

**Minutes**  
**EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**January 17, 2023**

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 Frank Sherman, Sup David Chiabotti, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte Deputy Treasurer/Clerk Gwen Potter were in attendance. Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek was appointed during new business.

Unless otherwise stated, all motions carried unanimously.

**Agenda**

Sup Sherman stated corrections to be made to agenda. Special meeting Minutes changed from December 15<sup>th</sup> to December 14<sup>th</sup> 2022. Add under old business subject of Ambulance Service. Under new business add the subject of Open Meeting Law. Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the agenda for January 17, 2023 as amended. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve Board of Supervisors Minutes for the Special Meeting of December 14, 2022, as amended (Change the date on the minutes from December 15<sup>th</sup> to December 14<sup>th</sup> 2022). Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve Board of Supervisors Minutes for December 20, 2022. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to approve Board of Supervisors Budget Preparation Meeting January 10, 2023. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve Board of Supervisors Minutes for the Special Meeting of December 28, 2022. Motion carried.

**Communications List Approval**

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

Proposed change to LBAE meeting date of May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 to May 13<sup>th</sup> 2023. Sup Floyd will reach out to county to see if change can be made.

**Citizens' concerns**

none

**Reports**

**Clerk:**

Clerk Drange reported that she spent some time on January 12th scanning and sending board of supervisor minutes from as far back as 2017 to attorney Scott Witty. This was based on the request of his assistant who searched our minutes for Park Land mentions in the minutes.

Clerk Drange explained that each of the supervisors need to reach out to Jim at Voltz to get their new emails set up and old emails transferred to new account.

**Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$11,847.53, claim numbers 4532, 4552-4563 and check numbers 10781-10796.

Payroll in the amount of \$3,762.00 and check numbers 10769-10780.

Voided Checks (EFT)10782,10793,10794.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the claims and payroll in the amount of \$15,609.53. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Building and Grounds:**

Sup Chiabotti replaced bulbs in light fixtures and is working to find the other issues with lights.

The audio-visual equipment has been set up and is working.

The urinal in fire hall will be fixed when we receive the parts.

There is a buildup of snow on the parking lot. Jeff Schulze may need to come and clean up lot in the spring.

**Fire:**

Report on file.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve up to \$300 to allow firefighters to have cellular paging. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the purchase of a new fire desktop up to max of \$350. Motion carried.

**Roads:**

Kromer issue hasn't changed much since last meeting. Reconsideration pending from Judge who had already turned down request. Kromer's attorney has an appeal to the district court. Documents were gathered for our attorney.

Trygg road follows platted road except for a small portion. Working with Louise Trygg to get an easement drafted from Rae Benz.

Dorem Road- Engineer said that it was completed. No bill has been received from Low Impact or JPJ engineer. Sup Floyd will ask engineer to complete a document saying that the work was complete.

**Land, website and broadband:**

Email being worked out.

No report from Frontier. Scott Bohler had an auto reply that he doesn't work at Frontier. A series of emails have been sent out to Frontier contacts with no response.

**Emergency Preparedness and water:**

Mike Ostlund wants to make sure that EM stays with the FD.

Mike Ostlund is looking to see about changing ENCEP meetings to another day.

## **Old Business:**

**Short Term Rentals:** Short Term Rental Committee is diverse group of individuals ranging from those who represent the short-term rental industry to Eagles Nest residents.

County will still process short term rental (STR) applications during our moratorium. County would then be approving STRs in violation of our moratorium. Township would like to be notified about applications for STR within the township and the County has agreed to that during the moratorium.

Attorney, Bob Ruppe, had made a suggestion for us to fully control STRs we would need to have a Planning and Zoning authority for the township but that comes with a large amount of work and cost.

Sup Sherman explained a few options from Saint Louis County. One would be limiting the number of STR in the township but would be a lot of work to regulate them. Another option being to ask the county to do better inspections and enforcement on non-permitted short-term rentals.

**Fire Department merger:** Morse is not going to agree to the merger at this time and we will operate with the current chief.

**Ambulance service:** Greenwood is participating in meetings. Greenwood has yet to receive the consultant's report. Sup Sherman will be the representative at the ambulance commission but he will not be there for the February meeting. Sup Sherman suggests that the newly appointed supervisor attend as the tentative appointee. Monahan-Junek has knowledge of the subject.

New Supervisor Appointment will be postponed until later in new business.

## **New Business:**

### **2024 Budget:**

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg, to authorize donation payments, to be made in February, for 2023 in the amounts of \$1300 for Ely Public Library, \$300 Joint Powers Recreation Board, \$900 Northwoods Partners. Motion carried.

Road- grading will increase (see road grading spreadsheet on file)

Buildings and grounds- \$1700 Brown electric bill (from 2022 fire department wiring for compressor) was moved from account 3400 to 4400. For 2024 budget reduce utilities amount from \$6300 to \$5000.

Fire- fire communications add an additional \$300 for cellular paging amount.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to approve \$294,429 total amount for funds 201 (building and grounds), 204 (roads), 100 (general) and 225 (fire) for the 2024 budget. Motion carried. (See budget on file for fund breakdowns)

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to set the 2023 levy at \$222,000. Sup Floyd nay and Sherman, Soderberg and Chiabotti aye. Motion carried.

### **Open meeting law:**

Duluth passed a resolution to amend Minnesota's open meeting law to make it easier for board members to Zoom into meetings. Duluth's resolution supported removing the requirement that video conferencing from a private location is only allowed in a state of emergency to allow board members to more easily Zoom in from a private location.

Out of state or out of country Supervisors who could Zoom in but do not have a public location available, would not meet the current requirements. Suggest that we pass a resolution supporting the adoption of the pending Minnesota bill that removes the requirement to Zoom from a public location unless under a

state of emergency, and also that the open to public clause be removed.

Sup Sherman will work on putting together a resolution supporting this change to the open meeting law.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to authorize Sup Sherman to write a letter and draft a resolution for the February meeting for review. Motion carried.

**Appoint a supervisor:**

Jackie Monahan-Junek is available to meet any night except for first and third Tuesday of the month.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to appoint Jackie Monahan-Junek the position to of Supervisor E for a two-year special term ending 12/31/2024. Motion carried.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to nominate Sup Floyd as chairman of the board. Sup Floyd abstains. Motion carried.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to nominate Sup Soderberg as Vice Chairman of the Board. Sup Soderberg abstains. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the list of Supervisor duties as follows: Motion carried.

<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Primary Responsibility</b>	<b>Secondary Responsibility</b>
Sherman	Fire/Emergency Preparedness/Water	Buildings and Grounds
Chiabotti	Building and Grounds	Water/Website
Monahan-Junek	Legislative Liaison	Fire /Emergency Preparedness/Broadband
Floyd	Roads	Lands
Soderberg	Lands, Broadband and Website	Roads/Legislative Liaison

Sup Floyd moved, Seconded by Sup Soderberg to meet in 2023 at 5 PM on the third Wednesday of the month. Motion carried.

**2023 Resolution Adoptions: (resolutions on file)**

General Resolution # 01-23-01 Supervisor Soderberg moved adoption of the resolution and it was supported by Supervisor Chiabotti. Motion carried.

Official Depositories Resolution # 01-23-02 Supervisor Floyd moved adoption of the resolution and it was supported by Supervisor Soderberg. Motion carried.

Salary Resolution # 01-23-03 Supervisor moved Soderberg adoption of the resolution and it was supported by Supervisor Chiabotti. Motion carried.

Resolution accepting donations # 01-23-04 Sup Sherman moved adoption of the resolution and supported by Sup Chiabotti. Motion carried

**Supervisor Concerns:**

Sup Soderberg will be Zooming for the February BOS meeting. Sup Chiabotti will try to Zoom the February meeting. Sup Sherman will not be attending the February or April BOS meetings.

**Adjournment:**

Sup Chiabotti moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to adjourn. Motion carried.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Keely Drange, Clerk**