

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
February 21, 2024

Vice Chair Floyd called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sup Richard Floyd, Sup Frank Sherman, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance. Sup Soderberg and Sup Chiabotti were on Zoom due to being away on vacation. Sup Monahan-Junek was on Zoom due to illness.

Unless otherwise stated a roll call vote was taken and motions carried unanimously.

Agenda

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the agenda for the February 21, 2024.
Motion carried.

Minutes

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2024 Budget Prep meeting. Sup Floyd, Sup Soderberg, Sup Chiabotti, Sup Sherman aye. Sup Monahan-Junek abstains. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting as amended. Motion carried.

Changes to minutes:

In second paragraph in the January minutes a reason needs to be given if a supervisor is attending the meeting via Zoom. Sup Sherman should be shown as attending via Zoom as he was away due to being on vacation.

The second paragraph of the buildings and grounds section, take the second word "gave" out after the word "supervisor".

Add Emergency Preparedness to the secondary responsibilities for Sup Monahan-Junek.

The paragraph above the donation resolution, 2nd sentence, add the word "for" between Supervisor Sherman and review.

Two paragraphs above the donation resolution there is a misspelling of the word "secretary".

In the voided checks there was an extra 1 in a check number. It was removed.

Because check 11021 was voided there needs to be a comma between checks number 11020 and 11022.

Communications List Approval

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the communications list. Motion carried.

Remove the Minnesota Telecommunication invoice from communications.

Citizens' concerns

Nothing at this time.

Reports

Clerk:

Sup Chiabotti will work with Clerk Drange to update the rental agreement for groups and he will speak with the crafting groups to clarify that township business will supersede group activities when the hall is needed.

Clerk Drange posted mail in ballot notice at the township and sent township residents a postcard to make them aware of mail in ballot procedures.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$20,844.26 claim numbers 4810-4829 and check numbers 11306-11310;11312-11324.

Payroll in the amount of \$4,491.67 and check numbers 11283-11305.

The total amount for payroll and claims is \$25,336.13.

EFT: 11311,11325

Jan withholding \$1,705.70

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to approve the Treasurer's report. Sup Floyd, Sup Monahan-Junek, Sup Sherman aye. Sup Soderberg and Sup Chiabotti abstain. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to approve payroll and claims. Sup Floyd, Sup Monahan-Junek, Sup Sherman aye. Sup Soderberg and Sup Chiabotti abstain. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds:

Large heater in the lower hall could not be repaired and needed to be replaced for \$2000. The gas heater was also not repairable and needed to be replaced for \$2900. A scissor lift rental for \$200 was needed to install gas heater.

Coils were installed in the furnace for the air conditioning system and condenser outside will be installed when the weather is warmer.

When Sup Chiabotti returns, he will set up a time with the MN Department of Health to have the water in the hall tested.

Fire Report: On File.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg accept check for \$200 from Lois Carlson for the printing of the map books. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to spend up to \$1000 for a new fire secretary laptop. Motion carried.

Roads:

The roads only needed to be plowed three times this winter.

Jim Foldesi, St. Louis County Public Works Director, has not responded to the letter that was sent to him regarding the flat tires on Trygg road.

Mr. Foldesi has also not responded to Sup Floyd when he requested the county driveway ordinance.

Land, website and broadband:

New website is continuing to be updated. Sup Soderberg, Sup Monahan-Junek, Mary Beth Monte and Keely Drange attended a training with Chris Ellerbroek on how to update the website. Clerk Drange will continue to update and fix errors Sup Soderberg has pointed out.

Sup Soderberg reported that there was a Zoom call with St. Louis County Planning and Zoning Staff. Upon Sup Soderberg's return he hopes that he can start talks with Andrea Zupancich and Ross Peterson on what their thoughts are regarding changes to the overall county ordinance.

Sup Monahan-Junek is trying to set up another meeting with CTC broadband to talk about broadband expansion within the township.

Treehouse Broadband has an internet repeater on the east side of Eagles Nest Lake One and is actively trying to recruit customers. Treehouse will try until the end of June to sign more customers up and if by then he hasn't gotten more customers he will disconnect service.

Sup Soderberg has heard nothing from the Kromers or Turner-Ryans on what they want to have on the Park Land Property.

When Sup Soderberg returns, he will discuss with Sup Sherman, sending a sternly worded letter to the Turner-Ryan and Kromers about removing their personal property from the Park Land.

Sup Monahan-Junek gave a brief report from the ATV meeting. Commissioner McDonald, Julie Marinucci, Jim Foldesi, Ron Potter, Sup Monahan-Junek, Sup Floyd, Greg Junek and Ren Graham were all in attendance. Initial discussion centered around a northern route through the township. The DNR thinks that the rail road grade may have a prescriptive easement over some parcels of private property. MNDOT needs to be consulted when trails cross the State highway or run parallel to the highway in the right of way. Bob Manzoline of the Regional Rail Authority isn't thrilled but ok with an ATV trail running parallel with the bike trail. If an EAW needs to be done on the northern route to obtain funding and permits it may take up to two years. A private landowner has said that he does not want a busy ATV trail running through his property. Resident Ren Graham had asked several times why a route through the township was even necessary when there was already a southern route. Resident Greg Junek pointed out that the northern route is only 7.5 miles longer than the shortest route through township. Commissioner McDonald feels that a sound study may alleviate the township's concerns with the central route. There were questions on the neutrality of the company doing the sound study. Sup Floyd and Sup Monahan-Junek stated that the central route was a non-starter and may discuss a compromise on the northern route. Sup Monahan-Junek did not feel it was appropriate or correct that Eagles Nest Township need to sacrifice anything for others enjoyment. Commissioner McDonald will try and put together a meeting in March. At the next meeting he is hoping that Representative Skraba and a few other county staff that were unable to attend this meeting will be present.

The board has not received the sound study of the Gilbert OHV park that was requested.

Emergency Preparedness/water:

Urbans resigned from smokey the bear sign updating. We still need someone to update smokey sign

during fire season.

Smaller burn ban in effect signs will still be used. Larger signs will be made with the same language as the smaller signs and used on larger intersections within the township and current signs will be used for smaller intersections within the township.

Outreach and Networking:

The legislative session has started. Township Days at the capitol are April 8 & 9. The director of MAT would like to expand the presence of townships at Township Days. In the past the event was almost exclusively attended by those from county units. If someone from the board was to attend and have the township be seen it may help to gain MAT's assistance on local issues.

Old Business:

The Tower Ambulance Commission has a meeting next Monday. There is a new proposed agreement between Tower and the entities served by the Tower Area Ambulance Service. The Agreement would cover three years as opposed to an annual contribution. The proposed timeline is from the beginning of 2024 to 2026. It is proposed that the rate would go up from \$15 per capita per year to \$25 per capita per year and is based on the 2020 census results. The township would be paying \$5,650 per year for three years. Money received from the communities served by the Tower Ambulance would be in a restricted account. The City of Tower will not have access to the money unless the Tower Ambulance Commission approves of its expenditure. This commission was formed only to fund the purchase of a new ambulance and not to supplement the ambulance operations.

The Tower Ambulance Ad Hoc committee is still meeting but the idea of having a joint powers board will not continue. Ambulance operations in Tower are not sustainable. What is likely to happen is that the entities served by the Tower Area Ambulance would contribute to a fund to support the ambulance operations. That fund would be regulated by those entities similar to the ambulance purchase fund.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to increase the rate from \$15 to \$25 per capita per year to support ambulance subsidy. Motion carried.

Website covered in Land, Website and Broadband report.

New Business:

There is no representative for the Township on the Joint Powers Recreation Board. In order to remove ourselves from the Joint Powers group it requires the board to give this group 90 days notice.

Sup Monahan-Junek moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to write a letter to the Joint Powers Board giving 90 days' notice that Eagles Nest would no longer be a member of the Joint Powers Recreation Board. Motion carried.

Earned Safe and Sick Time policy and resolution:

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the Earned Safe and Sick Time policy and resolution for Eagles Nest. Motion carried.

Job Descriptions for Fire and ENCEP Secretary:

Amend the salary resolution to be on an hourly basis as opposed to salaried for the Fire and ENCEP Secretary. Paid at the hourly rate of \$21 per hour.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to move the Fire and ENCEP secretary from salaried to hourly at the rate of \$21 per hour, effective February 1, 2024. Motion carried.

Sup Monahan-Junek requests an amendment to the motion to have the hourly start on February 1st.
Motion carried.

Board will look at the job descriptions at the next meeting.

Supervisor Concerns:

Sup Sherman suggests that the township use American Rescue Plan money to purchase outside exercise equipment to promote wellness for township residents.

Sup Monahan-Junek suggests that we use the American Rescue Plan funds for fire and EMS needs.

It was suggested that at the next meeting there was a list of categories of what American Rescue Plan funds can be used for.

An article in Star tribune suggests that CWD may be able to jump from deer to humans. The most contact between deer is caused by deer feeding. Sup Sherman asks that folks do not feed deer to prevent the spread of CWD. He may provide this information on the website.

Sup Soderberg will be zooming at the April meeting.

Adjournment:

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk