

November 26, 2019 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

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26 November 2019

Approved

7:31 p.m., 26 November 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, Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider, and Assistant Road Superintendent Alex Anderson. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 29 October 2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$311,158.75 in the treasury. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve payment of checks #9386-9408 in the amount of \$3,993.21. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Public Forum was offered. Dan Maroushek, building inspector for the city of Mora, was present to introduce himself. He will be retiring from that post and would be interested in providing similar services to Royalton. Chair Olson thanked Mr. Maroushek for his interest and asked him to provide a statement of costs and credentials for the working planning commission to review.

Planning Commission recommendations:

The board reviewed the commission's recommendation regarding the Pangerl/Nordby land subdivision proposal, noting Septic Inspector Angela Tvedt's analysis of the site. Rather than giving conditional approval at this meeting, and in light of the early meeting in December, the board directed Zoning Administrator Kemen to review this issue with township Septic Inspector Amy Thompson and report back at the 17 December meeting.

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.

Old Business:

Chair Olson reported that, in accordance with the request of the township's legal counsel, District Court Judge Patrick Flanagan had dismissed without prejudice the township's suit against Kirtis A. and Melissa Wiener regarding zoning violations at 9435 Apple Road.

The board reviewed septic compliance issues. A certified letter to the septic inspector who approved the system at 9003 Wildflower Road was sent as directed; the inspector was asked to contact Royalton's septic inspector to resolve the conflicting compliance inspections. Discussions are ongoing. Communications from Septic Inspector Thompson indicate that the system at 9980 Wildflower Road is approved based on a past inspection. A second letter to the owners at 12254 Farming Road resulted in a communication from them indicating that they were vacating the property and, therefore, they stated, that the timeline to upgrade the system was on hold. Chair Olson moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, that a certified letter be directed to the owners and to the mortgage company noting that a written plan for remediation must be submitted to Septic Inspector Amy Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed the septic inspection process and directed the office to continue updating the septic spreadsheet monthly but to place on the agenda only those items requiring action at that meeting.

The board reviewed zoning issues emanating from the road inspection. Chair Olson reported that legal proceedings regarding 4843 Brunswick Road had begun. The permitting issues at 1378 Sherwood Street remains in the hands of Zoning Administrator John Kemen.

Regarding septic and other issues at 1255 Royal Heights Lane, Chair Olson shared a draft letter from counsel seeking input from the board. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize Septic Inspector Thompson to "red tag" the septic system on the basis of an imminent public health threat. The motion carried unanimously. Chair Olson also directed Zoning Administrator Kemen to talk with Building Inspector Marshall Lind regarding building issues on the property. Further action will be considered at the December meeting.

Zoning issues at 9451 Brunswick Road and 1390 Sherwood will be tabled until the 2020 road inspection.

Regarding junk vehicles at 430 Greeley Road, Clerk Swanson reported that a certified second letter had not been accepted and was returned to the office. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to authorize Chair Olson to bring this issue to counsel for analysis.

The board reviewed road inspection follow-up: Nothing new had been reported on Frost Drive. The ditching issue on the south side of Homer Road will be tabled until the 2020 road inspection. The sign issue on Butterfly Road remains with the county. Following up on a question from the 2019 road inspection, Clerk Swanson distributed an image from Beacon about property lines near the east end of Cabin Drive. The board determined that the town was not responsible for maintenance beyond the right-of-way on Cabin Drive.

The board considered the Braham Milaca Inspector Board agreement for 2020-2021. Chair Olson directed the office to make copies of the agreement for the planning commission and to compare them with contract terms to be proposed by Dan Maroushek.

Chair Olson directed the office to draft a letter to the property owners at 3316 Raspberry Road regarding the fence in the town road right-of-way, including potential insurance issues.

New Business:

Clerk Swanson presented proposed resolution 2019-6 authorizing appointment of a vice-chair of the board. Royalton already is doing this, but this resolution will formalize the procedure. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve and sign the resolution. The motion carried unanimously. The resolution will be part of these minutes.

Clerk Swanson presented resolution 2019-7 designating the optional holidays (Columbus Day and the day after Thanksgiving) as not holidays. This resolution authorizes town business to be conducted on those days and is recommended by the Minnesota Association of Townships. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve and sign the resolution. The motion carried unanimously. The resolution will be part of these minutes.

Clerk Swanson presented resolution 2019-8 appointing election judges and an absentee ballot board for the 10 March annual township election. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve and sign the resolution. The motion carried unanimously. The resolution will be part of these minutes.

The regularly-scheduled and published board meeting of 25 February 2020 conflicts with the Minnesota precinct caucus day. Meetings cannot be held after 6:00 p.m. on that date. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to set the February meeting for 7:30 p.m., 18 February 2020, with the planning commission to meet at 7:00 p.m., and the Board of Audit to convene at the conclusion of regular town board business. The motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Clerk Schneider updated the board on the proposed upgrade to the town's website, noting that it would be more user friendly and would be easier for the office to administer. Kent Bombard's estimate to perform these upgrades is \$400. The old version of the website would be live until the new version had been tested and found viable. Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve Mr. Bombard's proposal at a cost not to exceed \$400. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

After substantial discussion, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to send a communication to the Pine County board of supervisors expressing strong opposition to the county taking over assessment duties on all parcels in the county. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson noted that he had spent several hours to re-gluing carpet tiles in the board room. The reason for the curling of the tiles is unclear. Carpet Unlimited of Pine City submitted

a bid of \$5,700 to re-glue the existing tiles. Supervisor Pearson will continue to investigate more realistic cost estimates.

The board noted the receipt of a communication from Ron Wimberly offering his services as road patrol operator. By consensus, the board directed the office to thank Mr. Wimberly for his interest but that Royalton has no job openings at this time.

FYI:

Clerk Swanson noted that filings for one supervisor and one clerk position to be elected at the 10 March 2020 town election will be open from 31 December 2019 to 14 January 2020.

The next board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., 17 December 2019.

At 8:59 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