

MINUTES
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
November 16, 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 David Chiabotti (via ZOOM) Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte Deputy, Treasurer Gwen Potter, and Assistant Fire Chief Rob Mattson were in attendance. Sup Frank Sherman was absent.

Unless otherwise stated, all motions carried unanimously.

Agenda, Minutes and Communications List Approval

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to approve the agenda, for the November 16, 2021 Meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 BOS meeting. Motion carried.

Communications List: Sup Schatz moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the Communications List, as amended. Motion carried.

Citizens' Concerns:

An audience member would like to see the agenda online. The clerk stated the agenda would be online next month.

Reports

Clerk: Clerk stated a resolution to designate a polling place must be sent to Phil Chapman by December 31, 2021. Clerk Drange provided two draft resolutions for polling locations. One draft for Eagles Nest Town Hall as the polling location and the other would be to vote by mail or voting in person at the Virginia Government services center or Duluth Courthouse.

Sup Soderberg stated that at an Annual Meeting he moderated, the public was asked if they preferred mail in voting or in person voting. He stated that it was clear from those present at the annual meeting that they preferred mail in voting.

Sup Floyd stated the benefit of mail in voting is that is that elections are expensive to hold and mail in saves money. He said the disadvantage of mail in voting is that the township gives up control of the election. However, the next level up at the county level is just as careful as the township with vote counts.

Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Floyd seconded to approve the resolution for mail in voting.

Assistant Fire Chief Rob Mattson stated that the former township clerk gave the reason that the last elections were not held in person was the lack of election judges. Election judges did not want to serve due to the COVID pandemic. He stated that he and three others would serve as election judges if necessary.

Sup Soderberg stated that not having election judges was not his rationale behind supporting mail in voting. He thinks mail in voting is a more efficient and less costly method of holding an election.

Sup Schatz stated that she has heard from people that they like to come out and vote in person

Sup Chiabotti stated that he thinks that in person voting is primarily for social reasons. He asked how much money would it cost the township for in person voting.

Sup Floyd stated that the largest cost was the voting machine and wages for the election judges.

Sup Floyd asked whether mail in voting would see more participants than in person voting.

Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Floyd seconded to table the vote on the resolution until next meeting, when the supervisors will have gotten more information to make an informed decision. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report:

A monthly report was made by Treasurer Mary Beth Monte who presented and explained the following: Payroll, Claims, deposits and the bank statement for approval in the treasurer's report. Soderberg moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Sup Schatz. Motion carried.

Claims and payroll were reviewed.

Claims of \$42,473.50 Claim numbers 4325-4339/Check numbers 10346-10360

Payroll of \$3,677,37 Check numbers 10332-10341, 10343-10344 (a typo on the payroll and claims was noted. Minutes reflect the correction)

Voided checks 10342 (payroll check) 10345 (clerk printed)

Sup Soderberg moved to approved the payroll and claims, as corrected, and Sup Schatz seconded. Motion Carried.

Building and Grounds;

No maintenance person has been identified.

Fire: Fire report available on file.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to accept \$9,840.15 from the Fireflies for the Eagles Nest Fire Department from the 9/11 walk. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the purchase of 10 new pagers and batteries in the amount of \$4,040.00. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Rob Mattson explained the SCBA mask technical specifications, need and funding sources. He asked for the board to approve \$15,270.00 for the SCBA units and masks.

An audience member asked why had the SCBA units and the pagers not been brought up at the annual meeting that had recently taken place. The answer was that it had not been foreseen at the time.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the purchase of two SCBA units and eight masks for the fire department in the amount of \$ 15,270.00. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg discussed the importance of having proper PPE to protect members of the fire department.

Roads:

Brush piles in the cul-de-sac of Victoria Street have been moved.

It would be good for the roads to freeze down before plowing so that the class five gravel is not plowed off.

Land, water and website:

After the October 25th meeting with the county and the ATV club on October 25th it became clear that the township was not successful in preventing a cross township ATV trail. The current route from Purvis Lake shelter (using the Park Road and Trygg Road) is fully permitted through at least 2022. The cutover from the Park Road to the Trygg Road is permitted for five years on Tax Forfeit land. The only change is that the ATV club has only next year to find a different route from the Purvis Lake Shelter to the Park Road due to its active logging road status.

This has given the opportunity for Ron Potter to explore a possible route north off Eagles Nest Lake #4, or a different route that avoids the Park Road and the Trygg road except for a cross over. The township will wait to hear if this option or some portion of it will work.

During the next season the township will need to be diligent and monitor ATV traffic and develop a strategy to continue to pressure the ATV club and County to consider our resident's interests.

A formal Park Land meeting took place on October 1st with all parties present. The committee gave until October 15th for formal replies to be submitted. Mr. McCubbin's attorney (his son) requested more time and delivered his letter on November 9th. The committee is currently reviewing his opinions and requested opinions from the MAT attorney Steve Fenske, and the township attorney, Bob Ruppe. When the full committee can get together, it may have a phone or Zoom conference with Bob Ruppe from Couri and Ruppe to help formulate options for the recommendations.

Sup Soderberg is trying to get a reply from the Turner/Ryan family, represented by Shawn Turner, so far he has not replied. The committee may need to send a formal letter regarding the cabin on the Park Land before the end of the year if he does not reply.

Sup Soderberg is waiting on other township groups to return information so that Carolyn Quick can develop a website that includes their information, in addition to the normal Township items.

Emergency Preparedness:

ENCEP meeting for fire department and road ambassadors to explain the GETS card on Saturday November 20th at 9:30am.

Old Business:

Jeff Schulze will plow township parking lot and other township roads that the county does not plow.

Maintenance personnel will be identified at a later time. Sup Sherman was on the verge of offering an individual \$60 an hour as a township employee. Sup Floyd stated he would not go for that. If we hire someone as a contractor, we will pay what we can pay for the services we need. If we pay a maintenance person as an employee, they must be paid closer to the wage the rest of the board members and employees make.

The township has not received any response to the call for someone to be on the Joint Powers Recreation Board. The township is looking to pay its 2020 and 2021 dues when township finds someone to serve on the board.

Chief McCray has recommended approval of the Tower Ambulance Commission contract at the October

Board of Supervisors meeting. Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Schatz seconded to approve the Tower Ambulance Commission contract. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd would like to know how much that amount per mile is before he will sign the contract. On page three the contract says "the city will provide (Blank/no number) \$ per mile for ambulance service". It is possible it is the federal mileage rate or a similar rate. Sup Floyd feels that a rate, hopefully close to the federal mileage rate, it should be written in this blank space on the contract.

On the signature page the clerk is noted as Deb Siverhus. Clerk Drange will cross off and sign her name instead.

Sup Floyd moved to amend and Sup Soderberg seconds to amend the motion to approve the contract contingent upon a reasonable per mile rate is written into the contract. Motion for the amendment carries.

A vote was taken on approval of the Tower Ambulance Commission contract, as amended, (Moved by Sup Soderberg and seconded by Sup Schatz). Motion carried.

New Business:

Heat in the building is currently designated to be controlled by the buildings and grounds supervisor only. When that supervisor is out of town or not available other staff or supervisors should also be allowed to turn the heat up or down. The heat can be controlled from a phone app so all supervisors and staff can control the heat.

Sup Sherman and Sup Chiabotti will get together and discuss how they would like to handle the climate control in the hall and report back next month.

Sup Floyd asked if the MATIT worker's compensation insurance coverage amounts are the same as previous years. Clerk Drange will look into past coverage amounts and report back next month.

Sup Chiabotti moved and Sup Floyd seconded approval of the 2022-23 MATIT workers compensation insurance contingent upon the coverage amounts being the same as the previous year. Motion carried.

Supervisor Concerns:

Sup Soderberg will be gone for the February meeting. He asks if he will need to be at a public place if it is for a committee meeting.

Since the open meeting law applies to committee and budget workshop meetings the same notice posting and open meeting zoom rules would apply.

Budget figures could be submitted ahead of time by Sup Soderberg.

Adjournment:

Sup Schatz moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 6:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk