

Royalton Township Special Board Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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23 June 2026
Approved

The special meeting of the Royalton Township board was called to order at 7:01 p.m., Tuesday, 23 June 2026, by Chair John Graham. Supervisors Jeff Schlaeger and Pete Belland, Deputy Treasurer Brenda Belland, and Clerk Duane Swanson were present. Also present were Administrative Assistant Teresa Luginbill, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, members of the planning commission, and members of the public. Attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

General administrative detail

Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Supervisor Belland seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Graham noted that the sole purpose of this meeting was to review and act upon a citizen petition presented to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) requesting preparation of an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for the erba cannabis cultivation project at 7440 Cabin Drive.

New business

Chair Graham reviewed the 113-page petition stating that the petitioners were concerned about ground water contamination, wetlands and Snake River/Pokegama Lake pollution and its impact on wild ricing, high nitrate content in wells, potential contamination by fertilizers used in drip irrigation, odors, and excessive lighting that may have an impact on residents and wildlife.

Clerk Swanson reviewed the designation by the EQB of the township as the responsible governmental unit (RGU) noting that the designation was largely due to the fact that the township has "open" site permits for three proposed structures at the facility. Discussions between Pine County officials and the EQB were unsuccessful in transferring the RGU status to Pine County.

Clerk Swanson noted that the town's responsibilities under Minnesota Rules, chapter 4410, included determining if the petition had sufficient evidence to warrant the production of an EAW, that the EQB had approved a 15-day extension because the township meets only once per month, and that a decision had to be made at this meeting to comply with the EQB's extended deadline.

Chair Graham adjusted the agenda and offered those who had submitted written comments an opportunity to address the board. Denise Weis, petitioners' representative, noted the lack of a business plan for the new structures and significant community concerns about the operation as it relates to water pollution, lighting, odor, wildlife disruption, and potential groundwater contamination. Planning Commission Member Barb Dreyer stressed groundwater concerns,

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environmental review process. Denise Weis noted that Pine County is not looking at a business plan for the facility. Gary Folkestad noted that this is a bigger enterprise than ordinary. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson noted that nitrates exist everywhere in agricultural waste and lawn fertilizer and to point to a single source was without merit; she also noted that the costs could be between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

At this point, Chair Graham reminded audience members that there should be no cross talking among audience members. The public forum was declared closed.

Chair Graham called for a motion to approve the resolution adopting the petition. None was offered.

Chair Graham called for a motion to approve the resolution denying the petition. Supervisor Belland moved, Supervisor Schlaeger seconded, to approve Resolution 2026-03 denying the petition for an environmental review of the cannabis facility at 7440 Cabin Drive and to forward copies of the resolution to the EQB and to the petitioner's representative (Denise Weis). The motion carried unanimously. A copy of said resolution shall be part of these minutes.

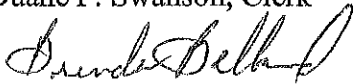
[Subsequent to the meeting, on 24 June 2026, copies of the approved resolution were transmitted via email to the EQB and to Mrs. Weis, with a request that their receipt be acknowledged.]

At 8:06 p.m., Supervisor Schlaeger moved, Chair Graham seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

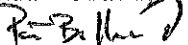
Respectfully submitted,



Duane P. Swanson, Clerk



Brenda Belland, Deputy Treasurer



Pete Belland, Supervisor

John Graham, Chair/Supervisor



Jeff Schlaeger, Supervisor

