

January 28, 2020 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

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28 January 2020

Approved

7:31 p.m., 28 January 2020, 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, Assistant Road Superintendent Alex Anderson 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 diesel fuel, copier/laptops, and elections. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 17 December 2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$382,271.03 in the treasury. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #9438-9482, with checks 9479 and 9480 being void, in the amount of \$22,727.23. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Public Forum was offered. Bob Adamek was present to remind the board of issues at 1255 Royal Heights Lane noting that garbage is piling up, there is no apparent operating septic system, and various vehicles appear in disrepair. He also noted that an additional property on the north side of the Lane had campers that appear to be lived in and that a further property on the south side of the Lane is storing 5th wheelers. Chair Olson told Mr. Adamek that the 1255 issue is with legal counsel and asked Zoning Administrator Kemen to investigate the remaining issues.

Angela Tvedt of Soderstrom Septic addressed the board noting that she had worked with the township as septic inspector in the early 2000s and had recently reactivated the business. Board members reviewed her price proposals. Chair Olson thanked Ms. Tvedt for coming and for her interest in working with the township.

Planning Commission recommendations:

The planning commission continues to review the solar energy ordinance.

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

The board reviewed the updated legal descriptions of the Pangerl/Nordby land subdivision proposal and requested Clerk Swanson to seek additional information from the county on why this issue was being sent to the township.

Old Business:

Clerk Swanson reported that he had met with Septic Inspector Amy Thompson to review 12 properties that had recently been sold to determine if compliance inspections had been completed. Six properties have positive compliance inspections on file. One property has a new system. One property is in county jurisdiction. Three properties require first point of sale letters: 5477 Red Oak Road, PID #290207001; 7859 Clint Road, PID #290296000; and PID #295141000 on Royal River Road. The latter is seasonal and may not have a septic system. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to send first point of sale letters to owners of these three parcels noting that replies must be made within 30 days. The motion carried unanimously.

The final property, 9003 Wildflower Road (PID #290112000) has conflicting inspections: a private inspector had approved the system; the township inspection declared it noncompliant. Pursuant to Royalton's zoning ordinance, a certified letter was sent to the inspector approving the system requiring him to meet with the township inspector to resolve the issue. No such meeting was held. Therefore, the system has been declared noncompliant. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a revised point of sale letter to the property owner requiring a re-inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

After discussion, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to authorize counsel to proceed with action against property owners of 4843 Brunswick Road. Owners had communicated with counsel that they wanted to work with the township and were told to attend the 28 January meeting. No one was present at the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Regarding the situation at 1255 Royal Heights Lane, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to request that counsel proceed with a letter to owners noting the violations. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson reported that it was his understanding that representatives of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency had investigated the burning of creosoted ties at 9435 Apple Road. It appears that the burning has ceased and Chair Olson declared this issue tabled.

Zoning Administrator Kemen noted that he had investigated the situation at 5536 Pokegama Lake Road and that he has been unable to contact anyone. Chair Olson tabled this issue.

Road Superintendent Saumer noted that the town truck had been partially fixed and that other repairs were scheduled.

Supervisor Pearson noted that there was no update on the carpet situation.

Planning Commission Chair Les Orvis noted that he had been unable to attend the SSTS meeting in Sandstone, 6 January 2020.

New Business:

Chair Olson read communications from Glen Williamson of the Pine County Association of Townships requesting that the town support a petition urging the county to continue to meet with the townships regarding the issue of local assessors. Clerk Swanson noted Mr. Williamson requested that the town sign a model petition or draft its own resolution. Samples of each were reviewed by the board. Chair Olson noted that he had previously submitted an email urging the county to permit the use of local assessors. After discussion, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to sign Resolution 2020-2 and authorize the clerk to forward it to the county commissioners and to the county administrator. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution shall be part of these minutes.

Chair Olson read proposed Resolution 2020-1 appointing election judges for the presidential nomination primary on 3 March 2020. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, its adoption. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the resolution shall be part of these minutes.

Chair Olson and Clerk Swanson reviewed the proposed service contract with Septic Inspector Amy Thompson. Because of its length and complexity, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, that it be reviewed by the planning commission at its next working meeting.

Chair Olson noted that gravel quotes would be authorized at the February meeting with quote openings in March.

Chair Olson noted that the office copier has over 98,000 copies on it and is dangerously close to ceasing. Similarly, both office laptops run on Windows 7 that is no longer being supported. By consensus, he received board approval to put together a proposal to replace all three instruments.

Clerk Swanson updated the board on upcoming elections. On 3 March 2020 a presidential nomination primary will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. He noted that voters will have to declare which party ballot they wish to vote. Although declared private under Minnesota law, this designation will be shared with party chairs who are under no obligation to keep it private. The town has purchased privacy screens to ensure that a voter's party designation remains as private as possible within the room. The annual town election will be 10 March with the polls open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. Two individuals have filed for supervisor; one individual has filed for clerk. The town's annual meeting will follow the election at 8:15 p.m. and the Board of Canvass will follow the annual meeting.

Federated Coops contacted Supervisor Schlaeger about a pre-buy on diesel fuel at a price of \$2.27 per gallon. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize a pre-buy of 1,600 gallons at this price. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye."

Following recommendation of the Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator Kemen, the board discussed a land subdivision proposal on behalf of Mike Hasser for PID 290365000. This parcel is proposed to be split into Parcel A consisting of 7.26 acres and the Remainder parcel of 32.08 acres. Mr. Hasser is purchasing the Remainder parcel and Parcel A is to be attached to PID#290365001 immediately to the north. No soil borings have been done so neither parcel is currently suitable for building. Mr. Hasser and Janice and Neil Eiden were present to respond to questions and to explain this proposal. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the proposal with the conditions that Parcel A be attached to PID #290365001 (thereby creating a parcel of greater than ten acres) and that neither parcel is considered buildable at this time. The motion carried unanimously.

FYI:

Chair Olson made the following announcements: The MAT Spring Short Course will be held in Duluth (3 April) and St. Cloud (24 March). Fully-executed copies of the Braham fire contract and the agreement for building inspections had been returned and filed. The annual workers compensation report had been completed and returned to MATIT. With Amy Thompson's help, the 2019 SSTS annual report has been completed and filed with the MPCA. The Census Bureau report of building/zoning permits issued for new housing has been completed and mailed. A land development & water quality workshop will be held 13 February 2020 in Askov.

The next board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., 18 February 2020. The annual board of audit will be part of this meeting.

At 8:12 p.m., Supervisor Pearson 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