

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
November 15, 2023

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

Sup Richard Floyd, Sup Frank Sherman, Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance. Sup Kurt Soderberg (family medical) and Sup Dave Chiabotti (out of town) attended virtually.

Unless otherwise stated, motions carried unanimously and all votes are by roll call due to those who attended virtually.

Agenda

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Sherman to approve the agenda for the October 18, 2023, with the additions of CTC phone service, Driveway Ordinance and Joint Powers Recreation Board to new business. Also, with additions of Tower Area Ambulance Commission and potential merger with Morse Fall Lake Fire Department to old business. Motion carried.

Minutes

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting as amended. The wording "legislative process" was changed to ambulance service within the Outreach and Networking section. Motion carried.

Communications List Approval

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

Citizens' concerns

The Urbans will no longer be changing the Smokey the Bear Sign. The township will identify someone to replace the Urbans and change the smokey sign.

Reports

Clerk:

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Soderberg seconded to continue with mail in voting in Eagles Nest Township and the clerk will send notification to all township residents about the voting procedure and leave the wording and timing of the communication to the discretion of the clerk. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved and Sup Soderberg seconded to amend the wording from "how to vote" to "voting procedure" in the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Drange will be attending election training in December. The clerk is required to attend even if the township is mail in voting.

The Clerk will establish a yearly folder with copies of official letters and correspondence that have gone out on behalf of the township.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$38,219.19 claim numbers 4739-4759 and check numbers 11172-11185; 11187-11189; 11192.

Payroll in the amount of \$4,795.82 and check numbers 11153-11158; 11160-11171; 11193.

The total amount for payroll and claims is \$43,015.01.

EFT: 11186 & 11191. OCT/WHDG \$1,167.19.

Voided Check # 11159; 11190

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to approve payroll and claims. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Monte reported that there can be more than one person who has access to the Zoom account.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to make internal transfers as budgeted for 2023. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the resolution that would allow for Mary Beth Monte and Gwen Potter to make electronic fund transfers. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds:

Nothing at this time.

Fire:

Report on file.

Sup Floyd has offered to reach out the Mesabi trail group to discuss the Township needs regarding the trail.

Roads:

Snowplowing season coming up. There are two garages in the township right of way on Norway Road and due to the lack of places to put the snow the garages occasionally got blocked. Sup Floyd reached out to the owner and explained that there aren't many places to put the snow and that the garages are in township right of way. The owner was agreeable to allow some snow to be placed there when there is no room elsewhere.

On Minnesota Blvd the plow runs out of room and the owner has agreed to allow the plow to put some snow at the end of the driveway as long as it's not completely blocked.

Spruce Street work is complete. Sup Soderberg had concerns that the fire truck may not be able to turn around so he reached out to the fire chief. The chief and Casey Peterson met and completed the work based on the chief's feedback and turn around specifications.

Sup Floyd was asked if Mud Creek would be resurfaced. According to Sup Floyd who reached out to Commissioner McDonald regarding Mud Creek Road, Sup Floyd thinks it may not have new material added to prevent flat tires.

Surface aggregate was put down on Trygg Road but not spread well. Trygg Road has been regraded with a new layer of class 5 to try and deal with the flat tire problems. However, due to the weather the grading was compromised. When the roads are so wet grading will not improve their condition.

Sup Floyd noted that there were no trespassing signs at the end of East Lake Four Road on the township right of way. Sup Floyd asked the landowners to move the signs back on to their property, which they did.

Land, website and broadband:

Park Land committee will meet again now that T turn around is complete. The committee will discuss options for the Kromer Family and Turner-Ryan family and what items will need to be removed or what will be allowed to stay. The committee will also discuss recommendations for the other Park Land parcels. There will also be discussions on what signs will need to be placed on Spruce Street such as no parking or no public water access.

The sidewalk leading to Kromer's dock structure was not removed from Park Land to allow for a future emergency egress dock. Park Land encroachment being worked on.

Treehouse Broad band has been authorized to hook up to CTC communications on Lake 2. Some have recently hooked up to broadband service with success.

Sup Soderberg attended a presentation by a well-being group. Sup Soderberg will have handouts at the next meeting regarding the recovery project presented by the group.

