

April 30, 2019 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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30 April 2019

Approved

7:33 p.m., 30 April 2019, Chair Wayne Olson called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order with Supervisor Marshall Pearson, Supervisor Jeff Schlaeger, Treasurer Wendy Tchida, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Also present were Road Superintendent Dan Saumer and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of reorganizational minutes, communications and disposal of unneeded office equipment. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 26 March 2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the board reorganizational meeting of 26 March 2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting of 22 April 2019 as presented. The minutes include the record of the meeting prepared by county assessor Troy Stewart. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the road inspection meeting and accompanying notes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$347,052.16 in the treasury. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve payment of checks #9170-9199 in the amount of \$6,442.37, with check #9169 being void. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Public Forum was offered. No one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

By consensus, the board approved the commission's recommendation to hold off chloriding for one year as a continuation of the test of the past two years.

No activity has been done on the policy book or on the major equipment inventory spreadsheet.

The board acknowledged the commission's discussion about the draft zoning ordinance for Pine County and reiterated that Chair Orvis and Member Valvoda will represent the township at the two upcoming hearings.

Old Business:

Deputy Clerk Schneider reported that all individuals who wished to sign the Beacon subscription list had completed the application and that the application would be submitted to Pine County.

Chair Olson updated the board on the situation at 1386 Sherwood Street. During the road inspection, it appears that someone was living at the property which the board had been assured was vacant. Gates were open and no dogs were observed. Legal counsel has recommended that the board determine if violations of the ordinance still exist, especially as they relate to temporary dwellings. Chair Olson will ask Zoning Administrator John Kemen to investigate and will continue to discuss with counsel. Each board member will do a drive-by before the next meeting.

Chair Olson updated the board on the situation at 9435 Apple Road, noting that legal counsel recommends the next steps to be: Board to pass a resolution calling for a public hearing in order to place the legal costs on the assessment roll of the county. After publication of this resolution, notification of the property owners affected, and the completion of the hearing, the board may direct a resolution to the county auditor to place the assessment on the property tax for the affected property. After discussion, Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adopt the "Resolution for Hearing on Proposed Assessment" setting a public hearing on the proposed assessment for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, 28 May 2019, at the Royalton Town Hall, directing the town clerk to publish notice of said meeting according to law, and to send a copy of said resolution to the property owners by both certified and regular mail. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of this resolution shall be a part of these minutes. As part of these proceedings, the board is required to set an interest rate to accompany the assessment. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to establish an interest rate of 8% (eight per cent) on this assessment. The motion carried unanimously.

No action had been taken on removal of brush and trees at the Eagle Lane turnaround. Chair Olson directed Road Superintendent Saumer to cut the trees as soon as the ground would support it.

Chair Olson noted that he had a final meeting with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials about the township's request for reimbursement of costs due to excessive rainfall in July 2018. He was told that all paperwork is in order and the township should expect payment of about \$20,000 sometime between June and December of 2019. Chair Olson recommended that, should an emergency occur in the future, detailed records of all activities must be created as well as photographs of all activities.

There was no update on town hall carpet cleaning.

Clerk Swanson and Deputy Clerk Schneider reported that the completed building permits have been transferred from the city of Braham to Royalton and will be incorporated into the town's permit files.

New Business:

The board discussed the results of the annual road inspection of 22 April. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize Road Superintendent Saumer to order 14 culverts to be installed in places identified in the report as well as a couple of spares in case of emergencies. The motion carried unanimously. After a discussion of priorities, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to authorize supervisor Schlaeger to work with Road Superintendent Saumer and John DeGray to establish priorities and to accomplish as much of the identified culvert and ditching work as possible in a timely manner. This should be coordinated with the application of gravel to certain roads and may include discussion with other contractors. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, have the office contact property owners along Royal Heights Lane to note that brush cutting and potential tree removal will be conducted this summer. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize Jared Lucht to trap beaver that are causing the blockage of Sage Drive and Bayberry Road at a bounty rate of \$25.00 per animal, including a start-up cost of \$50.00. Mr. Lucht will be responsible for any necessary permits from the Department of Natural Resources. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to send a letter to Shafer Contracting Company noting the damage done to Frost Drive during their recent excavation and hauling during the past season and expecting them to repair the road by the spreading of 4" of Class 5 gravel meeting Royalton's current specifications. Such repair is to be done in consultation with Road Superintendent Saumer. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the potential zoning issues identified in the road report, the board made the following directives: Chair Olson directed the office to establish a spreadsheet to track the developments on these properties. The office will review the permit status of four properties. Chair Olson will ask Zoning Administrator Kemen to review the statuses of 1255 Royal Heights Lane, 764 Greeley Road, 1390 Sherwood Street and 1386 Sherwood Street as they relate to potential zoning ordinance violations. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize Chair Olson to review with counsel the junk car situation at 4843 Brunswick Road and to take action as recommended by counsel (counsel had been involved in this property in the past). The motion carried unanimously. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to have the board write a letter to the owners of 2667 Greeley Road requesting proof of current licensure of vehicles stored on the property (licenses had been provided some years ago). The motion carried unanimously. Chair Olson directed the office to send a letter to the owners of 9451 Brunswick Road noting excessive number of vehicles and quoting the ordinance.

Supervisor Pearson and Clerk Swanson reported on their attendance at the MAT spring short course in Duluth. Supervisor Pearson noted that his sessions did not relate to roads as in the past. He noted that legal issues surrounding the placement of culverts on private land by property owners may impact roads and waters under the township jurisdiction. He also noted that, contrary to popular practice, monies can be moved from the Road and Bridge Fund and the Fire Fund to other funds after all relevant bills are paid. Clerk Swanson noted that he may be bringing other issues raised during his sessions to the board in the future.

Deputy Clerk Schneider noted that she has the permit files in order back to 1998 and will be concentrating on incorporating those files received from the city of Braham as her next priority.

Chair Olson presented resolution #2019-2, declaring 4 May 2019 as Roberta M. Folkestad Day and thanking her for her many years of service. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the resolution with praise and thanks. The motion carried unanimously. Said resolution will be part of these minutes.

The board discussed an email from a nonresident cabin owner along the Snake River asking about a cleanup day and disposal of junk collected along the river. The board directed the office to reply that no clean-up day is planned and that the county operates recycling and disposal facilities.

The board, by consensus, decided not to send Road Superintendent Saumer to the LTAP training session in Rochester because it concerned almost exclusively paved road issues.

Chair Olson directed the planning commission to review the updates to the Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Ordinance and report to the board. Chair Olson also directed the planning commission to study the issue of solar arrays as they relate to the township's zoning ordinance.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to sell surplus file cabinet and small office safe to Leslie Orvis for \$30.00. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:45 p.m., Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

FYI:

The next regular board meeting is 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 28 May 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Wayne Olson, Chair/Supervisor

Marshall Pearson, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor