

Royalton Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006  
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29 July 2025  
Approved

7:30 p.m., 29 July 2025, Chair Jeff Schlaeger called the Royalton Township regular board meeting to order, with Supervisors John Graham and Pete Belland, Treasurer Jenessa Saumer, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson, Building Official Caleb Christenson, and Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, along with members of the public also attended. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Graham moved, Supervisor Belland seconded, to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of Maple Shores sign and Studt's Lake culvert. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Graham moved, Supervisor Belland seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of 24 June 2025 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Saumer read her May report, noting that as of 1 May 2025, the township had a beginning balance of \$336,018.04 in the treasury. Deposits were \$731.57, disbursements were \$14,231.92, with an ending bank balance on 31 May 2025 of \$333,314.90. Outstanding checks were \$10,797.21 and a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$51,058.42 was in place, leaving a spendable balance of \$271,459.27. Treasurer Saumer then read her June report, noting that as of 1 June 2025, the township had a beginning balance of \$322,517.69 in the treasury. Deposits were \$123,505.84, disbursements were \$40,409.62, with an ending balance on 30 June 2025 of \$440,949.65. Outstanding checks were \$36,394.16 and a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$51,058.42 was in place, leaving a spendable balance of \$354,555.49. Supervisor Belland moved, Supervisor Graham seconded, to approve the report. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Schlaeger called for discussion of checks #11579-11610 in the amount of \$21,122.14, with checks 11579-11584 being void. Supervisor Belland moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to approve payment of the checks as presented. The motion carried unanimously with Chair Schlaeger and Supervisors Graham and Belland voting "Aye."

Planning Commission recommendations:

Clerk Swanson presented the draft security camera policy, noting that the planning commission had recommended preliminary approval of the draft with the recommendation that it be sent to legal counsel for review. Supervisor Graham moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to approve the draft and to submit it to legal counsel for review. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Schlaeger then instructed members to review carefully the four draft ordinance documents submitted by Couri & Ruppe Attorney Mark Allseits in May. These drafts eliminated references to cannabis but retained the other recommendations. These drafts will be considered at the next working planning commission meeting as well as additional recommendations from Administrators Thompson and Kemen relating to both septic and zoning regulations.

Chair Schlaeger noted the planning commission's recommendation to approve the variance application of Paul Beseman (8827 Maple Shores Drive, PID 295075000) for relief from the setback requirements of the town's septic ordinance. The configuration of the lot size, the existing structures on it, and the placement of the existing septic system combine to make it impossible for the setbacks to be met. Members reviewed the draft explanation of, and justification for, the variance. Administrators Thompson and Kemen endorsed the draft statement dated 29 July 2025. Chair Schlaeger moved, Member Graham seconded, to approve the variance, noting that the unique characteristics of the lot

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justify it and that it does not set a precedent for future variance requests, and to authorize the clerk to file said variance with the Pine County Recorder. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Schlaeger noted the planning commission's recommendation for approval of a four-foot by five-foot sign at the entrance to the Maple Shores community. This sign would be more than thirty feet off the road right-of-way and would be erected in the same location as the currently deteriorated sign. Chair Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Graham seconded, to approve. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Septic issues: Regarding PID 295231000 (1995 Royal Heights Lane), it appears that the owners are continuing to clean up the property. No action is required at this time.

Zoning issues: Regarding PID 295137000 (5214 Royal Woods Road), the jury trial has been postponed until 18 August in Pine County District Court; the owner and Zoning Administrator Kemen have been in discussion about site and building permits required by the court. Those negotiations are ongoing. No additional action has been taken regarding PID 290043000 (8011 Cabin Drive).

Road issues: Road Superintendent Saumer noted that graveling of the roads on the 2025 list will begin the first week in August. This includes approximately 1391 cubic yards of gravel on 540<sup>th</sup> Street; Nessel Township will spread the gravel and reimburse Royalton for one-half the gravel cost. Superintendent Saumer will coordinate with Nessel's road personnel. No further complaints on the possible misuse of Hummingbird Road have been received and Superintendent Saumer has noted no further destructive activity. This issue will be removed from the agenda. Road Supervisor Belland is waiting on residents along Apple Road before discussing the possibility of chloriding it. Supervisor Belland reported sending culvert/ditching proposals to six potential firms. Two firms have submitted quotes, one firm has declined, and the town is waiting for responses from the remainder.

Campus building issues: The camera security policy update was earlier in this meeting. Travis Kemen continues to work on the website domain change. Chair Schlaeger reported that weather has delayed additional work on the picnic shelter structure; picnic tables have been ordered, and delivery is anticipated shortly. The cabinetry in the supplies room has been rearranged and Superintendent Saumer will be repairing the wall where one unit was removed. Clerk Swanson reported that the lumber company will set a time to replace the broken window in the kitchen. The board discussed payment for the broken window that happened during a hall rental. Kaycie Smith, seven-years-old, addressed the board expressing her sorrow that her actions resulted in this damage. The board thanked her for accepting responsibility. After noting that the rental agreement states that renters accept responsibility for damage done during a rental, the board, by consensus, decided that the renter's \$200 damage deposit be cashed and that the remaining balance of \$398.27 be assessed to the renters. The renting family agreed to this assessment.

The board discussed the fire district consultant's request to meet with representatives of the township to express the township's expectations for the study, especially as it relates to costs and improved fire service. Chair Schlaeger offered to meet with the consultant prior to a potential presentation to the full board at a later time. Clerk Swanson will attempt to arrange the meetings.

New Business:

As directed by the board, Clerk Swanson presented a draft letter to owners of 5583 Royal River Road (PID 295098000) requesting cleanup of junk. Supervisor Graham noted that his recent inspection of the property had revealed significant cleanup. By consensus, the board concluded that no action was warranted at this time.

Chair Schlaeger noted the District 7 Minnesota Association of Townships meeting notice for Tuesday, 19 August at the Anoka Ramsey Community College campus in Cambridge.

Clerk Swanson noted that Royalton's share of town aid for 2026 will be \$2,936, up from \$2,336 in 2025.

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Supervisor Belland reported that water levels in Studt's Lake had risen dramatically. He and Superintendent Saumer had determined the major cause to be vegetation around the fencing that prevents beaver from building dams in the culvert. Preliminary cleaning has resulted in a lower lake level, but more permanent solutions will be sought.

Public Forum:

Joe Zappa, representing erba,inc., noted that the company is now the owner of 7440 Cabin Drive and that a three-phase electrical line to the property along Harvest has been installed by East Central Energy. Mr. Zappa then encouraged the board to consider non-residents to be part of a reconstituted planning commission, noting that numerous non-residents are landowners and are committed to the health and welfare of the town.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

FYI:

Chair Schlaeger reported that the June report of new residence building permits had been submitted to the US census bureau.

The next working planning commission meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., 12 August 2025.

The next regular planning commission will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 26 August 2025.

The reconvened town annual meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 26 August, prior to the start of the regular meeting of the town board meeting.

At 8:10 p.m., Supervisor Belland moved, Chair Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Jeff Schlaeger, Chair

John Graham, Vice-Chair

Pete Belland, Supervisor

Jenessa M. Saumer, Treasurer