Treehouse Broadband no official plans to cover the entire township. Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Soderberg will meet with CTC about the capabilities they have on expanding in our township.

Emergency Preparedness/water:

Nothing at this time.

Outreach and Networking:

Sup Monahan-Junek spoke with the MAT director. He explained that he is talking about the EMS crisis to state legislators and on a national level.

Sup Monahan-Junek will draft a letter to Grant Hauschild, for Sup Floyd to sign, thanking him for coming to Tower and that the Township is active in EMS discussions and that he can rely on the Township as he moves the subject forward at the state level.

Old Business:

Website Contract 2024-2025

In order to meet the township needs Carolyn Quick's services would cost more than her initial proposal.

Sup Soderberg spoke with several other cities and nonprofit organizations to see what they were doing for their websites. Sup Soderberg received good reviews on Ten80 North. Sup Soderberg spoke with Chris Ellerbroek, the representative from Ten80 North. Chris will teach us to do the updating of some things on the website. Sup Soderberg received a proposal from Chris Ellerbroek that he recommends for the township website.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to move forward with the contract with Ten80 North. Motion carried.

New Business:

Driveway ordinance.

Sup Floyd sent supervisors three different copies of ordinance drafted by Bob Ruppe, one showing the corrections Sup Floyd would make and a clean copy of Driveway ordinance. Sup Floyd asked the board if he needs to send the letter back to Bob Ruppe for further consideration or if he should make the changes

without sending the letter.

The board will discuss the driveway ordinance at the next meeting.

Joint Powers Recreation Board

Sup Monahan-Junek spoke with the City of Tower and discussed updates to Joint Powers documents. However, the city hasn't had the time to update as of yet. Sup Monahan-Junek will help the Tower City administrator to update documents in January. There is a question if the township still wants to be part of the Joint Powers Recreation Board if we don't have a representative.

Sup Floyd will reach out to joint powers to let them know that we still do not have a representative to be on the Joint Powers Recreation Board.

CTC Phone Service

Sup Monahan-Junek spoke with CTC about voice service and they have submitted a proposal for a Poly com 450 is a type of phone that we rent and not own. The total for the service would be approximately \$80 per month with a \$50 installation fee.

Sup Monahan-Junek moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to move forward with changing the township phone service to CTC and cancel Frontier. Sup Monahan-Junek will work on the timing of the switch with the Clerk.

A few questions came up regarding the switch to CTC. Can the township keep its phone number? Can the township have more than one phone?

Sup Monahan-Junek has retracted the motion to get answers to these questions. Will discuss at the next meeting.

Tower Ambulance Service

There is the Tower Ambulance commission for funding new ambulances and what we pay into from our Township. There is also the ambulance ad-hoc committee that is trying to come up with a structure that is financially feasible and gives greater input from the surrounding communities that are serviced by the ambulance service.

The ad-hoc committee will meet again soon before Tower comes into budget season. The city of Tower has spent \$25,000 to cover shortfalls from the operating ambulance service. Tower is asking to move forward with the joint powers agreement. However, Greenwood is refusing to pay their share for the service. There has been discussion of expanding funding from the participating communities to cover not only the cost of a new ambulance but to cover operating expenses as well. Greenwood has been pushing have a private company take over the ambulance service. However, a private company may not take over knowing that there are issues in the area.

Sup Sherman asked the board if they would support paying more to the ambulance commission to help support the ambulance service. Sup Floyd feels that the township should pay their way and we should chip in more to cover operating costs. Sup Soderberg, Chiabotti, Sherman and Monahan-Junek all agree that we should be contributing more if needed. Sup Monahan-Junek wants to look at how the financials are delivered. Sup Sherman will report the results of future ad-hoc meetings.

Morse Fall Lake Fire Department:

Morse-Fall Lake does not want to merge with Eagles Nest Fire. The township would like to ask the Chief Kruger what he thinks about the current situation and if we would be impacted if there is no merger. Sup Monahan-Junek will speak with Chief Kruger regarding the non-merger because Sup Sherman will be out

of town.

Supervisor Concerns:

The fire department asked Sup Chiabotti if he would be able to look at the lighting in the hall to see if it could be improved with LED lighting.

Sup Sherman will not be attending the December or January Meeting. He may be able to zoom in but will work with the Clerk to set up if possible.

Adjournment:

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk