

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
Email: royalton@genesiswireless.us -- Website: www.royaltontownship.com
24 April 2018 - Approved

7:40 p.m., 24 April 2018, Chair Jeff Schlaeger called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order with Supervisor Wayne Olson, Supervisor Marshall Pearson, Treasurer Wendy Tchida, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Also present were Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Road Superintendent Dan Saumer. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of True North credit application, MnDOT temporary haul road designation, noise complaint, "stilt" house property, and calcium chloride. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 27 March 2018 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson noted that approval of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization minutes would be deferred until the county report of the meeting had been received (which may be in June or July).

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the reorganizational meeting of 27 March 2018 with the singular change noting that the salary of the treasurer is annual not monthly (the minutes to be signed already corrects this). The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$346,345.92 in the treasury. Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve payment of checks #8740 - 8770 totaling \$5,017.40. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Schlaeger, Supervisor Olson, and Supervisor Pearson voting "aye."

Public Forum was offered. Leslie Orvis requested that he be relieved of his duties as back-up road grader operator. He has given up his CDL and prefers not to serve in this position any longer. Michelle Caron noted that her mother's mailbox on Red Oak Road had been struck three times this winter by the snow plow. Chair Schlaeger noted that Red Oak Road was a county road and that this claim should be taken up with the county.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Chair Schlaeger noted that the planning commission had reviewed a drawing of the recommended construction of a turnaround on Eagle Lane. Chair Orvis and Member Valvoda had completed this recommendation that includes removal of a significant number of trees in the township right-of-way and a realignment of the electric pole anchors. Chair Schlaeger moved Supervisor Pearson seconded, to authorize Supervisor Olson to discuss this issue with legal

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counsel to determine the proper paperwork needed for filing, to authorize Gary Valvoda to discuss moving the electric pole anchors with East Central Energy, and to discuss tree removal with Tom Lundeen. The motion carried unanimously. It was understood that written permission from the landowners affected would be received as part of this project.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the recommendation of the planning commission to approve the draft ordinance language amending the Royalton Township Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems ordinance and the Fencing, Screening and Landscaping ordinance and to authorize the filing of said updates with the County Recorder. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

In April 2017 the board of supervisors approved a minor subdivision request from Kyle S. Bowman and Bonnie R. Gutzkow-Bowman to remove a five-acre parcel from PID #29.0048.000 on the condition that a survey be completed and filed within twelve months and that the five-acre parcel be attached to PID #29.0042.000. The board questioned if this has been done. Chair Schlaeger authorized Supervisor Pearson to talk with the Bowmans to determine if this had been done.

The board revisited the issue of gravel quotes from the March meeting. After considering the planning commission discussion and recommendations, Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to accept the Rydberg & Sons quote of \$11.87 per cubic yard for approximately 4,500 cubic yards of Class 5 gravel based on the Work Sheet for Sieve Analysis of Granular Material Test No. 2. The motion carried unanimously. The board justified accepting the higher quote on the basis that this gravel (with a check total of 408.0) would have greater binder and would be a better fit considering the sandy nature of the town's roads.

The board reviewed the letter from legal counsel regarding the excessive number of cars at PID #29.0181.000, 4843 Brunswick Road. Counsel has recommended that the board delay legal action based on a plan of implementation submitted by the landowner. Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to follow the recommendation of counsel, that the implementation plan be submitted in writing with visible progress being made within thirty days and setting a completion date of 1 July 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

There was nothing to report on the distribution of fines to townships.

Supervisor Pearson updated the board on developments regarding the playground on the town campus, noting that everything is on schedule for construction 1, 2, and 3 June, dependent on weather conditions permitting the ground preparation work to be completed.

The monitoring service issue was tabled.

Supervisor Olson reported on the situation at PID #29.0198.000, 1386 Sherwood. Zoning Administrator Kemen and he had met with the property owner at 9:15 a.m., 28 March 2018. The

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owner admitted that she had no sewer and water on the property and that the living quarters was less than 400' square feet. They also counted at least ten dogs visible on the property. On the advice of counsel, Pine County Adult Protection Services was contacted for a welfare check. That agency reported that a review indicated no reason for further investigation. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to review all four issues with legal counsel (lack of adequate septic system, lack of water, inadequate housing, and excessive number of dogs) and recommend that a letter be written ordering that the property be brought into compliance with zoning ordinances within thirty days. The motion carried unanimously. Supervisor Olson distributed a summary of actions regarding this property and asked that it be entered into the record. That summary shall be considered part of these minutes.

The difficulty of updating the website was discussed. Lacking specific data, the board encouraged the office to delineate the issues and study alternatives for review at a future meeting.

New Business:

Frances Caron and Michelle Caron were present to answer questions about their proposed split of Mrs. Caron's property into two parcels consisting of 19.34 and 56.67 acres respectively. Zoning Administrator Kemen had reviewed the survey plat and approved the split. The planning commission had recommended approval. Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to approve the proposed land split and to forward a letter noting the board's approval to the county recorder. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson and Supervisor Olson explained the issues surrounding the MnDOT Temporary Trunk Highway Haul Road Designation of Frost Drive as a state road in order to haul sand from Chris Wurm's pit for MnDOT's I-35 project near Pine City. By this designation, the state promised to return Frost Drive to its current state after the project is completed. Chair Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to authorize Zoning Administrator Kemen to draft a letter to property owner Chris Wurm enclosing a copy of the ordinance section requiring that the slopes of the pit be returned to pre-existing status at the end of the project. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson distributed a draft of the notes taken on the annual road inspection on 23 April and asked that board members review it and report comments to him in order for a completed road report to be available at the regular May meeting. Chair Schlaeger encouraged board members and Road Superintendent Saumer to do so. Supervisor Olson noted that several issues arose during the report that should be addressed at this meeting:

- 1) PID #29.0197.001, 1389 Sherwood Street: various issues discussed in the past have not been implemented, including an inadequate dwelling. Supervisor Olson recommended that, after discussion with counsel, a letter be sent asking when appropriate permit(s) will be sought and when the various issues will be corrected.
- 2). PID #29.0062.000, 3493 Pokegama Lake Road: excessive vehicles.

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- 3). PID #29.0049.000, 6318 Pokegama Lake Road: excessive vehicles.
- 4). PID #29.0157.000, 9451 Brunswick Road: excessive vehicles.
- 5). PID #29.0277.002, 9435 Apple Road: junk and vehicles.

Chair Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Olson seconded, to discuss these issues (items 1-5) with counsel, with an understanding that letters would be written noting the violations and the need to correct. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding PID #29.0341.001, 4272 Timber Drive, the road inspection revealed that the renter of that property is, once again, grading part of the town road in violation of a verbal agreement that he would not do so. Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to authorize the writing of a letter reminding the landowner and the renter that this was not permitted and that legal action would follow if the practice continued. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding PID #29.0228.001, 4696 Clover Lane, the road inspection revealed that a silage pile and stored machinery were on the town road right of way impeding the necessary turnaround. Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to authorize the writing of a letter to remove the obstructions. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to authorize Road Superintendent Saumer to haul two loads of gravel onto Sage Drive in order to raise its level so that water would not overflow the road. The motion carried unanimously.

After discussion, the board decided, by consensus, not to take action at this time on the noise issue and the potentially uninhabitable trailer house in the Royal Heights development. More data and more monitoring will be needed.

Supervisor Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to complete the application from True North that will enable the township to charge items purchased. The motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed the pros and cons of applying calcium chloride to the town roads. Priscilla Schneider noted that a meeting of the residents of Maple Shores unanimously endorsed the concept. The board concurred that the application was positive for Maple Shores Drive in contrast to Apple Road, where the poorer grade gravel did not respond to the chloride. Discussion centered on the cost/benefit ratio and on the tax impact on residents not living on roads that would be chlorided. Chair Schlaeger instructed the planning commission to review this issue and its potential financial impact.

FYI

Gary Valvoda announced that the Pine County Planning Commission will be meeting Thursday, 26 April at 5:30 p.m. to discuss blight and other issues as part of a possible county takeover of additional zoning responsibilities. If that happens, townships would likely be able to opt in or opt out.

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The next town board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 29 May 2018.

At 9:10 p.m., Supervisor Olson moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Jeff Schlaeger, Chair/Supervisor

Wayne Olson, Supervisor

Marshall Pearson, Supervisor