

Royalton Township Public Hearing Minutes

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11 March 2026

Approved

6:30 p.m., 11 March 2026, Zoning Administrator John Kemen called to order the duly posted and published hearing of the Royalton Township planning commission. Planning Commission members present: Pete Belland, Barb Dreyer, John Graham, Jeff Schlaeger, and Clerk Duane Swanson; Septic Administrator Amy Thompson also attended. Approximately twelve members of the public were in attendance.

Administrator Kemen declared the purpose of the hearing: To seek public testimony on an application of Rodney Hoover for an interim use permit to operate a tractor and equipment repair facility at 9187 Apple Road, Pine City, MN 55063 (PID 290277004). He announced the rules for the hearing as printed in the agenda. Clerk Swanson had previously distributed to attendees a draft findings of fact based upon discussions during working planning commission meetings of 10 February 2026 and the regular commission meeting of 24 February 2026. Mr. Hoover had participated in these meetings at which times the commission reviewed the elements required in the town’s zoning ordinance to be considered before the granting of an interim use permit. The commission recommended nine (9) additional restrictions to which Mr. Hoover agreed.

Administrator Kemen summarized the request. Mr. Hoover introduced himself and briefly explained his request noting that work would be in an existing building, that he would concentrate on both newer and older tractors but may expand into certain types of equipment. Administrator Kemen called for remarks from the audience. Duane Carlson, who resides on Apple Road, questioned about dust control. Administrator Kemen explained the town’s policy regarding chloriding the entire road or only a portion of it. He also noted the wide driveway culvert that would minimize water retention.

Clerk Swanson noted that the town office had received one written response endorsing this application; no other responses had been received from the eighty-one (81) letters sent to nearby property owners. Administrator Kemen explained that the next step would be for the planning commission to discuss the comments made at the public hearing and make a recommendation to the board. The board then would make a final determination. Administrator Kemen asked for any additional comments; none was offered.

At 6:40 p.m., Administrator Kemen thanked the audience for its participation and adjourned the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

ATTEST:

_____, John Kemen, Zoning Administrator
_____, Jeff Schlaeger, Chair
_____, John Graham, Member
_____, Pete Belland, Member
_____, Barb Dreyer, Member