

Minutes
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
April 17, 2024

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

Sup Dave Chiabotti, Sup Richard Floyd, Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek, Sup Frank Sherman, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance. Sup Kurt Soderberg, attended via Zoom as he was away on vacation.

Unless otherwise noted, all votes are done by roll call and motions carried unanimously.

Agenda:

Sup Floyd moved and seconded by Sup Sherman to approve the agenda for the April 17, 2024 BOS meeting as amended. Motion carried.

Amendment: Moved Fire and Emergency Preparedness up on the agenda.

Minutes:

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg moved and seconded by Sup Floyd to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2024 Board of Supervisors Special meeting. Motion carried.

Communications List Approval:

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

Citizens' Concerns:

Matthew Schmidt expressed his concerns about trespassing on his private property on Dorem Drive.

Reports

Fire:

Report on file.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Sherman to spend up to \$9,200 to purchase the demo rescue tool from the \$8,557.94 in the American Rescue Plan Fund with the rest coming from fire operating expenses. Motion Carried.

Emergency Preparedness:

Report on file.

Mike Ostlund reported that the ENCEP Chipping event will still take place on Deann Schatz's property on Hwy 169. However, Austin Van Scoy of Dutchman's Tree Service will come in with his chipper and chip all the brush as roll-off dumpsters are no longer available.

Sup Soderberg asked Mike Ostlund about getting fire numbers at the split of two properties that share a driveway. There are fire numbers at the end of the shared driveway but not where the shared driveway splits. These fire numbers are needed to distinguish each property in case of an emergency. Mike Ostlund will look into this.

Clerk:

Clerk Drange will not be at the LBAE meeting but will prepare for the meeting by having packets and sign in sheet printed out.

Sup C up for election (currently Sup Sherman) 4 years
Sup B up for election (currently Sup Chiabotti) 4 years
Sup E up for special election (currently Sup Monahan-Junek) 2 years
Clerk up for election (currently Clerk Drange) 4 years

Clerk Drange made the board aware of a notice about tax forfeit properties being reclassified.

Clerk Drange asks the board to make sure that all the resolutions have been signed.

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Monte reported claims in the amount of \$16,199.98 claim numbers 4859-4874 and check numbers 11394-11404; 11407-11409

Payroll in the amount of \$4,183.38 and check numbers 11373-11389; 11392; 11410.

The total amount for payroll and claims is \$20,383.36.

EFT: 11405, 11404

Voided Check # 11390, 11391 November Withholding: \$1,591.68.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to approve payroll and claims. Sup Monahan-Junek, Sup Floyd, Sup Sherman, Sup Chiabotti were aye. Sup Soderberg abstains as he wasn't able to view payroll and claims. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer Monte asked to cancel a check to NAPA that hadn't been cashed for a year. When Clerk Drange called NAPA they said that the township did not have a balance. Sup Floyd moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to cancel the \$299.25 check to NAPA from April 2023 and adjust the yearly starting balance to reflect this change. Motion carried.

Sup Soderberg will call and ask about the 4M fund rates and will report back at the next meeting.

Building and Grounds:

Electrical contractor will be back to wire in the air conditioning unit.

Roads:

Roads are in bad shape with all the rain. Roads may be graded as early as next Monday if the roads are dried out from the rain.

Sup Sherman noted that during the last plow job all the stones were plowed off the surface of the roads. Sup Floyd explained that this may have happened due to the roads not being frozen when there was the large amount of snow and that the contractor may not have put down the shoes on the plow.

Sup Chiabotti asked if something could be done with the pothole on Minnesota Boulevard. Sup Floyd said he could fill it in with some of the class five that was scraped up from the plowing. However, he did not feel that would last long.

Land, website and broadband:

Frontier is still staying we owe them. When Sup Soderberg returns, he will call Brandy Bell at Frontier to see if they have given the township credit.

Website is going well. Sup Soderberg is interested in continued feedback on the website.

The township is almost at a point that an agreement can be written up with the Turner-Ryan estate. The Turner-Ryan estate has said they will take the house off the Park Land Property by July 1, 2025. Sean Turner will arrive by June 1 to clean up the items on the Park Land and to remove the dock as he does not wish to pay for it to be on the Park Land. Mr. Turner does not want to put a fence around the cabin. Sup Sherman and Soderberg will inspect to see how well the property is cleaned up and what type of signage he may be permitted put around the cabin.

Sup Soderberg has heard nothing from the Kromers. However he did send another email today stating that they need to remove all items on the Park Land by June 1. If they did not want to pay for the dock to be on Park Land it must also be removed by June 1 2024.

Emergency Preparedness/water:

Emergency Preparedness report given earlier by Mike Ostlund.

Sup Sherman stated that at the annual meeting the town electorate approved up to \$25 resident be paid towards the Tower Ambulance vehicle replacement fund.

Greenwood Township will be paying going forward and the hope is that they will back pay the two years towards the new ambulance in July.

Sup Sherman moved, seconded by Sup Soderberg to approve payment of \$25 per resident, per the 2020 census of 226 for a total of \$5,650 for 2024. Motion carried.

The Join Powers Recreation board expressed their regrets that the township will no longer be on the Rec. Board. However, Sup Sherman explained to them that we had tried to find representation for over a year and could not find anyone and that the interests of the Rec. Board did not serve our township.

Outreach and Networking:

Sup Monahan-Junek will work with Clerk Drange in the future to set up a Constant Contact account for the township.

Sup Monahan-Junek spoke with MAT regarding the group who was concerned with the bylaw voting at the Spring Short Course. MAT explained that they are not a government entity they are a nonprofit and they follow all laws regarding holding a special meeting. They will hold a special meeting to vote on bylaw changes rather than voting on those changes at the spring short course.

There is no requirement to vote on a communications list or what should be kept and that it is purely at the discretion of the receiver of the emails (the clerk) to pass those along to the board.

The township needs to figure out the next steps for the new large fire signs regarding how they will be posted, where they will be posted and who will post them.

Old Business:

Driveway Ordinance:

Sup Floyd explained his changes to the Driveway ordinance that was provided by MAT.

There was concern from some supervisors that there are no longer enough vacant lots to warrant having a driveway ordinance. There was also concern that the ordinance is too vague about how and who would enforce the driveway ordinance. Another concern would be that some of the township would fall under this ordinance and others, on county roads, would not. Some feel that would cause an inequity among township residents.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Jackie Monahan-Junek to not proceed with the driveway ordinance until further discussion is had regarding the necessity of such an ordinance. Sup Soderberg withdrew his motion.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek to not establish a driveway ordinance. Sup Soderberg, Sup Monahan-Junek, Sup Sherman and Sup Chiabotti aye. Sup Floyd nay. Motion carried.

ATV Trail Discussion:

Sup Soderberg Moved, seconded by Sup Floyd that a letter be drafted to be sent to Commissioner McDonald and the Prospector ATV club, signed by the Chair. The letter would inform them that Eagles Nest Township opposes the "Central Route" proposed as an alternative to the current Trail 4 and urging them to work with our representatives expeditiously on a more northern route, utilizing the Bear Run as the beginning segment.

Sup Soderberg withdraws this motion to include additional language in an updated motion.

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Monahan-Junek that a letter be drafted to be sent to Commissioner McDonald, The Minnesota DNR and the Prospector ATV club, signed by the Chair. The letter would inform them that Eagles Nest Township opposes the "Central Route" proposed as an alternative to the current Trail 4 and urging them to work with our representatives expeditiously on a more northern route, utilizing the Bear Run as the beginning segment, work to eliminate the current interim ATV trail route, and to work towards minimizing the impacts to Eagles Nest Residents along the Northern Route. Motion carried.

Testimony is not needed on the bill the Township sent a letter of support for, as the Senate will not be hearing this bill as they are now discussing omnibus bills.

New Business:

Township Broadband Options:

Frontier still does not have viable broadband options to offer. Brad Gustafson, the St. Louis County Broadband expert and Whitney Ridlon from IRRRB did not seem to think Frontier was a viable option. CTC has put together an initial proposal for the township broadband. The proposal cost is quite large on what it would take to get it done. Sup Soderberg and Monahan-Junek will meet with CTC next week to discuss this proposal.

Treehouse may still be a viable option for some in the township. Frontier may consider selling some of their assets.

Sup Soderberg is hopeful he will have something to report for the next meeting

Supervisor Concerns:

Sup Monahan-Junek spoke with Steve Birman at the St. Louis County assessor's office and he explained why there was such a large increase in assessed values in certain areas within the township. Assessed values were based on 8 sales and one in particular that was sold way over market value which brought the values up by as much as 35% in certain neighborhoods.

The township is expecting a large turnout to the LBAE meeting on May 11.

Sup Chiabotti and Sup Sherman will be zooming in to the next meeting.

Sup Floyd announced he will be resigning his Supervisor position at the end of this calendar year. He would like to give the township a heads up to find a replacement.

Adjournment:

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Chiabotti to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk