

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
August 21, 2024

Chair Chiabotti called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sup David Chiabotti, Sup Richard Floyd, Sup Kurt Soderberg, Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek, Sup Frank Sherman, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance.

Unless otherwise noted, motions carried unanimously.

Agenda

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the agenda for the August 21, 2024 BOS Meeting as amended.

Amendment: Move the 4M fund discussion up after the communications discussion.

Motion carried.

Minutes

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2024 Board of Supervisors Special meeting. Motion carried.

Communications List Approval

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

Sup Floyd will draft a write up for the website on the Climate Action email that was sent to the board.

Frandsen Bank Option for a higher interest rate-

Greg Buckley of Frandsen Bank explained options and benefits of a money market option with them. Mr. Buckley explained by the Township enrolling in Frandsen's money market fund we will be keeping our money local with the same bank we currently do business with. The 4M fund is not FDIC insured. Funds invested with Frandsen Bank can be collateralized. A repurchase agreement can be made for investments made above \$250,000 (the FDIC insured maximum amount).

Interest rates with both 4M fund and Frandsen's money market fund are both variable interest rates. Currently, the 4M fund is at 5.2% and Frandsen is at 4.76%. However, the money is fluid and not restricted with Frandsen bank unlike the 4M fund.

Sup Monahan-Junek moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to open a money market fund with Frandsen bank in the amount of \$450,000 and to allow authorized personnel to open a new account and sign a repurchase agreement for the amount invested above the FDIC insured amount. Motion carried.

Sup Monahan-Junek suggests at least two people from the township should be authorized to transfer

money.

Sup Monahan-Junek moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg that transfers should require two signatures, from the current bank signatories, to move money between the two accounts. Motion carried.

Citizens' concerns

Andy Urban announced that there was a dead bloated deer on the lake. The deer was reported to the DNR, the Wolf Center, and local government agencies but none of those would do anything regarding the deer. A person from Duluth was hired to remove the deer for \$800. Mr. Urban feels there should be some sort of public entity that should deal with this type of situation.

Reports

Clerk:

The Clerk explained who had filed for vacancies.

David Chiabotti has filed for his current position of Supervisor B

Keely Drange has filed for Clerk.

Brian Harrington filed for Special 2-year election for Supervisor E.

There were no filers for Supervisor C. There will be a spot on the ballot for a write in candidate for Supervisor C.

Constant Contact account is up and a few people signed up. The Clerk explained how the sign up for the newsletter works.

Treasurers Report:

Payroll in the amount of \$4,370.80 and check numbers 11521-11541.

Claims in the amount of \$38,129.36, Check numbers 11542-11545; 11542-1145; 11547-11550; 11563; 11565-11567

Payroll and Claims total amount of \$42,500.16.

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

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

Parkland Recommendations

See recommendations from Park Land Committee on file.

Park Land is a thing of value to the township and should be treated as such.

The Turner Ryan Estate has done some clean up to their property but some work remains. They have stated that they will remove the cabin by July 1, 2025.

There will be no private docks for the 2024 season.

Eleanor Fuller has received information to request that a portion of the platted street be vacated so her

well could be on her property. There was discussion of the platted road between Steve Delich's two parcels could be utilized as a walking path to the Park Land.

More discussion will take place in October.

Tower Ambulance Commission

The Tower Ambulance Commission met on July 29th and discussed the proposed three year contract at the rate of \$25 per resident. The Township will pay their portion and sign the contract for next year.

The primary recommendation of the EBCH study is to have two staffed advanced life (ALS) support in Ely, Tower and one staffed advanced life support ambulance (ALS) in Babbitt. The lower hall may be utilized as emergency vehicle storage. The recommendations of this study are not yet implemented so we need to continue with the current arrangement.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve the three-year contract with the Tower Area Ambulance Service at a \$25 per resident rate for the total of \$5,650 and payment to be made to the Ambulance Vehicle Fund. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds:

The township was out of water for a few days due to a failed well pump when the pressure tank went out. A new well pump, air pressure tank and wiring were installed.

The air conditioner did not work at recent events at the hall. The new GFI outlet breaker was being tripped. That was repaired but it was found out that the compressor in the generator was not functioning. A new compressor unit was installed and the air conditioning is now working.

A new kitchen island was donated and assembled by John and Lisa Kappenman, Cindy Faye Johnson and Tom Moore. The kitchen was cleaned, reorganized and labeled.

Sup Sherman asked if the town hall and fire hall had smoke detectors and if not, they should be installed. There are smoke detectors available in the fire hall that can be installed.

Fire Report: Fire Report on File.

2 applications for the fire department. Todd Jackson and Shawn Gawboy have asked to join as fire and a first responder.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to accept Todd Jackson and Shawn Gawboy pending passing the physical and background checks. Motion carried.

Roads:

Clyde Peterson mowed the right of ways. Clyde may not be able to do heavier brush and tree clearing due to sciatica. If he can't, Sup Floyd will have someone else do it before the snow flies.

Sup Floyd reported that Norway Road survey work will cost \$1,350 to delineate the right of way. Aaron Nickolson would charge \$5,000 for the dirt work.

Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg approve the amount of \$6,350 for survey and dirt work to widen the end of Norway Road. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd has filed the application for 2025 snowplowing by St. Louis County. The price is \$975 per mile and has not increased from last year.

Robinson Lake Trucking will plow for the township again this year. The price will be the same as last year.

Sup Floyd considered signing on to the St. Louis County crushing project but, due to the distance to the source, the delivery would end up costing the same as using a private gravel pit.

Land, Website and Broadband: It would cost 11.8 million for fiber to all the homes in Eagles Nest. That cost is too high to realistically install to all homes in the township.

Sup Soderberg contacted St. Louis County commissioner who is on the broadband task force and IRRRB and has gotten information that the small amounts they are willing to fund will not be enough to bring broadband to the township.

Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Soderberg will reach out to Paul Bunyan Internet to explore other options for broadband installation in the township as they may be less costly than CTC broadband.

Sup Monahan-Junek will meet with Isacc Olson at Tree House Broadband to see about the possibilities of where internet could be expanded within the township.

Sup Monahan-Junek and Sup Soderberg reported on the June 3 ATV trail meeting at the last meeting. There will be a follow up meeting with County officials and ATV club personnel on August 30. Sup Soderberg requested from the ATV trail group to eliminate trail 4 for the 2025 season. The township is willing to work towards a northern route with ATV club officials during the EAW process if asked to participate.

Emergency Preparedness/water:

Michael Ostlund has submitted his resignation effective September 1st. Michael Ostlund has suggested the position's duties be split into two between a firewise coordinator and assistant fire chief.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to appoint Keely Drange as the interim Emergency Manager as of September 1st and to be paid at the township hourly rate. Motion carried.

Outreach and Networking:

Sup Monahan-Junek may attend the MAT September 13 legislative and research meeting and may attend the October 12 Township Legal Seminar. Sup Soderberg plans to attend the October seminar as well.

Supervisor Concerns:

Treasurer Monte asked the board how she should show the money in both the Township Checking and the Money Market fund now that the township will transfer money into the Money Market fund. On the cash control the Treasurer will say that the total balance is from the money market fund and the checking account.

Sup Soderberg will focus on the Ely Area Community Foundation as his primary activity and then will meet again to discuss Park Land recommendations in October.

Adjournment:

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Floyd to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk