

MINUTES
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
July 20, 2021

Chair Floyd called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 corrected for the, July 20, 2021 Meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Schatz moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to approve the minutes as corrected of the June 15, 2021 BOS meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2021 ATV Routing Special meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to approve the minutes, as corrected, for the July 13, Hearing on the Alteration of Spruce Street. Motion carried.

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

Citizens' Concerns: None at this time.

Reports

Clerk: Supervisor written communications should be sent to the clerk for record retention. Sign in sheet for meeting not necessary as there is already a sign in sheet for COVID contact tracing.

Resolution for the alteration of Spruce Street is in the resolution book and ready to be signed by the supervisors.

Sup Sherman has made updates and corrections to the rental policy and application. Copies are in a folder and in the office.

Treasurers Report:

Claims and payroll:

Claims and payroll were reviewed.

Claims of \$27,320.71. Claim numbers 4264-4273, 4274a-4284. Check numbers 10233-10255

Payroll of \$3,677.64. Check numbers 10208-10214;10228-10232

Voided Checks 10243, 10254.

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

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

Building and Grounds;

Roger Nyquist has accepted the maintenance position and its duties (except snowplowing) at \$60 broken out at \$16 per hour for his time and \$44 per hour for equipment rental as he uses his own equipment. Sup Sherman moved and Sup Soderberg seconded to hire Roger Nyquist as the township maintenance person at \$60 per hour in the manner explained by Sup Sherman.

Rich Floyd suggested to hire Roger as a contractor as opposed to an employee

Continue with verbal agreement for now and Sup Sherman will speak with Roger and MAT get more information on hiring Roger as an employee versus a contractor.

Motion held in abeyance until next month.

Superior Fuel will come August 4th to clean furnace which has not been done for two years. Superior Fuel will upgrade to a 1000-gallon tank which is double the size of the current tank. This may save money on delivery charges.

Fire: Fire report available on file.

Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Floyd seconded to recommend to its residents that open burning and fireworks be eliminated during this drought. This recommendation will be posted to the website and Facebook and burn ban signs be posted around the township until the fire chief says otherwise. Motion carries.

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to accept the position description and position salary (same rate as assistant fire chief) for the Director of Emergency Management for Eagles Nest Township. Motion carries.

Sup Floyd moved and Seconded by Sup Schatz to appoint Michael Ostlund to the position of Emergency Management for Eagles Nest Township. Motion carries.

Sup Sherman moved and Sup Schatz seconded to replace the fire dept. air compressor at \$500. Motion carries.

The Fire Department received a \$100 donation and it will be accepted at the end of the year with all donations but may be cashed now by the treasurer.

Roads:

In June roads were graded before the surface stabilization (dust abatement) was applied. Sup Floyd considering what may need to be done to put a gate across Spruce Street. Spruce Street may need to be designated in a special way to allow for a gate.

If Spruce Street is to be kept open the board will need to discuss what will be done in regards to parking.

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Soderberg seconded the purchase of up to \$5,000 for class 5 gravel from pit across the highway. Due to the close proximity of the pit this will reduce future haul costs for the gravel. Motion carries.

Sup Floyd came across brush piles in the cul-de-sac on Victoria Street. He will talk to the resident at the end of Victoria Street to ask them to move brush piles.

Walsh Road is having a "wear coat" applied to it.

Land, water and website: Nothing at this time

Emergency Preparedness: Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Sherman to accept the Resolution on ATV routing through Eagles Nest township as written by Sup Floyd (without amendments).

Discussion-

Sup Sherman suggest two wording changes.

1)

In the resolution paragraph:

And whereas: people frequently walk **said** roads in groups, and a number of cabins are located close to the roads, instigating activities at the roads' edges by children as well as adults;

Change to:

And whereas: people frequently walk **Trail 4** roads in groups, and a number of cabins are located close to the roads, instigating activities at the roads' edges by children as well as adults;

2)

In the resolution paragraph:

Now, therefore, be it resolved: that the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors opposes the adoption, both temporarily and permanently, of Trail 4 **following** roads in the Township;

Change to:

Now, therefore, be it resolved: that the Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors opposes the adoption, both temporarily and permanently, of Trail 4 **utilizing** roads in the Township;

Sup Sherman's suggested changes were made.

Sup Soderberg suggested taking out the wording that refers to who funds the ATV trail Group. This wording was removed.

Sup Soderberg suggested striking the reference to increased ATV traffic may increase crime.

Sup Floyd explained that the "and potential for crime" line was included due to the increased number of people entering the township. As numbers go up so does the potential for crime. Sup Floyd advocated to leave the line in.

Sup Schatz decided after consideration to leave the line as is. Sup Soderberg withdrew his suggestion.

Sup Floyd explained that the board would need to decide if they should encourage the DNR to open up the taconite trail to ATV use through Bear Head State Park or not.

Sup Floyd explained a few reasons he thinks the board should not support this option.

- 1) Increased noise from ATV usage to adjacent and nearby residents.
- 2) It is unlikely that DNR would ever allow this as it is not within Bear Head State Park's master plan.

Sup Soderberg explained that in the letter from Dr. Rivers with the DNR that there is another option for a southerly route to connect Ely to Tower (Trail 5 to Trail 3 to Trail 1). Sup Soderberg supported this option over opening the taconite trail to ATV use in Bear Head State Park.

An informal poll was taken of residents in attendance at the meeting and no one supported opening the taconite trail to ATV usage through the park. Sup Floyd had not heard of anyone who would support this option.

Sup Soderberg explained that DNR would defer opening the taconite trail until the southerly route to the ATV trail 5 was completed and this was the option that most decision makers supported.

Sup Floyd read the Resolution in full with final added amendments.

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Soderberg seconded to approve the resolution as read with added amendments. Motion Carries.

Sup Floyd stated that the board will now need to decide how they will prevent the trails from coming through where they are not wanted. He proposed getting help to determine different ideas and options by designating an ATV task force or from a private citizen group. This group of people (commissioned by the board or a private group) would make recommendations to the board on how best to prevent the trails from being routed where the board is opposed to them.

Sup Floyd detailed the pros and cons of having a task force commissioned by the board vs a private citizen group.

A task force commissioned by the board is open and anyone can attend. Nothing is done out of public eye. Whereas a private citizen group can include or exclude anyone from meetings or gatherings as they are not subject to the open meeting law. However, without the constraints of the open meeting law a private group of citizens may be able to move faster.

Individuals who agreed to be on the task force commissioned by the board or private citizen group:

Barb Levie
Jeff Mogush
Karen Graham
Jonas Runquist
Peggy Nailer
Dick Flesvig (would only serve on task force commissioned by the board)

A private citizen group would not have access to township counsel and would need to fund their own counsel.

Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Sherman seconded to approve a task force in accordance with the charter as written. Motion carries.

Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Floyd seconded to change the quorum from 2 to 3 people as an amendment to the charter. Motion Carries.

Sup Soderberg moved and Sup Floyd seconded to approve the ATV task force charter as amended. Motion carries.

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Soderberg seconded to approve the following appointed task force members

Barb Levie
Jeff Mogush
Karen Graham
Jonas Runquist
Peggy Nailer
Dick Flesvig

Motion carries.

Rich will contact task force to set up a meeting and be the board point of contact for the task force.

Open supervisor position interviews must be done in an open meeting. Candidate interviews will be done at the August Board of Supervisors meeting unless the candidates are not available and then a special meeting will be scheduled.

Mask mandate- Bud Van Deusen wrote a letter to the board asking them to not require masks within the town hall whether someone is vaccinated or not.

Sup Floyd read the Minnesota Department of Health's mask recommendations. Sup Floyd explained that local governments, such as townships, can set their own requirements regarding masks and they must be followed.

Sup Schatz stated that she believes that the township should remove the mask mandate and leave it up to the individual to decide if they should wear a mask.

Due to the rise in cases of COVID Supervisors Floyd, Soderberg and Sherman believe that now is not the time to remove the mask mandate.

Sup Soderberg explained a brief history of Park Land discussions and issues.

Sup Soderberg asked that the Board of Supervisors of Eagles Nest Township authorize the committee to begin the public involvement process to gather input and feedback from residents throughout the Township before making a final recommendation for approval by the Board.

The first matter to be addressed would be the Asa Ryan/Turner cabin located on the Park Land property and how to handle that situation.

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Schatz seconded the approval for the the Park Land Committee to begin the public involvement process as requested by Sup Soderberg. Motion carries.

Fire Chief McCray had some concerns with the Park Land Committee recommendations.

1) Functionality-

- a. Evacuation-Would boats ground in the mud? Would there be a way for boats to dock and evacuate people with disabilities? A simple dock should be installed to accommodate the evacuation of people off boats and to assist in water rescue by the St. Louis County rescue squad boats.
- b. Water Supply- The area that the fire engine drives up to draft water need to be able to support the weight of the engine when filled with water.
- c. Gate across the road would prevent quick access to the lake for Eagles Nest Fire Department and other departments that assist with an emergency.
- d. No parking should be implemented to prevent people from blocking access to the lake by the fire department.

Pickleball group would like to establish a court in the upper parking lot as opposed to the lower parking

lot. The board agreed the Pickleball group is not allowed to paint lines on the upper parking lot.

Supervisor Concerns:

Sup Sherman would like to be able to attend meeting virtually as he will not be able to be physically present at meetings.in October and November meetings. We can use Zoom to attend meetings.

A trial of the Zoom meeting will take place before next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Adjournment:

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk