

MINUTES
EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP
Hearing on the Alteration of Spruce Street
July 13, 2021

Chair Floyd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sup Richard Floyd, Sup DeAnn Schatz, Sup Kurt Soderberg, Sup Frank Sherman, Fire Chief Larry McCray, Clerk Keely Drange, Treasurer Mary Beth Monte and Deputy Treasurer Gwen Potter were in attendance.

Unless otherwise stated, all motions carried unanimously.

Agenda, Minutes and Communications List Approval

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to approve the agenda, for the July 13th, 2021 Meeting. Motion carried.

Sup Floyd explained the purpose of the hearing is to discuss the taking of Park Land to designate as a road right-of-way for a turn (primarily for fire trucks) around at the end of Spruce Street. Spruce Street has already been voted on and designated as a township road by resolution in an earlier meeting. Construction of Spruce Street will take place sometime later this summer.

Sup Floyd read draft of the Resolution to Alter Spruce Street.

Remarks from Township Property Owners—5 minute limit

Township Property Owners who spoke:

Diane Kromer
David Kromer
Steve Delich
Mike Hicks

Supervisors addressed questions and concerns of property owners regarding the turn around at the end of Spruce Street.

Supervisor Floyd read a letter from Lawrence and Lisa Krause.

Supervisor Floyd explained that many of the concerns are regarding acceptance of Spruce Street as a Township Road, which has already been accomplished.

Supervisor Floyd explained that legally the Township is only required to post notice for meetings and hearings on our Township bulletin board. However, meetings and hearings are also posted in the Timberjay Newspaper, the Township website and Facebook page.

Supervisor Floyd explained that adjacent landowners (right next to Spruce Street) were notified by letter that the acceptance of Spruce Street would be voted on in a public meeting. Adjacent land owners to the parkland that will be taken for the turnaround at the end of Spruce Street were notified in person that a resolution altering Spruce Street would be voted on at this public meeting.

Supervisor Schatz explained that this issue has been talked about for many years and that this is not a new issue. The Park Land and Spruce Street issue have been discussed at many past meetings. She stated that no property owners have reached out to her to request a meeting to discuss this issue.

In response to a property owner, Supervisor Floyd said the board would discuss the possibility of a gate at the end of Spruce Street at another time.

Supervisor Floyd and Supervisor Soderberg, in response to a citizen, explained the reasons why Sunshine Lane was not a good substitute as a water egress and water withdrawal site for Spruce Street.

Remarks from Supervisors

Supervisor Soderberg explained that there are three issues related to the discussion here tonight. One issue has already been decided, to construct Spruce Street down to the lake for the reasons previously discussed. Second issue is the taking of some Park Land for a turnaround at the end of Spruce Street. Sup Soderberg expressed that he thinks this a good use of parkland to support the fire department's needs as previously discussed. The third issue and largest issue is regarding the Park Land. The Park Land committee has been meeting and discussing the future of the Park Land. In future meetings, the committee will make a recommendation to the board as to what decisions they (the committee) think the board should make to begin the process to discuss this issue with adjacent landowners who don't own land on the lake and those who own land along platted, vacated or unaccepted streets. After that recommendation has been made to the board, the committee would then hold meeting(s) with adjacent property owners, as previously promised. Supervisor Soderberg expressed his support for this decision to take some of the Park Land for the turnaround at the end of Spruce Street.

Supervisor Sherman reiterated Supervisor Soderberg's comment regarding the decision that has already been made to accept Spruce Street as a Township Road. Supervisor Sherman noted that those who are claiming that they did not have notice regarding the decision on Spruce Street should accept some responsibility. Every Board meeting is listed at the beginning of the year as to when and where it will occur. In March the board was already receiving letters in opposition of the acceptance of Spruce Street. On April 15, 2021 the Kromer's wrote the township a letter opposing the building of Spruce Street. A response to the Kromer's and others in opposition was discussed at the April 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting. The vast majority of public response was in support of the construction of Spruce Street for the reasons previously listed. Property owners purchased land adjacent to platted streets and the Park land locations and knowing the possibility that the land or roads may be utilized by the township. No board member has expressed an interest in developing a boat landing at the end of Spruce Street. Supervisor Sherman stated that he would be opposed to the development of a boat landing at the end of Spruce Street. Supervisor Sherman also stated that no one on the board has said they are opposed to having a gate across Spruce Street to prevent public access. That option may be discussed in the future. Supervisor Sherman expressed his support for taking of Park Land for a turnaround because it is a safety issue.

Determination of Damages

Supervisor Floyd discussed the determination of damages. The Township will be taking Park Land which is held in trust by the township and reallocating it for road-right-away which will be held in trust by the township and therefore there are no damages to be levied

Board Vote on the Resolution

Supervisor Floyd moved and Supervisor Soderberg seconded to accept the resolution as read. Motion passes.

Adjournment:

Sup Soderberg moved, seconded by Sup Schatz to adjourn. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keely Drange, Clerk