

Royalton Township Annual Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com -- Website: www.royaltontownship.com

12 March 2019

Unapproved

8:15 p.m., Tuesday, 12 March 2019, Clerk Duane Swanson called the Royalton Township annual meeting to order, with approximately 20 residents and 1 guest present. The assembly recited the pledge of allegiance.

8:17 p.m., The assembly's first order of business was to elect a moderator. Wayne Olson nominated and John DeGray seconded the nomination of Wayde Lerbs; Jeff Schleger moved, Patrice DeGray seconded, to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Lerbs. The motion carried. Mr. Lerbs assumed the chair and stated the order of business.

8:19 p.m., Greg Schneider moved, Wayne Olson seconded, to adopt the agenda as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

8:20 p.m., Patrice DeGray moved, Marshall Pearson seconded, to dispense with the reading of the annual meeting minutes of 13 March 2018 and the reconvened annual meeting minutes of 28 August 2018 because they were printed in the annual meeting packet that was available to each attendee and, further, to approve the minutes of both meetings as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

Patrice Pearson moved, Steve Saumer seconded, to approve the treasurer's report as read and as printed in the annual meeting packet. The report showed a total worth of the township of \$380,018.74, with no indebtedness and no additional investments. The motion carried unanimously.

8:21 p.m., Clerk Swanson noted that the annual road report, as required by statute, and the supplemental reports of the board and planning commission were included in the annual meeting packet. Marshall Pearson moved, Greg Schneider seconded, to dispense with the reading of the road report and to approve the report as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Lerbs called for general discussion of items of concern: Several electors questioned why the township still has a ten-acre minimum acreage for unplatted lots, noting that, in their opinion, it makes tillable land occasionally unusable because of the small size of fields. One option suggested included a 2.5-acre minimum with a maximum of four parcels per forty and the requirement that the remaining parcels not be split again. The meeting consensus seemed to be that the planning commission should review this issue.

DPS____ WL____

Moderator Lerbs noted that the current ordinance requires that all landowners within a mile of a property proposing a conditional or interim use permit be notified of the public hearing on such a permit request. This mandate has proved costly to the township, and he recommended that the ordinance language be reconsidered.

Finally, several residents of the Royal River Run developments noted that progress has been made by private parties on removing trees and adding gravel to the roads in the hope that the township could take a wider role in the maintenance of the roads in these developments.

8:34 p.m., The election judges submitted the abstract of votes for the township election that concluded at 8:00 p.m. Moderator Lerbs read the results: 126 electors voted in person and 5 electors voted absentee for a total vote of 131. For supervisor (three-year term), Jeff Schlaeger received 122 votes and Troy Downing received 9 votes, for a total of 131 ballots. For treasurer (two-year term) Wendy Tchida received 119 votes; two write-in votes; and 10 blank ballots for a total of 131 ballots.

8:35 p.m., Patrice DeGray moved, Priscilla Schneider seconded, to allow the board to initiate specific road openings, vacations, or alterations as deemed necessary. The motion carried unanimously.

8:36 p.m., Patrice Pearson moved, Greg Schneider seconded, to authorize the town board to maintain and conduct business for the town as needed under Minnesota Statutes 365.10: subdivisions 1-18, as well as other statutes requiring approval or prior authorization at the annual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

8:42 p.m., Substantial discussion followed on whether or not to expend town funds to recognize retirees, volunteers or special service efforts. Concerns expressed included how costly this might be, what precedents it may set, and whether or not this would be fair to those who were unrecognized in the past. Patrice DeGray moved, Aimee Iverson seconded, to authorize the board to expend up to \$50 per occurrence on such efforts. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:44 p.m., Wayne Olson moved, Marshall Pearson seconded, to convene and call to order the next annual meeting at 8:15 p.m., 10 March 2020 (the second Tuesday in March). The motion carried unanimously.

8:52 p.m., Moderator Lerbs noted that the board had recommended a 2020 levy as follows: General fund, \$129,000; road and bridge fund at \$70,000; and fire fund at \$20,000 for a total levy of \$219,000. Moderator Lerbs noted that this levy had remained constant for several years. He explained that the annual meeting could set a levy at this meeting or the annual meeting could

be recessed until a later date for finalization of the levy. Some attendees questioned the high fund balance that the township has. Others noted that the higher balance is necessary to fund depreciation of equipment and buildings. Leslie Orvis moved, Patrice Pearson seconded, to recess this annual meeting until 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, 27 August 2019 (prior to the regular township board meeting) at 6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006. The only business allowed at the recessed meeting would be setting of the levy. The motion carried unanimously.

8:54 p.m., Moderator Lerbs asked if there was any other business that should come before the meeting. Hearing none, Patrice Pearson moved, Steve Saumer seconded, to conclude this portion of the annual meeting and to reconvene the meeting at the time and place directed earlier. Moderator Lerbs declared this meeting recessed.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Town Clerk

Attest: Wayde Lerbs, Moderator