

**Royalton Township Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006**  
**Email: [royalton@royaltontownship.com](mailto:royalton@royaltontownship.com) -- Website: [www.royaltontownship.com](http://www.royaltontownship.com)**  
**10 March 2026**  
**Approved**

8:15 p.m., Tuesday, 10 March 2026, Clerk Duane Swanson called the Royalton Township annual meeting to order, with approximately 40 residents present. Supervisors Jeff Schlaeger, John Graham, and Pete Belland and Treasurer Jenessa Saumer were present. Clerk Swanson noted that this meeting had been duly posted and published. The assembly recited the pledge of allegiance.

8:17 p.m., The assembly's first order of business was to elect a moderator. Denise Weis was nominated; no other nominations were offered, and Mrs. Weis was declared moderator. She assumed the chair and stated the order of business.

8:19 p.m., No additions to the agenda were offered.

8:20 p.m., Paul Wilkens moved, John DeGray seconded, to dispense with the reading of the annual meeting minutes of 11 March 2025 because they were printed in the annual meeting packet that was available to each attendee and, further, to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:21 p.m., Paul Wilkens moved, Patrice DeGray seconded, to dispense with the reading of the reconvened annual meeting minutes of 26 August 2025 because they were printed in the annual meeting packet that was available to each attendee and, further, to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:22 p.m., Moderator Weis noted that the treasurer's report as prepared by Treasurer Jenessa Saumer was included in the annual meeting packet. Patrice DeGray moved, Barb Dreyer seconded, to approve the treasurer's report as printed in the annual meeting packet. The report showed a township net worth of \$348,120.48 as of 31 December 2025, with no indebtedness and including a certificate of deposit for \$51,996.27 at Frandsen Bank and Trust. The motion carried with one audible dissent.

8:24 p.m., The assembly reviewed the Schedule 1 financial statement and the town financial report for 2025, both reproduced in the annual report packet. No questions were asked.

8:25 p.m., Moderator Weis noted that the annual road report, as required by statute, and the supplemental report of the board, road, and planning commission were included in the annual meeting packet. Roxanne Orvis questioned the membership list of the planning commission; it was explained that the list covers all of 2025 and that certain members served only until May, as noted in the report.

8:27 p.m., Pete Belland moved, Troy Downing seconded, to allow the board to initiate specific road openings, vacations, or alterations as deemed necessary. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:28 p.m., Duane Swanson moved, Barb Dreyer seconded, to authorize the town board to maintain and conduct business for the town as needed under Minnesota Statutes 365.10: subdivisions 1-18 [copies of the statute were part of the annual report packet], as well as other statutes requiring prior approval or prior authorization at the annual meeting. The motion carried without audible dissent.

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8:29 p.m., Joe Zappa moved, Troy Downing seconded, to authorize the board to expend funds to recognize retirees, volunteers, or special service efforts. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:30 p.m., Moderator Weis noted the town's policy to deny requests for monies from various health, social service, or community agencies, but to encourage individuals to support such agencies. Clerk Swanson noted that information had been received from the Pine County Historical Society and from New Pathways (of Cambridge). Pete Belland moved, Barb Dreyer seconded, to retain the current policy. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:32 p.m., Troy Downing moved, Patrice DeGray seconded, to convene and call to order the 2027 annual meeting at 8:15 p.m., Tuesday, 9 March 2027 (second Tuesday in March) at the Royalton Town Hall. The motion carried without audible dissent.

8:33 p.m., Moderator Weis declared that the assembly would next consider the 2027 tax levy, noting that the board had recommended the following: General Fund, \$114,000; Road and Bridge Fund, \$70,000; Fire Fund, \$46,000; Equipment Replacement Fund, \$20,000 for a total levy of \$250,000. The recommended increase will cover anticipated inflationary costs of regular operations. Troy Downing disagreed with the proposed increase saying that the increased amount was not needed and that the board needed to set a budget. Troy Downing moved, Greg Schneider seconded, to reduce the recommended levy amount by \$31,000 and returning it to the 2025 tax levy of \$219,000. During discussion Patrice DeGray noted that residents should attend the monthly meetings to be aware of what is discussed. Joe Zappa cited the need to study the tax impact on individual parcels in the town. Pete Belland noted that Pine County sets the assessed valuations of property and that until 2025 Royalton had not increased the levy for many years. Troy Downing rebutted Mr. Belland's comments by opining that too much money has been spent on graveling and maintaining town roads. By a hand vote of 14 "ayes" and 25 "nays," the amendment was defeated. Discussion returned to the main motion. It was noted that major culvert replacements will likely be needed in 2027 or 2028, especially on Hazelnut Road.

8:55 p.m., Joe Zappa moved, Paul Wilkens seconded, to amend the motion to increase the 2027 levy to the current \$240,000. By a hand vote of 32 "ayes" and 7 "nays," the amendment was adopted. At 9:02 p.m., Moderator Weis called for a hand vote on the amended motion to set the 2027 levy at \$240,000. The result was 37 "ayes" and "0" nays. The 2027 levy will be \$240,000, retaining the same fund breakdown as in 2026.

9:04 p.m., Clerk Swanson read the abstract of votes as prepared by the election judges: The election had 197 in-person voters and 13 accepted absentee voters, for a total of 210 voters. For the office of supervisor, John Graham received 91 votes, John DeGray received 78 votes, Troy Downing received 40 votes, and Doug Eklund received one write-in vote. For the office of clerk, Duane Swanson received 137 votes, Gail Downing received 68 votes, Jeffrey Jones received one write-in vote, and four ballots were blank.

9:07 p.m., Moderator Weis called for any general items of concern. Patrice DeGray recommended that the comprehensive plan of 2010 should be updated and stated that people are discouraged about the number of ordinances and that the ordinances are not being uniformly enforced. Troy Downing asked about the \$28,000 spent on legal fees; Pete Belland responded that ordinance writing needs to be done with legal assistance and that is costly. Jean Patterson wished that greater information had been available to her as a relatively new resident. Troy Downing encouraged use of Facebook and

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other social media. Denise Weis noted that the planning commission was meant to be a citizen-led body.

9:22 p.m., Patrice DeGray moved, Mary Damann seconded, to adjourn the annual meeting. The motion carried without audible dissent.

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Weis, Moderator

Attest:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk