

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006  
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: [www.royaltontownship.com](http://www.royaltontownship.com)  
24 November 2020  
Approved

7:30 p.m., 24 November 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. Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Septic Inspector Amy Thompson, Deputy Clerk Priscilla Schneider, and Assistant Road Superintendent Alex Anderson also attended, along with Planning Commission members and members of the public. Chair Olson noted that a remote access link had been established but that no one had asked for it. Social distancing was observed, and masks were worn. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of CARES Act funding and Beaudry Oil Company. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 27 October 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Tchida gave her report, noting that the township has a balance of \$382,061.68 in the treasury. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of checks #9801-9848 in the amount of \$60,158.70. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Olson, Supervisor Pearson, and Supervisor Schlaeger voting "aye".

Public Forum was offered. No one spoke.

Planning Commission recommendations:

Chair Olson reported that the planning commission had recommended approval of the draft of a letter declining the proposed extinguishment of the town's interest in a portion of Riverbed Road with the addition of a second mailing address and an invitation to attend the next board meeting. Discussion centered on why there was no turnaround at the end of the town's right-of-way. Clerk Swanson responded that apparently the board had not included such an item when it accepted that plat of the road decades ago. Road Superintendent Saumer noted that he had discussed his plans for maintenance with the owner, reminding the owner that because of the small size of the parcel and the large size of the equipment snow or gravel may be thrown beyond the town right-of-way. The owner verbally acknowledged that this may happen and expressed no concern. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the revised wording of the draft. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Olson reported that the planning commission had recommended approval of draft #4 of the solar energy ordinance, copies of which were in the members' packets. By consensus, the board decided to postpone a decision until the next regular board meeting giving members time to review the draft in detail.

WO\_\_\_\_\_ MP\_\_\_\_\_ JS\_\_\_\_\_ DS\_\_\_\_\_

Old Business:

Septic Inspector Thompson and Clerk Swanson updated the board on septic issues: Regarding 4569 Hummingbird Road, Septic Inspector Thompson, after receiving the necessary paperwork, has issued a certificate of compliance and this issue has been resolved. Regarding 5389 Hummingbird Road, owners have contacted Inspector Thompson and a compliance inspection is scheduled for next week. Regarding 1238 Sherwood Street, 1255 Royal Heights Lane, and 4985 Hummingbird Road owners have received letters explaining the time lines to upgrade the systems, and no further actions are required at this time.

Regarding zoning issues, the board took the following actions: Regarding 3623 State Highway 70, no response had been received at the office to the letter regarding temporary structures and septic issues at the office. Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Olson seconded, to refer this issue to counsel after verifying that Zoning Administrator John Kemen had not been contacted. The motion carried unanimously. Regarding 4201 State Highway 70, no response has been received regarding excess vehicles. After discussion about ownership of the property and noting that the number of vehicles has increased significantly in the last few weeks, Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to refer this issue to counsel. The motion carried unanimously.

In other zoning issues, the board reviewed the situation at 1390 Sherwood Street. Siding of the house has been finished, the front of the burned garage has been repaired although the back of the garage has not. By consensus, the board tabled this issue until the 2021 road inspection. Cleanup of 1255 Royal Heights Lane has been basically completed and this issue will be removed from the agenda. Regarding 1605 Royal Heights Lane, the issue of living in campers has not been resolved. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to forward this issue to counsel for review and recommendation. The motion carried unanimously. Regarding 10696 Pine Bough Road, the board reviewed the letter received from the owner explaining that, although the recreational vehicle was used regularly by a family member, it was not used as a dwelling and has no septic connection. The board noted that had this extensive explanation been given at the outset, no further actions would have been necessary. Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to remove this item from the agenda. The motion carried unanimously. Without input from Zoning Inspector Kemen, the situation at 764 Greeley Road was tabled until December.

Deputy Clerk Schneider and Clerk Swanson reported that a second successful meeting had been held with the website designer and that finalization is waiting on his drafting a manual of instructions.

Road Superintendent Saumer reported that Tom Lundeen will be returning in the future to complete tree cutting on Timber Lane and to begin on Raspberry Road South.

Clerk Swanson reported that a final report of CARES Act funding had been submitted to Minnesota Management and Budget showing expenditures of \$19,600.73 and the return of \$8674.27 in unused funds to the county. This report includes the expenditures for COVID-19 related election upgrades and the audio/video upgrades to the town hall to facilitate remote meetings. Supervisor Pearson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

WO \_\_\_\_\_ MP \_\_\_\_\_ JS \_\_\_\_\_ DS \_\_\_\_\_

New Business:

Chair Olson moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve Resolution #2020-7 designating the town hall as the annual polling place for 2021 and the place for absentee voting for the March 2021 town election. The motion carried unanimously. Said resolution shall be part of these minutes.

There were no new zoning issues. Chair Olson announced that the security system is now working and that this issue will be removed from the agenda.

After discussion, Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson seconded, to set up a propane/gas/oil account with Beaudry Oil. Road Superintendent Saumer will handle the paperwork. The motion carried 2-0-1 with Supervisors Pearson and Schlaeger voting "Aye" and Chair Olson abstaining. Chair Olson's abstention related to his employment with Beaudry Oil.

Chair Olson noted that a thank you letter had been sent to Tisha Houle for providing goodies to the election judges on election day and that a note had been received from Janet Hawkinson thanking the board for the wood chips delivered to her and expressing her appreciation for being part of the election "crew" in 2020. On behalf of the board, Chair Olson expressed his thanks to those involved in the election.

FYI:

Chair Olson reported that the 911 address sign had been mounted (thanks to Road Superintendent Saumer) and that the Jurek garage variance had been filed with the Pine County Recorder. Clerk Swanson reported that filings for one supervisor position and one treasurer position will open on 29 December and remain open for a two-week period. The election will be 9 March 2021.

The next town board meeting will be 15 December 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the town hall

At 8:15 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Pearson 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