. John DeGray moved, Jeff Schlaeger seconded, to dispense with the reading of the road report and to approve the reports as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

8:23 p.m., Patrice DeGray moved, Teresa Kukowski seconded, to allow the board to initiate specific road openings, vacations, or alterations as deemed necessary. The motion carried unanimously.

8:24 p.m., Gary Folkestad moved, Pete Belland seconded, to authorize the town board to maintain and conduct business for the town as needed under Minnesota Statutes 365.10: subdivisions 1-18, as well as other statutes requiring approval or prior authorization at the annual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

8:25 p.m., Roxanne Orvis moved, Troy Downing seconded, to deny authorization for the board to expend funds to recognize retirees, volunteers, or special service efforts. The motion carried unanimously. Wendy Tchida asked if this included funeral flowers; these will need to be covered by private donations.

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8:26 p.m., Moderator Olson noted the town's policy to deny requests for monies from various health, social service, or community agencies. No request to change this policy was made.

8:29 p.m., Moderator Olson called for general discussion of items of concern:

Duane Swanson reported that last year's annual meeting requested information on possibly changing the township elections from March to November. He noted that a fact sheet on this issue was included in the annual meeting packet. General discussion indicated an apparent consensus that, in order to keep it purely local, March elections were preferred.

8:30 p.m., Patrice DeGray spoke on the expensive costs of building permits under the State Building Code for residents of a rural township, that contractors were not building in the township, and that the rules were too restrictive. After hearing similar comments from other electors, Patrice DeGray moved, Gary Folkestad seconded, to recommend to the board that it consider repealing the State Building Code with the caveat that this be done at the same time as the township had in place a building code of its own. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:37 p.m., Troy Downing asked if the town board was going to decide exactly where Clover Lane ended. Duane Swanson noted that this issue lacked immediate urgency in light of a similar issue with Road T-13, which currently involves the potential sale of property that could become landlocked. Clover Lane remains an open issue.

8:38 p.m., Several electors commented on the desirability of revisiting the 10-acre minimum lot size, with some urging a reduction so that farmland is not broken up and others noting that small parcels tend to bring other issues.

8:39 p.m., Jeff Schlaeger moved, John Graham seconded, to convene and call to order the 2025 annual meeting for 8:15 p.m., 11 March 2025 (second Tuesday in March), at the Royalton Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

8:40 p.m., Moderator Olson declared that the assembly would next consider the 2025 tax levy, noting that the board had recommended the following: General Fund, \$104,000; Road and Bridge Fund, \$70,000; Fire Fund, \$25,000; Equipment Replacement Fund, \$20,000 for a total levy of \$219,000. John DeGray asked about the increase in the Fire Fund and the decrease in the Equipment Replacement Fund. Duane Swanson noted that Fire Fund expenses for 2024 are expected to be more than \$40,000 so that a deficit will be run in that fund; with a new grader and a replacement snowplow truck the board felt that it could reduce the levy in that fund for one year.

8:44 p.m., Patrice DeGray moved, Chris Wurm seconded, to recess the 2024 annual meeting until 7:30 p.m., 27 August 2024, prior to the regular board meeting at the Royalton Town Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

At this point, the assembly paused until the election results were finalized.

8:59 p.m., Moderator Olson presented the precinct summary statement and read the abstract of

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votes as presented by the election judges: There were 255 in-person voters and 20 accepted absentee voters. For the office of supervisor, Pete Belland received 174 votes, Patrice R. DeGray received eight votes, Tom Madison received nine votes, and Leslie M. Orvis received 84 votes. For the office of clerk, Roxanne L. Orvis received 94 votes, Duane P. Swanson received 177 votes, Jenessa Saumer received two write-in votes, two blank ballots were cast. Moderator Olson thanked the election judges for their work.

9:00 p.m., Moderator Olson asked if there was any other business that should come before the meeting. Hearing none, Duane Swanson moved, Steve Belland seconded, to adjourn the annual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Wayne Olson, Moderator

Attest:

Duane P. Swanson, Town Clerk