

# September 24, 2019 Board Minutes

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes

6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

Email: [royalton@royaltontownship.com](mailto:royalton@royaltontownship.com) -- Website: [www.royaltontownship.com](http://www.royaltontownship.com)

24 September 2019

Approved

7:30 p.m., 24 September 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, Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Assistant Road Superintendent Alex Anderson. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of culvert replacements, yard light at town hall, turnaround at Dick Doenz', issue at 430 Greeley Road, Pine County zoning, and 2020 elections. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 27 August 2019 as presented with the addition of "within 30 minutes" to the paragraph on mailbox damage. The motion carried unanimously. [The minutes were corrected and signed at the meeting].

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to receive and file the minutes of the 27 August 2019 reconvened annual meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a current balance of \$343,503.21 in the treasury. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve payment of checks #9321-9350 in the amount of \$7,535.145. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "Aye".

Public Forum was offered; no one spoke.

## Planning Commission recommendations:

Members received an update on the Planning Commission discussion on a proposed solar energy ordinance.

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

## Old Business:

Board members had completed compliance drive-bys at 9435 Apple Road to ascertain if the property was in compliance with the zoning ordinance relating to a junk nuisance and excessive vehicles. Discussion concluded that the property was not in compliance. Supervisor Pearsson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to authorize counsel to reconvene legal proceedings to bring the property into compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed septic compliance issues. There were no updates on 11064 Harvest Road, 4435 Clint Road, 7995 Bluebell Road, and 1238 Sherwood Street. Imminent public health threat letter #1 has been sent to the property owners at 12254 Farming Road.

The board reviewed zoning issues emanating from the road inspection. 4843 Brunswick Road is in process with counsel. Administrator Kemen reported that 1378 Sherwood Street has no permits; this issue was tabled until the October meeting. 1255 Royal Heights Lane is in process with counsel. Administrator Kemen continues to investigate permitting issue at 5536 Pokegama Lake Road. There has been no progress on removing vehicles from 9451 Brunswick Road. No further update was available on 1390 Sherwood so that issue will remain on the October agenda.

The board reviewed road inspection follow-up: No communications from Shafer regarding Frost Drive had been received. No visible activity has occurred on 540th Street. Bayberry Road improvements have been completed. Homer Road south side ditching has not been started. Royal Heights Lane tree cutting appears to be nearly done. Hass Construction dropped two loads of gravel on Raspberry Road South and Road Superintendent Saumer graded it over the culvert.

Road Superintendent Saumer had discussed the issue of missing road signs on Hummingbird and Butterfly with Pine County. The Pine County 911 Office is responsible for the road signs. The sign at Hummingbird and Highway 70 has been erected; the 911 office has been contacted about the Butterfly and Highway 70 sign.

There has been no further word on mailbox damage on Country Drive; this issue will be removed from the agenda.

There is no update on the Greeley historical sign.

#### New Business:

In response to a bill from MATIT, the board discussed insurance coverage for the township's buildings and equipment. MATIT had suggested this review, identifying three areas of concern: the playground needs to be listed, are the tools sufficiently covered, and should the buildings be renumbered starting with 1 (instead of 2). After substantial discussion, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to 1) list the playground with an insured value of \$50,000; 2) increase the valuation of miscellaneous tools to \$15,000; and 3) renumber of buildings on the policy. The board's rationale for these decisions was: 1) although the cost of the playground was \$35,000, that does not include the value of volunteer labor that may not be available in case of a disaster; 2) substantial cost has been accrued over the last several years to increase the tool inventory of the township; and 3) renumbering of the buildings starting with 1 simply is common sense. The motion carried unanimously. In addition, the board requested that the office

investigate the deductible in effect for the playground and that Road Superintendent Saumer provide the office with photographs of the tools to accompany the inventory he has already created.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the contract with Ledin, Hofstad & Troth for one year from 24 September 2019 as proposed by the firm. Contract terms and conditions, including costs, remain the same as the current contract. As requested in the contract, the board authorized its three supervisors and Zoning Administrator John Kemen to contact directly the law firm on the township's behalf. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to certify a town road mileage of 27.000 to the Pine County Highway Department and to return the certification and map of the roads to the county. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson announced that Ian Harrison of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will meet with Clerk Swanson, Septic Inspector Amy Thompson, and possibly Deputy Clerk Schneider on 8 October to discuss sewer inspections and the records retained at the town hall. This is part of a statewide visitation program and will include other Pine County jurisdictions.

Supervisor Schlaeger noted that Peter Belland's culvert on Church Road and Dwaine Irlbeck's field access culvert off Pine Bough Road have collapsed. By consensus, John DeGray and Road Superintendent Saumer were authorized to replace the two culverts from existing township stock.

Supervisor Schlaeger reported that trucks have been using Dick Doenz' private driveway off Country Drive as a turnaround, and, in the process, wrecking township culverts. By consensus, the office was asked to send a letter to the owner of the trucks to cease this practice. Supervisors will assist in the composition of the letter.

After discussion, the board authorized Gary Valvoda to contact East Central Energy to discuss options for the parking lot yard light at the town hall. Neighbors have complained that it is too bright. Mr. Valvoda will report back at the October meeting.

Supervisor Pearson asked about communication between county and township zoning officials regarding new construction on Cabin Drive. Part of the property is in the Shorelands District (under county jurisdiction) while other parts are within the township's jurisdiction. It appears as if no permits were issued prior to the start of construction. Both county officials and township Building Inspector Marshall Lind are now involved. A driveway permit will have to be received from Zoning Administrator Kemen.

A parcel at 430 Greeley Road (PID 290374005) has an excessive amount of vehicles. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to send a letter to the property owner noting noncompliance with the zoning ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson noted that four elections are scheduled in the township in 2020, including a 3 March 2020 presidential nomination primary. The presidential primary will require voters to select a ballot from one of the four major parties in order to vote. This selection, although

designated as "private information" in state law, will be made available to the party chairs for their use. The presidential primary costs, supposedly, will be reimbursed by the state. More information will be forthcoming.

Gary Valvoda noted that the flag outside the town hall has been exchanged. The nylon flag lasted nearly a year; the new flag is polyester. This exchange is part of an experiment to determine which type of flag is most efficient for the town. Mr. Valvoda will continue to monitor this issue.

Clerk Swanson reported to the board that Pine City Township will be updating its Comprehensive Land Use Plan and will be forwarding a draft to Royalton for Royalton's input.

In other news, Chair Olson reported that the 2020 tax levy form had been filed with Pine County, the Pine City fire contract had been signed and returned, the amended SSTS ordinance had been filed with Pine County and the MPCA, and that former town clerk Roberta Folkestad's retirement announcement and photograph had appeared in the Minnesota Association of Township's *Insider* magazine.

The next board meeting will be 7:30 p.m., 29 October 2019.

At 8:19 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