

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors Meeting
February 19, 2025

Call to Order

Supervisor Monahan-Junek called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sup Brian Harrington, Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and were in attendance. Sup David Chiabotti and Sup Kurt Soderberg attended via Zoom due to vacation.

Unless otherwise noted, motions carried unanimously and are done as roll call votes due to attendance via Zoom.

Agenda

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Harrington to approve the agenda with additions for February 19, 2025. Motion carried.

Addition of approval of the January 21st budget meeting minutes
Addition of discussion on the ATV Master Plan to old business.
Addition of time sheet policy to new business.

Minutes

Sup Harrington moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2025 budget preparation meeting as amended. Amendment was to change the year of 2024 to 2025. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to approve the January 21, 2025 minutes from the Board of Supervisor Meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Harrington moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the February 11, 2025 minutes from the budget preparation meeting. Motion carried.

Communications

Sup Harrington moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve the communications list. Motion carried.

Supervisor Chiabotti will follow up and find more information on the Norway Road easement.

Sup Harrington asked about the Office of the State Auditor survey on audit costs and annual forfeiture reporting. The Township is not required to be audited by the Office of the State Auditor.

Sup Harrington asked about the US Census Annexation email. Sup Chiabotti will follow up with Rich Floyd on how it should be filled out.

Citizens' concerns

None at this time.

Reports

Fire:

See report on file.

Sup Harrington moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to appoint Anna Kruger to the Eagles Nest Fire Department Trainer position starting February 19, 2025. Motion carried.

Clerk

There are MAT Spring Short Courses April 4th in Duluth.

The Clerk's computer is having trouble with CTAS. Unable to get the new CTAS update loaded on computer. The Clerk is working with the State CTAS IT department to get it fixed.

Treasurer

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

Payroll Check numbers 11769-11786 \$5,073.26

Claim numbers 5042-5062, Check Numbers 11787-11798; 11800-11802; 11807 for a total of \$8,028.45.

For a total of \$13,101.71.

Sup Harrington was paid for time in February and he will not be paid for those hours next month. Going forward hours will not be pre-paid for the next month.

Building and Grounds

In June there will be a Klobuchar Bike Tour. The organizers reached out to Sup Chiabotti regarding use of the hall. Sup Chiabotti explained that the hall is not rented out for bike events as it is not staffed. The bike group is welcome to use the lower lot.

There are questions on the well's capacity and ability to recharge from heavy use. If people are coming to fill up water jugs and then the fire department needs to fill engine with water, will that run the well dry and wrecking the pump?

There have been security issues with an individual in the parking lot. Sup Chiabotti will look into installing security cameras on the outside of the building.

Roads

The roads seem to be in good shape and have been being plowed. Sand was applied to slippery areas.

Land, Website and Broadband

IRRRB sent out a community funding assessment. Sup Soderberg filled out the Township's need is funding for broadband.

Sup Monahan-Junek mentioned an email that was received from DEED regarding those who are underserved by broadband and it includes an interactive map. When Sup Monahan-Junek looked at map, she noticed that it showed only a few places on some lakes that are underserved. Sup Monahan-Junek questions the map and stated she does not feel it is correct. Sup Monahan-Junek will send out the information on this to the board.

Emergency Preparedness and Water

Due to the federal funding freeze, the Township may not receive the DNR Firewise grant.

Tentative dates brush drop dates are August 23rd and 24th, Sept 6th and 7th, Sept 20th and 21st.

Brush pick up tentative date would be the week of Sept 29th and locations would move to the west side of town and include Trygg, Peninsula, Klondike and 6 Mile.

Evacuation drill will be August 9th. More to come on what the drill will look like. Keely Drange will be working with Mike Ostlund to prepare the drill and work on logistics.

Clerk Drange will send any emails regarding water or water quality to Sup Harrington.

Outreach and Networking

Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Brian Harrington attended a MAT event in St. Paul. Sup Monahan-Junek made an appointment to meet with Senator Grant Hauschild. Due to other groups meeting at the same time Sup Monahan-Junek and Brian Harrington were not able to get to talk one on one with Grant Hauschild. Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Harrington did get to make contact with our District Director. Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Harrington were able to meet with Representative Skraba and talked openly about the township's position on ATV corridor trails.

Sup Harrington agrees with Sup Monahan-Junek that Senator Hauschild and Representative Roger Skraba are actively supporting ATV tourism.

Small committee meet with Bob Steetar and Troy Gilchrist and saw preliminary work and there are still more changes to do. Sup Monahan-Junek will bring more info to the board when it is ready.

Old Business

ATV Master Plan Comments: Take the comments and produce a letter from the board. Comments on the ATV plan are due on February 21, 2025. Sup Monahan-Junek moved, Seconded by Sup Chiabotti that Sup Harrington will work with Sup Chiabotti to draft a letter and get it sent out. Sup Harrington, Monahan-Junek, Chiabotti aye. Sup Soderberg abstains.

New Business

Switching over to .gov website:

Sup Soderberg will work on finding more information on switching over to .gov and what we are obligated to do.

We have until June 1, 2028 to switch over to .gov according to 471.3422 Website Domain Requirement for Certain Counties, Cities, and Towns.

Policy on Pay and correction of Supervisors timesheets:

Sup Monahan-Junek wants to talk about what is covered under the supervisor's monthly rate.

Sup Monahan-Junek believes the township should adopt an equitable policy on what to charge for extra hours. Sup Monahan-Junek will draft a document that details on what to charge for next meeting. Monahan-Junek and Sup Soderberg will ask other townships supervisors what their policies are regarding supervisor hourly compensation.

Supervisor Concerns

Sup Soderberg likes that the board is so productive and cooperative and he appreciates that.

Adjournment

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti by to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk