MINUTES

Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
5:00 p.m., September 1, 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 Harrington; Supervisor Monahan-Junek (via telephone, but not voting)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Approval of Agenda

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

C. New Business

1. Purchase of ATV for the Fire Department

   Supervisor Harrington summarized request from fire department task force. Fire Department task force requested additional funding from Eagles Nest Township to purchase an ATV for emergency response by the ENT fire department. The task force pursued a used ATV from DNR at a reduced purchase cost. The vehicle offered was old and required significant repairs to utilize for the services needed by fire department. The task force pursued other options, finding a new floor model ATV at a dealer in Babbitt at a discounted price for a total of $25,000. Task force recommended adding additional equipment to the ATV for rescue and moving injured parties with an outfit package of $5,000. Total cost of ATV with additional equipment is $30,000.

   Eagles Nest Fire Auxiliary will donate $20,000 toward the ATV purchase. The fire department task force requested the Eagles Nest BOS to approve $10,000.

   Fire Department member John Kappenman reported that the recent rescue on Mesabi bike trail was quite a challenge using currently available vehicles. The injured bicyclist required a backboard transfer to protect her back. She needed to be lifted out by helicopter.

The procured ATV could be housed between Fire Engine 2 and Wildland Truck in the fire station. Expect to be called upon for rescues year-round for snowmobile, bikes with fat tires, and some ATV trails open year in winter.

Supervisor Chiabotti asked what the liability coverage would be for vehicles and transportation of patients? Is the issue of self-insured by the attending EMRs? John Kappenman replied that he is looking into supplemental insurance.

Supervisor Carlson related experience with city government that when a pager went off, the city held liability for EMRs and patients. The city added an insurance rider to the policy. He recommended the township look into adding a rider to the Eagles Nest Township insurance policy.

Supervisor Harrington cited precedent for rescues needing vehicle and personnel coverage. Harrington has investigated what insurance companies offer on protection when EMRs are on call. The liability protection must be figured out. Further noted that the township pays for emergency response while the patient covers cost of helicopter ride.

Motion by Supervisor Harrington, second by Supervisor Carlson to authorize $10,000 towards the purchase of ATV in addition to the $20,000 donation by the Auxiliary. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

Treasurer Mary Beth Monte reported that a check for $25,000 would need to be cut for the new ATV. Supervisor Harrington pointed out that the BOS had not yet accepted the Auxiliary's donation of $20,000. The BOS could not accept the donation check during the Special Meeting as the request was not listed on the agenda.

Motion by Supervisor Harrington, second by Supervisor Carlson to authorize $5,000 for additional equipment needed to order equipment now until Auxiliary check donation is accepted at the upcoming BOS meeting in September. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

MaryBeth Monte noted that the additional equipment will be available in December.

2. Eagles Nest Township OHV Corridor Overlay District Ordinance 05-26-02 Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual

Consultant Bob Streeter highlighted policies developed to apply for ATV trail construction or modification as directed by the OHV corridor overlay district ordinance. Presentation focused on enforcement policies and procedures in the ordinance. The ordinance enforcement policies based on MN Statutes 394 and 462. Kennedy & Graven attorney reviewed and approved the Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual.

Motion by Supervisor Chiabotti, second by Supervisor Carlson to approve the Eagles Nest Township OHV Corridor Overlay District Ordinance 05-26-02 Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

3. Zoning Administrator duties & compensation

   Supervisor Chiabotti indicated Supervisor Monahan-Junek was appointed Zoning Administrator by the board. Supervisor Monahan-Junek checked on legality of a township supervisor taking on Zoning Administrator duties with the MN Association of Townships (MAT). MAT responded that a supervisor may take on these responsibilities as an employee of the township.

   Supervisor Harrington proposed pay for duty follow grounds keeping payment. Supervisor Chiabotti commented that he uses his own equipment. Discussion to be held over until the next BOS meeting.

4. Update on St. Louis County permit for ATV trail in Eagles Nest Township

   Supervisor Harrington reported the ATV cutover permit was issued 5 years ago for a 5-year permit duration and has expired. Harrington contacted Jason Meyer, St. Louis County Land and Mineral Director, about the permit status. Director Meyer said the permit would be discussed at the St Louis County Board of Commissioners meeting on October 6.

D. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Carlson, second by Supervisor Harrington to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Ayes – All. Motion carried.

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Keely Drange, Clerk