

MINUTES

**Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
5:00 p.m., January 20, 2026
Eagles Nest Township Town Hall
1552 Bear Head State Park Road, Ely, MN**

A. Call to Order

Chair Chiabotti called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chair Chiabotti; Supervisor Carlson; Supervisor Monahan-Junek; Supervisor Harrington; Bob Streetar, Consultant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Carlson, second by Supervisor Harrington to approve the agenda.
Ayes – All.

C. Presentation by Bob Streetar

The presentation was given during the public hearing.

D. Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance Establishing an OHV Overlay District

Chair Chiabotti opened the public hearing at 5:05 p.m. Chair Chiabotti stated the public hearing notice was published in The Timberjay on January 9, 2026, that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public testimony regarding the proposed Ordinance, and he asked those that speak to please state their name and address for the record and to direct their comments to the Chair. Chair Chiabotti also stated the Township Board will not debate the proposed ordinance during public testimony and that Board deliberation will occur after the public hearing is closed.

Bob Streetar, Consultant, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled OHV Trail Review & Corridor Overlay Ordinance.

At 5:15 p.m., Chair Chiabotti asked for public testimony.

Ren Graham, 4165 Migisi Road, said she supports the proposed ordinance and urges the Board to support/pass the proposed ordinance.

Bill Messerich, 1318 Walsh Road, asked about the Taconite Trail, stated cities read ordinances three times, and he does not like the process of having this meeting in the winter.

Lori McIntyre, Trygg Road, asked: what financial benefits ATVs bring to Eagles Nest Township; what is the Board proposing to do to provide relief to those that live on Trygg Road and Bear Head State Park Road who see several hundred ATVs in a week for up to

4-5-6 months at a time; has there been any discussion with the Prospector Trail organization about the proposed overlay?

Chair Chiabotti closed the public hearing at 5:24 p.m. and the meeting resumed.

E. New Business

1. Approve Ordinance Establishing an OHV Overlay District

Motion by Supervisor Monahan-Junek, second by Supervisor Harrington to approve the Ordinance Establishing an OHV Overlay District.

Supervisor Monahan-Junek thanked everyone for their comments tonight and said: "This OHV Corridor Overlay District creates a clear, locally driven framework for the siting of OHV trails within the Township. This Ordinance does not prohibit the lawful use of OHVs within the Township. Rather, it regulates the location of trail corridors to better protect residents, private property, natural resources, and public infrastructure. The Ordinance is intended to support long-term economic viability. By establishing predictable, clearly defined siting standards, the Township is providing regulatory certainty for residents, trail organizations, and future investment in recreation infrastructure. Clear rules reduce conflicts, limit costly disputes, and help ensure that recreational investments are sustainable and compatible with surrounding land uses. Healthy local economies depend on certainty, stewardship, and community trust. This Ordinance creates a planning framework that allows responsible recreation to continue while protecting the qualities that make Eagles Nest Township a desirable place to live, visit, and invest.

Supervisor Chiabotti said the purpose of the overlay district is not to limit what we currently have, not to say we would not like to. We are OK with the current trail and we want to be particular with any additional routes. As far as the Taconite Trail, we can change anything to allow that to come through as necessary and change the overlay district if it makes sense.

Ayes – All.

F. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Harrington, second by Supervisor Carlson to adjourn the meeting.
Ayes – All.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Keely Drange, Clerk