MINUTES

Eagles Nest Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
5:00 p.m., May 5, 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 5:02 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 Harrington, second by Supervisor Carlson to approve the agenda. Ayes – All.

C. Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 01-26-01 Establishing an OHV Corridor Overlay District

Chair Chiabotti asked Bob Streetar to give a summary of the proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 01-26-01.

Streetar explained that the only proposed text amendments are in Section 6, Subd. 3. The proposed amendments make it clearer to the reader(s) of the ordinance where OHV trails are permitted under the township zoning ordinance. In addition, Attachment 2 was added to the ordinance showing where, per St. Louis County Ordinance 64, ATVs are permitted on County roads in Eagles Nest Township. The township can also regulate OHV usage on township roads. Per the overlay district, OHV Corridors can be located in the OHV Corridor (Attachment 1), within St. Louis County Road rights of way (Ordinance 64), and within township road rights of way as permitted by the Town Board.

Streetar stated that this ordinance applies to private property, County property, and tax-forfeit property managed by St. Louis County. He also stated that without the Ordinance Establishing an OHV Corridor Overlay District, OHV trails can be located on any private property, County property, or tax-forfeit property in Eagles Nest Township, without approval from Eagles Nest Township.

Chair Chiabotti opened the public hearing at 5:10 p.m. and asked for public input. Chair Chiabotti stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public testimony regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Lawrence Krause, property owner west of Mud Creek Road. Mr. Krause stated the northern route on the overlay district map runs through his property, he does not want an OHV trail on his property, and no one asked him. Streetar responded that the township is not building any trails; just identifying where they can be located. Streetar also stated that

the information regarding property ownership he received from St. Louis County did not show any private property owners in the corridor area. He also stated that any OHV trail on private property has to get permission from the land owner. Mr. Krause thanked Streetar for the response and re-stated his position that he does not want the OHV corridor going through his property.

Mike Dreawves, 4151 Mud Creek Road. Mr. Dreawves stated he did not receive notification of the last two ATV meetings; he had requested to receive all special meeting agendas. Dreawves chose to live on Mud Creek Road and next to county land where it is quiet all of the time. He did not know they were talking about a Bear Run trail 600 feet from his house.

Dennis Altobell, property owner west of Mud Creek Road. Mr. Altobell stated he does not want ATVs on the northern route: Mud Creek Road is windy (curvy) and a dangerous road and an ATV trail brings too much traffic onto the road; they come onto their property and they liter; the northern route is adding to the stupidity by adding more people to Mud Creek Road; Altobell suggested the route to parallel Hwy 169.

Frank Sherman, 1166 Minnesota Boulevard. Mr. Sherman asked if the township board was doing this in response to something you got from St. Louis County, and if we have the ability to regulate county roads.

Streetar stated that Ordinance 64 regulates ATV use on County roads.

Supervisor Harrington stated he has been fighting ATV trails in the township for more than six years, and attended several township meetings where property owners on the north side of highway 169 were not opposed to an ATV trail in that area, but that he proposes the corridor around the north side of Gafvert Lake be removed from the corridor overlay.

Supervisors Harrington and Monahan-Junek stated they would like to talk with the property owners on/near Mud Creek Road after this meeting adjourned.

Supervisor Monahan-Junek stated that St. Louis County Ordinance 64 regulates ATV usage on County roads, it gives city's the power to regulate ATV usage on County roads in their cities, but that townships have purposefully been left out of the ordinance and have no power to regulate ATV usage on County roads in their townships.

Chair Chiabotti closed the public hearing at 5:35 p.m. and the meeting resumed.

D. New Business

1. Approve Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 01-26-01 Establishing an OHV Corridor Overlay District

   Motion by Supervisor Harrington, second by Supervisor Monahan-Junek, to amend the text in Section 6, Subd. 3 as proposed. During discussion, Supervisor Harrington rescinded his motion; Supervisor Monahan-Junek agreed to rescind the motion.

   Motion by Supervisor Harrington, second by Supervisor Monahan-Junek to approve the proposed Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 01-26-01 Establishing an OHV Corridor Overlay District with the following amendments: amend the text in Section 6, Subd. 3 as shown in the proposed Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 01-26-01 Establishing

an OHV Corridor Overlay District; amend Attachment 1 Overlay Map of the proposed Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 01-26-01 Establishing an OHV Corridor Overlay District by removing the northerly corridor around Gafvert Lake. Ayes – All.

E. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Monahan-Junek, second by Supervisor Harrington to adjourn the meeting. Ayes – All.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

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Keely Drange, Clerk