

MINUTES
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
September 21, 2021

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

Sup Richard Floyd, Sup DeAnn Schatz, Sup Kurt Soderberg, Sup Frank Sherman, Fire Chief Larry McCray, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and Deputy Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance.

Unless otherwise stated, all motions carried unanimously.

Agenda, Minutes and Communications List Approval

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to approve the agenda, as amended for the September 21, 2021 Board of Supervisor meeting

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 BOS meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the minutes for the September 3, 2021 special meeting. 3 ayes (Floyd, Soderberg and Sherman) and 1 abstention (Schatz). Motion carried.

Sup Schatz moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the Communications List for September 21, 2021 as amended. Motion carried.

Citizens' Concerns: n/a

Reports

Clerk: Nothing at this time

Treasurers Report:

A monthly report was made by Treasurer Mary Beth Monte who presented and explained the following: Payroll and Claims List for Approval.

Claims and payroll:

Payroll checks numbers 10277 through 10288 for a total of \$3,690.22

Claims checks numbers 10289 through 10303 claim numbers 4294 through 4308 for a total of \$11,710.74

Payroll and claims total of \$15,400.96

Sup Floyd moved to approved the payroll and claims and Sup Schatz seconded. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Monte was auto billed \$160 for the 2021 zoom account usage. She would like to split the zoom bill 50/50 between the fire department and the general fund as the account will now be used by both the fire department and for township meetings. Supervisors agreed to splitting the bill between the fire department and the general fund.

Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz. to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds;

Sup Sherman detailed that the bike trail path through township property moved closer to the driveway as bedrock was discovered during the construction of the trail. The township sign has been moved and reconstructed closer to the southern property line. It is still as visible from the road as its previous location.

Maintenance issues for the lower hall continue.

A new electrical line will be put in to the upper hall to support fire equipment.

Fire: Fire report available on file.

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Soderberg seconded the approval of up to \$ 3,500 to purchase 25 new fire radios and lapel mics. Motion was approved.

Roads:

Two weeks ago roads Bobence, Moose Creek, Dorem, Swanson Shores, Migisi and Peninsula roads were graded. Some roads did not need to be graded.

Spruce Street construction will be starting soon.

Some park land, at the end of Spruce Street, has been reallocated to use as road right-of-way for a turnaround. There is a court appeal that is against the reallocation of the park land. Sup Floyd is certain that the township is within its rights to reallocate parkland for this purpose. He is not concerned about losing that appeal.

Sup Floyd explained that Low Impact Excavators did a good job of building up the bike path where Spruce Street meets the highway. Spruce Street may need to be widened a bit when Spruce Street is being constructed.

St. Louis county will need to be paid in advance for the plowing contract. Sup Floyd moved and Sup Schatz seconded to approve up to \$6,000 to pay St. Louis County for this season's plowing contract. Motion carried.

Land, water and website:

Parkland committee has attempted to get in contact with landowners adjacent to the park land.

The Parkland committee will meet on either October 1st at 5pm or the 2nd at 10 am. Sup Soderberg will post the meeting when he gets a consensus on the meeting time from the committee.

The attorney representing one of the adjacent landowners has asked to be advised of any meeting of the park land committee. He will be notified.

Tom Moore is willing to volunteer to advise on the broad band internet issue. The best option for better internet at this time is Frontier Communications.

Emergency Preparedness:

Sup Sherman wanted to remind those on the roads slated for brush pick up to fill out the information on the back of the brush pick up flyer. This includes hours spent on brush removal or dollar amounts spent to have brush removed. This information can be reported to Gloria Erickson with Firewise.

Old Business:

Candidate selection for the open supervisor position.

Each Supervisor and Clerk Drange expressed their comments on each candidate and reasoning for their selection of a candidate.

Candidate selection vote:

David Chiabotti 3 votes- Sup Floyd, Sup Soderberg and Clerk Drange

Scott Elliot: 2 Votes- Sup Schatz and Sup Sherman

David Chiabotti is elected to fill the open supervisor position.

Dave Chiabotti will receive the Oath of Office and will then become a supervisor. Clerk Drange will arrange a time with Dave Chiabotti to swear him in.

Buildings and Ground maintenance person employee versus contractor.

Sup Sherman explained that the township is not in a position to resolve the maintenance personnel issue. The current employee has not responded to Sup Sherman's attempts to contact him.

Ron Potter will not be returning to plow for the 21-22 season. The township will be searching for a new individual or company to plow.

A decision will need to be postponed until an individual(s) is identified to fill these positions. When that individual is identified the township can then address whether they have adequate insurance to be a contractor or would like to work as an employee.

Sup Floyd suggested Jeff Schulze could plow the township hall parking lot. Jeff Schulze is currently contracted to plow the township roads that St. Louis County cannot plow.

Sup Floyd will check with Jeff Schulze on the cost to plow the township hall parking lot.

New Business:

Zoom Meetings.

Clerk Drange explained that capabilities of Zoom and how Zoom meeting could be implemented for both supervisors only or to open it up for the public to attend.

Public zoom meetings pose an issue in both maintaining an orderly meeting and having enough bandwidth to maintain a large online participation.

Discussions with the township attorney have determined that supervisors attending meeting by zoom is legal. Legal questions arise from allowing the public to join meetings by Zoom and how to distribute the invite to the meeting. Meetings could be posted to the website, Facebook or the bulletin board.

Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Sherman Seconded approval for the use of zoom meetings for supervisors, officers and staff absent any objections of township counsel within the next three weeks. Motion carried.

Supervisors will look into zoom meetings for the public in the future.

Carolyn Quick contract.

Our website contractor's prices have are proposed to go up from the 20-21 contract to the 22-23.

Hosting fee went from \$725 to \$795. Domain renewal went from \$110 to \$215. Increase in website updating from \$2,700 to \$3,100. Work on new pages went from \$30 to \$40.

Members of the audience both thought her rates seemed high and some thought them reasonable.

Sup Soderberg invited anyone in the audience to send suggestions to the clerk or himself so that he can address them with Carolyn.

Carolyn's contract renewal will be tabled until next month to gather more information.

Supervisor Concerns:

Sup Soderberg explained the route that the ATV rally chose through the township using most of the original route and on to Trygg road and using the old dump road. This route was never given any public notice or a chance for the township to comment.

Sup Soderberg went on to talk about the inappropriate and dangerous behavior of some ATV riders on the day of the rally.

Chief Larry McCray lifted the burn ban. Reminded everyone that they must obtain a permit from the DNR for open burning. Campfires must be contained.

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Schatz seconded to recess the meeting until representative Rob Ecklund arrives or at the call of the chair. Motioned Carried. 6:36 pm

The meeting resumed at 6:42 pm when Representative Rob Ecklund joined the township.

Sup Floyd gave a brief introduction of Rep. Ecklund.

Rep. Ecklund said that the purpose of his visit is that many residents in Eagles Nest Township are concerned about the number of bears in their area. Rep. Ecklund wanted to talk about trying to pass legislation to institute a bear feeding ban.

Rep. Ecklund worked with the MN DNR to draft the preferred language for the legislation. This language is worded so that it will not interfere with bear hunting.

Rep. Ecklund explained that there has been proposed legislation in the recent past to institute a feeding ban and it did not pass due to some citizens being adamant against imposing this ban. He explained that it will not be easy to pass this legislation for that reason.

He will need people to come down and testify in favor of this legislation.

He will need a good co-author in the senate. Senator Bakk will need to be a part of this discussion.

Rep. Ecklund answered questions from the public on his draft legislation.

Several township residents and one nonresident spoke about their negative experiences with bears in the township.

Dr. Lynn Rogers spoke about his studies on bears and how his feeding has led to fewer nuisance bears in Eagles Nest Township.

Rep. Ecklund addressed the public regarding ATV use within the township. He explained that there will be growing pains with establishing ATV trails as there were when establishing snowmobile trails. Residents will need to work together and have good communication to find the best solution. ATV use is not going away as it is a large economic source for the shoulder seasons of tourism.

Rep. Ecklund said that the only way you will be able to get your concerns heard is to attend planning meetings and get involved in the planning process.

Several citizens spoke regarding their concerns about ATV use within the township and the lack of information so that citizens could get involved in the planning.

Sup Floyd asked if there were any other concerns people would like to bring up with Rep. Ecklund.

No further comments.

Adjournment:

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk