

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
June 21, 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, Clerk Keely Drange, 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 June 21, 2023. Motion carried.

Addition of portable toilet at Lake 3 Boat landing. Removal of duplicate "review of supervisor duties".

Minutes

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2023 Board of Supervisors special meeting. Motion carried. Sup Sherman and Sup Chiabotti abstain. Sup Floyd, Soderberg and Monahan-Junek approve.

Communications List Approval

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

Eagles Nest is in the queue for dust abatement. Sup Floyd will call on Monday if we get rain to check on dust abatement.

Sup Sherman asked how we could verify the numbers from the census. Sup Monahan-Junek will call the county to see how the census numbers could be verified.

Sup Floyd would like to recognize the Vermillion Range Old Settler picnic in McKinley Park on July 15th.

Citizens' concerns

Lori McIntyre wanted to inform the board on the MN DNR 45 extension on the Prospectors EAW in order to investigate on some concerns that were expressed in the comments.

What is being done with the Park Land? Sup Soderberg explains that currently nothing is being done. A settlement was reached with the Kromers and all claims against the township have been dropped. No construction will be done on the park land or Spruce Street until after August 1st or later as part of the settlement agreement with the Kromers.

Reports

Clerk:

The Friends of the Boundary Waters Bike event has been cancelled.

Clerk Drange will be gone for the July meeting but still doing the prep work for the meeting.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$7,242.35 claim numbers 4655-4667 and check numbers 10982-10986, 10988-10992 and 10995.

Payroll in the amount of \$4,655.32 and check numbers 10961-10981.

The total amount for payroll and claims is \$11,897.67.

Voided Checks 10987, 10993, 10994, 10984.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the payroll and claims. Motion amended until the treasurer gets satisfactory explanation of the Voltz bill at which time the check will be sent to Voltz. Sup Floyd, Chiabotti, Sherman and Soderberg approved the amendment and Sup Monahan-Junek opposed. Sup Floyd, Chiabotti, Sherman and Soderberg approved the vote on the original motion as amended and Sup Monahan-Junek opposed.

The Tender had flat tires. New tires needed to be ordered from Pomp's Tire Service in Virginia. Pomp's tire needs a credit application and needs two supervisor signatures.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Soderberg for credit application for Pomp's tire. Motion carried.

Rich and Keely will sign a letter to send to SAM.gov to change to new treasurer email.

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

Building and Grounds:

Faucet in the lady's bathroom has been replaced.

Sup Chiabotti will work with a contractor to clean up trees on the grounds.

Sup Chiabotti looked into a grant for electric vehicle charging stations. The Grant application is very involved and requires a lot of information. Sup Chiabotti will look into future grant opportunities.

Buildings and grounds will look into the pros and cons of the township purchasing its own riding lawn mower.

Fire:

Report on file.

Sup Soderberg will call the DNR the or County about getting signage for camping at primitive campsite on Sunshine Lane.

Roads:

Dorem Drive is mostly completed. Low Impact is looking for final payment which is 5% of total bill. Sup Soderberg and Sup Floyd noted several deficiencies. Township will withhold payment until the deficiencies are corrected.

FEMA reimbursement is near completion should recover payment soon.

Sup Floyd will call on Monday, after the rain, to check up on when dust abatement will be made.

There was a mix up with class five and class one aggregate. Sup Floyd will get class one applied to roads this year.

Sign for MN Boulevard is gone. Floyd contacted Vic Lund and the sign will be replaced. There is a backlog on the chevrons for Walsh Road so that job is delayed until further notice.

There has been an excessive number of flats on Mud Creek and Trygg road. Sup Soderberg, as a citizen, will be reaching out to county to try to get it fixed.

Land, website and broadband:

Sup Soderberg has heard nothing back from Frontier on a broadband project. The Township can give up the fax line without a penalty.

There will be ongoing changes and updates to the website.

The ATV advisory signs were installed on Purvis road and Trygg road.

Sup Soderberg has notified the County about the beaver dam between Lake Three and Four. Tom Erchull has notified the proper officials to take care of problem.

Sup Sherman requests link on website for township for policies and ordinances.

Emergency Preparedness/water:

Lake levels are not as low as they were at the height of the drought.

There are mercury warnings about eating too many fish on township lakes on the DNR website.

Legislative Liaison:

Legislative Liaison duties not yet approved. Sup Monahan-Junek is monitoring the MAT website and waiting for legislative summaries to be posted.

Old Business:

STR Committee update- Change over in county staff mean that some prior commitments have been lost. New staff is catching up. A STR committee member will attend North Star meeting where Donald Rigney from the county will be attending. The township was made aware of a new STR that is not permitted. The STR owner approached the board chair to ask what it would take to get permitted. Sup Soderberg made the STR owner aware of the Township STR moratorium. No reply back from STR owner. The Township is responsible for enforcing the moratorium as the County will still approve STR permits.

STR committee is working on recommendations for the board. Looking at an overlay district that would

have extra restrictions that are specific to our township.

Review of supervisor duties:

Township job duties are only a conflict of interest if supervisor is doing a job that they are for compensated for that is separate from supervisor duties and then an affidavit is needed.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the legislative liaison duties description as written by Sup Monahan-Junek. Motion Carried.

Supervisors will send each other their job duties description for review for the next meeting.

Conflict of interest resolution and monthly affidavit is needed for Sup Chiabotti to be paid for maintenance and groundskeeper duties. These duties are beyond his supervisor role and his duties need to be authorized.

Sup Monahan-Junek moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve conflict resolution, as amended for Sup Chiabotti's maintenance and groundskeeping duties. Motioned carried. Sup Sherman, Sup Soderberg, Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Floyd approved. Sup Chiabotti abstained.

Amendment to motion by Sup Sherman: Remove the \$20 per hour in the "therefore it be resolved" paragraph and instead say "the township board finds the contract price negotiated with Sup Chiabotti..."

Next paragraph cross out \$20 per hour and say "the town board authorizes a contract for Sup Chiabotti at a negotiated price; payment to occur on the contract as agreed and upon the filing of the proper affidavit by the interested officer"

New Business:

Payment of Groundskeeper:

The suggested hourly wage for Maintenance duties is \$20 and \$60 for groundkeeper duties.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the rate of \$60 for labor and equipment for groundskeeping. Motioned carried. Sup Sherman, Sup Soderberg, Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Floyd approved. Sup Chiabotti abstained.

Sup Monahan-Junek moved and Sup Sherman seconded to approve a rate of \$20 per hour for general maintenance and labor with no equipment needed to pay supervisor Chiabotti. Motion Carried. Sup Sherman, Monahan-Junek and Sup Soderberg approved. Sup Floyd opposed. Sup Chiabotti abstained.

TAAS ad hoc committee:

The board needs to approve of idea of setting up a joint powers board to take the place of Tower running the ambulance service. Eagles Nest currently contributes to the replacement of the ambulance and all other operating expenses are on Tower. The Tower Ambulance service has a current deficit of \$130,000 above and beyond what is being brought in by the ambulance service. Being a part of a Joint Powers board is so that townships and others covered by ambulance service has a voice in how ambulance is funded. Sup Sherman recommendation is approving the study of the joint powers board by the end of June.

Sup Floyd Moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to support the exploration of joint powers board for local ambulance service. Motion carried.

Sherman will continue on the Tower Ambulance Joint Powers issue.

Porta potty at boat landing on Trygg Road:

The DNR didn't put a porta potty or garbage can at the Trygg Road boat landing this year or last. There is an increased amount of litter and waste at the boat landing. Sup Soderberg will draft letter to the DNR for Sup Floyd to sign to make them aware of the issues at the boat landing.

MAT District 10 Director position:

The MAT 10 district director position is open. Affidavit needs to be filed soon and election is August. More information is on the MAT website. Must be a supervisor to run.

Staffing at town hall for nonresident events:

More and more nonresident events are starting to be requested of use of the town hall. Should the hall be staffed for these events as nonresidents are in and out of the hall in large numbers. Sup Floyd thinks that we should handle these scenarios on an ad hoc basis rather than have a policy. The township could potentially hire someone to sit at the township during these events.

Townhall access- A man came in while the Quilting group was here and demanded water. The easiest way to prevent unwanted entry would be to keep door locked while people are here. May install a spring-loaded spigot on the outside of the hall for water.

Sup Floyd will draft a sign to keep people from coming to use the town hall. Sign may read something like "for official use only"

Fire Signage:

There is a need for larger burn ban signs and more of them on the interior of the township.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to purchase larger and more signs to show fire ban around the township. Motion Carried.

Sup Monahan-Junek will look into purchasing signs.

Supervisor Concerns:

none

Adjournment:

Sup Chiabotti moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk