

**Minutes**  
**EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**August 16, 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 Sherman to approve the agenda, as amended, for August 16, 2023. Motion carried. As amended. Amendments: New business: Tire Damage from County Road Project on Trygg; Old business: mower Purchase

**Minutes**

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried. As amended.

**Corrections:**

Insert the word “responsibility” after DNR in the second paragraph of Land, Broadband and Website.

In the last paragraph of Land, Broadband and Website correct the date from August 21<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Communications List Approval**

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

**Citizens’ concerns**

The dumping of larger stones to prevent more erosion along 128 coming from Sunshine Lane and driving on bike trail and damage was done to the bike trail. The front-end loader wasn’t able to be identified. Sup Floyd suspects it was the county. Sup Soderberg believed it was a contractor for the Mesabi Trail.

Lori Macintyre noted that the MN DNR issued a record of decision on the prospectors ATV Trail. Supervisors will review and discuss at next meeting.

**Reports**

**Clerk:**

Please try to have all documents for printing for the meeting by the Friday before the meeting.

**Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$9,110.26 claim numbers 4683-4698 and check numbers 11052-11054; 11056-11065.

Payroll in the amount of \$4,397.80 and check numbers 11033-11051.

The total amount for payroll and claims is \$13,508.06.

Voided Checks 11055,11066 &11067.

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

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

### **Building and Grounds:**

Tomassoni Bike ride did not have issues. Sup Chiabotti put up signs and directed bikers down to the lower hall.

Electric bill seemed high for June. Sup Chiabotti will contact Lake Country power to evaluate past bills.

### **Fire:**

Report on file.

Mike Ostlund gave a brief explanation of the ENCEP evacuation exercise.

### **Roads:**

The beginning of Lake Four Road still needs dust abatement to be done. Sup Floyd decided to cancel dust abatement at the beginning of Lake Four Road because the township will not get enough value out of it.

Dorem Drive needs reseeding and erosion blankets. Sup Floyd wants to wait until fall because it will be more successful.

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.

The Minnesota Boulevard sign has been replaced. The Moose Creek Trail sign is missing and will need to be replaced.

Aaron Nickolson has agreed to take over plowing at a rate of \$125 per hour.

Sup Floyd would like to have class five applied to the roads but the contractor who does this has been busy. Sup Floyd is looking into having Leustek do it and will be using his gravel.

### **Land, website and broadband:**

The speed limit sign down by the highway 169 had not been moved, as reported at the last meeting, but now has been moved. Speed limit may be placed closer to the Purvis Road.

Sup Monahan-Junek will look into what Frontier is doing with expanding broadband in our area.

Parkland Committee will meet again. Sup Soderberg has had our attorney look at encroachment agreements. Sup Soderberg will get the land value on Park Land to figure out what the taxable amount would be for cabin located on Park Land, as well as other value used for leased land or cabins.

### **Emergency Preparedness/water:**

Addressed in fire report.

### **Outreach and Networking:**

Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Soderberg received information from County assessor that shows the township has 119 homesteaded and 355 non-homestead parcels (some duplicates). This homestead information is close to what the census says for population.

Sup Monahan-Junek proposed that the township come up with a project for the upcoming Legislative session. This would show the township's needs and how it would utilize the excess taconite funds if they become available. Sup Monahan-Junek will bring it up again at November BOS meeting.

### **Old Business:**

**Tower Ambulance Service-** At the last meeting of the ad hoc tower ambulance committee meeting it appears very unlikely that there will be a joint powers board and that another alternative needs to be found. At the last ad hoc meeting, only participants were Breitung, Eagles Nest and Tower.

Other townships such as Vermilion Lake and Kugler had been participating in the ad hoc committee however they felt that they did not have anyone who would have the time and energy to commit long term.

Another issue is how to generate funding through a taxing district. Greenwood is continuing to not participate and you can't tax those through the district who aren't willing to be taxed. The ad hoc committee has another meeting in September. Sup Sherman recommends that the committee revisit the indemnification issue.

**Fire Signage-** Urbans handle smoky the bear sign and have put up fire ban signs. The urbans will continue to update the smoky sign but have returned the fire ban signs. The township needs to identify what type and where they are needed to warn township residents on fire dangers.

Sup Sherman moved, Seconded by Sup Soderberg to have burning restriction signs put up when fire danger is extreme or when the elevated burning restrictions are in effect for Eagles Nest township by the township. Sup Sherman withdrew his motion.

Sup Floyd suggests that Sup Monahan-Junek get more information from Mesabi Sign on fire signage. The board will discuss fire signage at next meeting.

**Conflict Payment affidavit-** Sup Sherman came up with a different affidavit for duties other than supervisor duties (at this time only Sup Sherman for fire and Sup Chiabotti for buildings and grounds work).

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to use the affidavit of official interest in claims as presented. Motion carried.

**Mower Purchase-** Sup Chiabotti explained the breakdown of purchasing and maintaining lawn care equipment versus paying someone to use their own equipment.

Sup Chiabotti agreed to continue to use his own equipment and the township will revisit equipment purchase if Sup Chiabotti no longer wants to use his equipment.

Sup Floyd moved, Seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to authorize Sup Chiabotti to spend up to \$3000 for

lawn tractor, blower, and trimmer. All opposed. Motion Fails

**Short Term Rental (STR) Task force rental report-** See report on file. Sup Soderberg explained the history and discussions of the short-term rental issue and committee.

The Short-Term Rental Committee will work on verbiage on the Short-Term Rental committee recommendations.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded Sup Chiabotti to authorize the STR committee move forward with the implementation plan and to accept the STR Task Force Report with a caveat of cleaning up language in parts C & D.

**New Business:**

Tire Damage- Sup Soderberg has been in communication with county commissioner McDonald regarding the tire damage due to sharp gravel placed on roads within the township. The commissioner said that the gravel mix used met specifications. Sup Soderberg will gather data on flat tires and will speak with Sup Floyd on what the next steps should be.

**Supervisor Concerns:**

Sup Monahan-Junek, Treasurer Monte and Clerk Drange would be gone for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to move the September 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting to the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to allow for improved attendance. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to adjourn. Motion carried.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

---

**Keely Drange, Clerk**