

**Minutes**  
**EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND REORGANIZATION MEETING**  
**January 17, 2024**

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

Sup Richard Floyd, Sup Kurt Soderberg, Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek, Sup Dave Chiabotti Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance. Sup Frank Sherman attended via Zoom as he was out of the country for vacation.

Unless otherwise stated, all votes are roll call and motions carried unanimously.

**Agenda**

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the agenda for the January 17, 2024 BOS Meeting.  
Amended to change the order of the fire report (fire report first on agenda) and added budget approval to new business. Motion carried.

**Fire Report:** On File.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to purchase a new computer for fire. Motion carried.  
Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to purchase a new litter for the fire department.

**Minutes**

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. Sup Chiabotti, Floyd, Monahan-Junek and Soderberg aye. Sup Sherman abstains. Motion carried.

**Communications List Approval**

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the communications list. Sup Chiabotti, Floyd, Monahan-Junek and Soderberg aye. Sup Sherman abstains. Motion carried.

**Citizens' concerns**

Andy Urban noted that many residents have the same contractor as the new township plowing person, Aaron Nicholson, and that driveways were plowed before the road. Sup Floyd acknowledged the roads should have been plowed earlier. He had planned to have the plowing done the following morning after all traces of snowfall had stopped, but the short-term forecast for the snow to dwindle turned out to be drastically wrong, and instead, heavy snowfall continued. Further, he explained that there are different sized equipment and different operators that plow the roads and driveways within Nicholson's company. Residents of the township are often confused by who plows what road within the township. Andy Urban suggested having a list or map that shows who plows what road and it could be put on the website.

Sup Floyd will provide a list of who is the entity that plows each road. Clerk Drange will work with Sup Floyd to produce a map representation of the roads and who plows. Sup Soderberg will get both of these posted on the website when it is fully operational.

**Reports**

**Clerk:**

Clerk Drange returned the Automark machine to St. Louis County. We do not need the Omni Ballot as we are going to be mail in vote. If we switch back to in person voting we will get this machine.

Clerk Drange will mail out an election postcard to residents of Eagles Nest as well as post in the paper reminders of mail in ballots.

The county has set the 2024 LBAE meeting for Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>. The board had no objections to this date. Clerk Drange will respond to the County to let them know this date is ok.

June 19 is a federal holiday and there is a BOS meeting that is set to fall on that holiday. The board moved this meeting to the week prior of June 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month).

Frontier will be canceled when CTC phone service is installed.

**Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$20,823.16 claim numbers 4786-4809 and check numbers 11258-11268, 11270, 11272-11274, 11276-11278. 11280.

Payroll in the amount of \$3,920.53 and check numbers 11240-11255, 11257.

The total amount for payroll and claims is \$24,743.69.

EFT: 11269, 11275, 11279,

Voided Check # 11256, 11271, 11281 November Withholding: \$1,399.78

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve payroll and claims as noted with a \$35 correction made to Superior Fuel charge as stated by the treasurer. Sup Chiabotti, Floyd, Monahan-Junek and Soderberg aye. Sup Sherman abstains. Motion carried.

W2's mailed. W4 will need to be updated by everyone for 2024.

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

**Building and Grounds:**

Sup Chiabotti gave supervisors bid sheets for replacements of lights. Bids on file.

Sup Sherman and Mary Beth Monte, members of the fire department, suggest that LED (the lower price option) would be more than adequate.

Sup Chiabotti moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to accept the \$2,750 bid to retro fit current fixtures with LED bulbs in the fire hall, Motion carried.

Sup Chiabotti will replace burnt out bulbs in the hall without replacing the ballast as removing the ballasts would mean that all the bulbs in the hall would need to be replaced and would cost much more.

Sup Chiabotti is still waiting to hear back on commercial rebates and will report out when he has that information.

Work has been scheduled to repair the large heater in the lower hall for \$500.

Bid for air conditioning unit and installation is \$6800 and \$1200 for wiring.

Sup Chiabotti moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to accept the bids and for air conditioning to be installed in the hall. Sup Chiabotti, Floyd, Sherman and Soderberg aye. Sup Monahan-Junak abstains. Motion carried.

Sup Chiabotti states that the rodent problem in the hall has been controlled.

### **Roads:**

Aaron Nicholson has two trucks for plowing: a large dump truck (former county plow truck) with a wing plow and a large pick-up truck. Both trucks are out plowing at the same time after snowfall.

Sup Floyd questioned the latest bill from JPJ Engineering on behalf of Low Impact Excavators, in the amount of \$10,629.60 which differed from the original contract due to some additions and subtractions of materials and work. These changes include adding 20 ft. of length to each culvert, subtracted three aprons from the culverts, added 20 cu. yds. of riprap, added 40 sq. yds. of erosion control blankets, and 72 cu. yds. of top soil. A change order was signed before changes were made.

### **Land, website and broadband:**

CTC broadband meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Sup Soderberg showed how the new website will look. The board noted changes to be made before the website will "go live". Sup Soderberg will pass these changes on to Chris Ellerbroek

### **Emergency Preparedness/water:**

ENCEP Meeting tomorrow evening (January 18).

### **Outreach and Networking:**

Sup Monahan-Junak will bring a draft of the township Earned Sick and SaFe Time policy for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Driveway Ordinance**

Sup Floyd would like to put the Driveway Ordinance discussion in abeyance until the March meeting when Sup Sherman is present. This ordinance (if adopted) would only apply to driveways coming into township roads. Sup Floyd will distribute copies of the final driveway ordinance before the next meeting for review.

#### **Short Term Rentals**

The county has stated that they will rely on the County Planning Commission to look at potential changes to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. The County is opening up Ordinance 62 to be revised for several other issues and they have stated they will not have another overlay district. If changes are to be made to Short Tern Rental policy it should be within County Ordinance 62 and it was suggested that the township should reach out to members of the County Planning Commission. From current discussions with the Planning Commission, it appears that the township is more in line with the County Planning Commission than the County Board.

#### **Park Land**

Sup Soderberg has not heard back from the Turner-Ryan estate or the Kromers.

Sup Soderberg will discuss further with Sup Sherman and the Park Land Committee the possibility of

accepting the Park Land out lot in front of the McCubbin's to potentially charge fees for having a dock on the Park Land out lot.

**Trygg Road**

Sup Soderberg drafted a letter to James Foldesi of St. Louis County regarding Trygg road issues.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd that the board send a letter to James Foldesi and copied to the County Commissioner as well as the County Board regarding the issues on Trygg Road. Sup Floyd, Monahan-Junek, Chiabotti and Soderberg aye. Sherman abstains. Motion carried with a changed noted. The change: In the last paragraph "the problem is likely to occur" to "the problem is almost bound to occur".

**New Business:**

**Budget approval:**

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the proposed 2025 Budget in the amount of \$373,480 with a requested levy in the amount of \$247,500 that will be submitted to the annual meeting. Sup Floyd, Sherman, Chiabotti and Soderberg aye. Sup Monahan-Junek abstains. Motion carried.

**Reorganization:**

Sup Floyd nominated Sup Chiabotti as Chairman. Sup Soderberg, Monahan-Junek, Floyd and Sherman aye. Sup Chiabotti abstains. Motion Carried.

Sup Soderberg nominates Sup Floyd as Vice-Chairman. Sup Soderberg, Monahan-Junek, Chiabotti and Sherman aye. Sup Floyd abstains. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to accept the supervisor responsibilities as listed. Motion carried.

| Supervisor    | Primary Responsibility                   | Secondary Responsibility             |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sherman       | <i>Fire/Emergency Preparedness/Water</i> | <i>Buildings and Grounds</i>         |
| Chiabotti     | <i>Building and Grounds</i>              | <i>Roads/water</i>                   |
| Monahan-Junek | Outreach and Networking                  | <i>Website/broad-band/Fire/ENCEP</i> |
| Floyd         | <i>Roads</i>                             | <i>Lands</i>                         |
| Soderberg     | <i>Lands, Broadband and Website</i>      | <i>Outreach and Networking</i>       |

There will be discussion of financial responsibilities at a later date. After financial responsibility description has been drafted

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to accept the 2024 BOS meeting calendar as presented by the clerk. Motion carried.

**General Resolution**

In the general resolution on #10 change "and" to "the" annual LBAE meeting.

Change Interim Chief to Chief as the township formerly accepts Ted Kruger as our Chief as opposed to interim Chief.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to accept the 2024 general resolution with noted changes. Motion carried.

### **Financial Resolution**

Changed Boundary Waters Bank to Highland Bank (2 locations).

Sup Floyd moved and Seconded by Sup Soderberg to accept the 2024 Financial Resolution with noted changes.

### **Salaries Resolution**

Sup Soderberg suggests an increase for hourly positions from \$20 per hour to \$21 per hour.

Sup Floyd suggests that all other salaried positions should be raised by the COLA adjustment of 3.4%.

Supervisor salaries raised from \$200 per month to \$207 per month.

Clerk raise from \$1000 per month to \$1034 per month.

Treasurer from \$810 per month to \$838 per month.

Fire Chief from \$795 per month to \$822 per month.

Assistant Fire Chief from \$400 per month to \$414 per month.

Director of Emergency management from \$400 per month to \$414 per month.

ENCEP and Fire Secretary from \$95 per month to \$98 per month.

Fire Department Training Officer from \$100 per month to \$103 per month.

Clerk Drange asked that her raise be given to Mary Beth Monte for Fire Department & ENCEP Secretary duties. A review of ENCEP and Fire secretary salary will happen a later meeting. Mary Beth Monte states that the salary is based in her working only 4 hours per month. She stated that she generally works over 10 hours a month just a fire secretary and over four on average for ENCEP duties. Mary Beth has been tracking her overage hours on her time sheet for the past few years. Chief Kruger may not even be aware that some of the duties that Mary Beth Monte is doing are what Chief McCray did.

Sup Sherman suggests that we should not cut the fire chief's salary as it is hard to find a qualified fire chief. However, we should recognize Mary Beth for all she does for the fire department.

There will be a review of the fire chief's position description and revisit the salary discussion for ENCEP and fire secretary at a later date. Mary Beth will send a position description for her position and for the Chief's position to Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Sherman for review before the next Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the discussed changes to the 2024 salary resolution. Motion carried.

### **Donation Resolution**

Sup Sherman moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to accept the donation of \$10,000 from the Eagles Nest Fire and EMS Auxiliary to the Eagles Nest Fire Department. Motion Carried.

Sup Monahan-Junek suggested that in the future the “accepting donations” resolution should be moved to the same calendar year (December meeting) that the donations were received in rather than the following year (the January meeting).

### **Supervisor Concerns**

Sup Soderberg and Sup Chiabotti will be zooming in for the February meeting.

Sup Monahan-Junek would like to have a discussion at a meeting or separate workshop, when all the supervisors are back, of what the township priorities are.

Sup Floyd reported that a member of the public asked that Sup Monahan-Junek recuse herself for comments she made regarding her opinion on Park Land matters. Sup Floyd reached out to the township attorney who responded that “supervisors should rarely recuse themselves but should instead do what is right for the township”.

Sup Monahan-Junek responded that she has a first amendment right just as much as the public to have an opinion on this matter.

Sup Sherman thanks Sup Floyd for his service as chairman for 20+ years.

### **Adjournment:**

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to adjourn. Motion carried.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Keely Drange, Clerk**