

# December 17, 2019 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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17 December 2019

Approved

7:30 p.m., 17 December 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, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of point of contact with township legal counsel. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$307,422.06 in the treasury. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #9409-9437 in the amount of \$17,292.61. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Public Forum was offered. Jerry Effertz was present to note the burning of creosoted railroad ties by his neighbor. He had been in contact with Lee Field of the Duluth office of the Solid Waste unit of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and urged board action to limit this burning. Chair Olson noted this issue will be taken up under new business.

## Planning Commission recommendations:

The planning commission's progress on the solar energy ordinance was reviewed; Chair Olson directed that this issue continue to be studied.

There were no updates on the policy book and township levy/equipment inventory.

Chair Orvis reported on the Pangerl/Nordby land subdivision proposal. Gordy Nordby reiterated his comments made at the planning commission meeting. After discussion, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the land split as proposed noting that the parcel would be unbuildable until septic studies supported buildability. The motion carried unanimously.

### Old Business:

The board reviewed septic compliance issues. No activity had been received about 9003 Wildflower Road. Regarding 12254 Farming Road, the board reviewed a draft letter to the land owner and mortgage company noting that the board would not begin action as long as the property was uninhabited but that all septic issues would need to be addressed and resolved if the property were inhabited in the future. The letter also asks for written documentation that the septic tank had been pumped as maintained by the owner. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the wording of the letter and authorize its mailing.

The board reviewed zoning issues emanating from the road inspection. There were no updates on 4843 Brunswick Road, 1255 Royal Heights Lane, or 5536 Pokegama Lake Road. Regarding 430 Greeley Road, it appears that some vehicles have been removed and, therefore, the board, by consensus, postponed action until January.

The board reviewed road inspection follow-up: Nothing new had been reported on Frost Drive. The board acknowledged with thanks the receipt of a multiyear plan with costs for road upgrades that had been prepared by Road Superintendent Saumer. He also reported that the road sign on Butterfly Road had been erected and that the plow truck was going in for repairs.

The board considered the Braham Milaca Inspector Board agreement for 2020-2021 noting that no documents had been received from other potential inspectors. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve and sign the proposed agreement with the Braham Milaca Inspector Board. The motion carried unanimously.

By consensus, the board postponed action on the fence at 3316 Raspberry Road South until the 2020 road inspection.

Supervisor Pearson updated the board on the town hall carpet situation. Discussions continue among Supervisor Pearson, the installer, and the manufacturer. Meanwhile, Supervisor Pearson will re-glue some of the tiles.

### New Business:

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the proposed 2020 fire contract with the Braham Fire Department at a cost of \$9334.50. Contract terms remain the same as the current contract. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to reimburse a potential town hall renter his \$50 deposit because inclement weather precluded its use. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Clerk Swanson noted that the Pine City Pioneer has submitted a bid of \$7.20 (up from \$6.80) per column inch for legal notices. Action will be taken at the 2020 reorganizational meeting.

A meeting of the county board devoted to the county subsurface sewage ordinance is scheduled for 6 January 2020. By consensus, the board authorized Planning Commission Chair Leslie Orvis to attend this meeting, with regular meeting pay and mileage reimbursed.

Chair Olson called for discussion of the issue of burning creosoted railroad ties at 9435 Apple Road. The board concluded that this is a violation of Royalton's nuisance ordinance (#001-2010, section 3 - page 43) as well as a health hazard. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to bring this issue to legal counsel for review and action. The motion carried 2-0-1 with Supervisor Pearson and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye" and Chair Olson abstaining. Chair Olson noted his abstention as an interested party because his property is subject to the effects of said burning.

Chair Olson noted the amount of time and difficulty to schedule consultations with legal counsel. Contacts are currently limited to the supervisors and Zoning Administrator Kemen. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to add Clerk Swanson to the list of those authorized to meet with counsel and to so inform Ledin, Hofstad, & Troth of this addition. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson directed Clerk Swanson to send a letter to the Pine County Board of Commissioners strongly objecting to the proposal that the county take over all assessing responsibilities in the county.

FYI:

Clerk Swanson reported that a three-year amortization schedule for the town assessment on property at 9435 Apple Road had been received from the county auditor, that the annual report of township bonded indebtedness (zero dollars) had been returned to the county auditor, and that the announcement of town office filings had been published in the Pine City Pioneer.

The next board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., 28 January 2020.

At 8:20 p.m., Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Wayne Olson, Chair/Supervisor

Marshall Pearson, Vice Chair/Supervisor

Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor