

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
September 13 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, Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance.

Unless otherwise stated, all motions carried unanimously.

Agenda

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the agenda, as amended, for September 16, 2023. Motion carried.

Additions

New Business: Voter Account Fund Distribution

Old Business: EAW for ATV Trail

Minutes

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting with corrections. Motion carried.

Corrections:

Replace the word "having" with the word **have** in the second paragraph on the third page under Tower Ambulance Service.

Remove the word "seconded" on the third page second paragraph under Conflict Payment Affidavit.

On the second page underneath Roads: Remove a statement from MNDOT states that guard rails can do more damage than a car going down a slope, with: **A Township Citizen suggested that we consider installing a guardrail where the recent Dorem Dr. repair was done. According to MNDOT, an overriding consideration for installing a guardrail is whether it poses a greater risk for damage than no guardrail. In Supervisor Floyd's judgement, no guardrail is the better option.**

Communications List Approval

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

Citizens' concerns

NONE

Reports

Clerk:

NONE

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$26,259.62 claim numbers 4699-4713 and check numbers 11092-11100; 11102-11104; 11106.

Payroll in the amount of \$5827.03 and check numbers 11069-11091.

The total amount for payroll and claims is \$32,086.65

Voided Checks 11101,11105 &11068.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve payroll and claims. Motion carried.

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

Building and Grounds:

Sup Chiabotti looked into the usage of electricity for June. Usage spiked in June and has now come back down. Sup Chiabotti is unsure why this spike occurred, but will continue to monitor usage.

Fire:

Report on file.

Mike Ostlund discussed the brush removal. Also, they received a Firewise Grant in the amount of \$26,500.00.

Tower Ambulance:

Sup Sherman attended a meeting at the Ely Hospital. Patti Banks, CEO of the Ely Hospital gave a presentation. She stated that a study is going to be done on ambulance services that are similar to Ely ambulance model. The hope is that they could use some of the findings from the study to possibly model how a new service could work. Study may also benefit Tower's ambulance service.

Roads:

Some of the roads are in need of surface aggregate. If we can't get it done this year, we will get to it next year.

The legal matter on Spruce Street has been ruled in favor of the Township. Construction will continue this fall. No parking signs and possibly no boat launch signs will be put up.

Supervisor Floyd, seconded by Sup Soderberg motioned to spend up to \$1000.00 to have a dead tree removed on Bradach Road. Motion passed Sup Floyd, Soderberg and Sherman voted aye. Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Chiabotti nay.

Land, Website and Broadband:

Sup Monahan-Junek spoke with Isaac from Treehouse Broadband. Treehouse has a partnership with CTC. Isaac stated that he is working on one access point in Eagles Nest Township. Sup Monahan-Junek will follow up with him when she gets back from being out of town.

Sup Soderberg has all the ordinances ready for the web-site. Just trying to figure out where to put them on the website. This will cost some money. Sup Soderberg is working with Carolyn Quick on this.

Parkland Committee has not met. Sup Soderberg has sent two draft encroachment agreements to our attorney on September 3. If we chose to offer the two parties encroachment agreements the amount of "stuff" we would allow them to keep there and the cost would need to be discussed. Sup Soderberg is gathering information from other entities such as the County, State and the US Forest Service to determine what they charge people for the use of the land.

Short Term Rental recommendations have been finalized. Sup Soderberg has discussed them with Commissioner McDonald. The Commissioner would like him to send them to his two staff people. Sup Soderberg will be sending these recommendations to them.

Emergency Preparedness/water:

No Report

Outreach and Networking:

Sup Monahan-Junek attended the MAT District meeting in Virginia. They have elected Kevin Cornick from Kenosha Township to be the District10 Representative. Sup Monahan-Junek will pen a letter to the MAT District Director mentioning that Township needs assistance with figuring out what to do with ambulance services. The board agreed with this and Sup Floyd will sign the letter.

Fire Signs: Mesabi sign is happy to work with us. Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Sherman will have some recommended verbiage that should be included on the sign for the next BOS meeting.

Old Business:

Authorization to proceed with review of a northern ATV route in Eagles Nest Township:

Sup Soderberg moves, Sup Floyd seconds to overturn the no route recommendation of June 22, 2022 and ask St. Louis County, the ATV Club along with our local experts to work to consider the viability of a northern route through the township using the Bear Run as the first phase. After discussion, which included Sup Monahan-Junek suggesting the Township speak to an attorney to find out what rights the Town Board has, Sup Soderberg amends the motion, second by Sup Sherman to read: To ask St. Louis County, the ATV Club along with our local experts to work to consider the viability of a northern route through the township using the Bear Run as the first phase. Sup Floyd suggests we postpone the motion until the next meeting after we have spoke with an attorney. Sup Soderberg withdraws his motion and will wait until the next meeting. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Sup Floyd asks Sup Monahan -Junek and Sup Sherman to contact our MAT attorney first and if he can't answer the questions, to contact Couri and Ruppe. If a meeting is necessary Sup Monahan -Junek will contact Sup Floyd to call a meeting.

Tower Ambulance Ad Hoc Committee Report: Discussed Already

Fire Signage: Discussed Already

Tire Damage Report: Sup Soderberg obtained more data. There have been more than 30 flat tires. Sup Soderberg is asking the Board to take this on as a Township issue. Sup Soderberg suggests a strongly written letter demanding the County do something about this be sent to Commissioner McDonald. Motion by Sup Floyd, second Chiabotti, to send a strongly worded letter to Commissioner McDonald complaining about all the flat tires on Trygg road and the Mud Creed roads-demanding that something be done about this. Sup Soderberg will make necessary changes to the draft letter already written. Demand could include that the roads be resurfaced from another pit. Sup Soderberg will share the letter with Sup Floyd who will be sending it.

EAW for ATV Route: Already discussed.

New Business:

Voter Account Fund Distribution Agreement: Agreement basically states that the County would keep the money being they handle our elections. The amount is \$16.00. Sup Soderberg makes a motion, Monahan-Junek seconds to approve the agreement. Motion passes.

Supervisor Concerns:

Sup Soderberg will probably not be able to attend the November meeting due to his wife's surgery.

Sup Chiabotti would like Clerk Drange to send notices of any meetings including special meetings to anyone that requests them. A file with email addresses of parties who request notification should be established.

Sup Monahan -Junek would like agendas be e-mailed to Supervisors before the meetings.

Sup Monahan -Junek would like a copy of all letters being sent out. Sup Sherman would like a copy of all letters sent out be attached to the minutes. Discussion on this will take place at the next BOS meeting when Clerk Drange is present.

Sup Monahan -Junek would like a copy of the notification from Commissioner McDonald stating the sound study was cancelled.

Adjournment:

Sup Soderberg motion second by Sup Floyd to adjourn. Motion passes

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen Potter, Deputy Clerk