

# **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Avon Township Stearns County, MN**

March 13, 2012; 8:30 PM

Avon Town Hall – 16681 Queens Road, Avon MN 56310

**Call to Order:** Clerk Stephen Saupe called the Annual Meeting of Avon Township to order at 8:30 PM.

**Pledge:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Introductions:** Township Board (Kelly Martini, Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer, John Merdan, Stephen Saupe) and Planning Commission (Ken Mergen, Gerry Kremers, Roger Nelson) members were introduced. Approximately 35 individuals were in attendance.

**Election Results:** Mr. John Merdan was elected to a three-year term as supervisor and Mr. Stephen Saupe was elected to a two-year term as Clerk.

**Nomination and Election of Moderator:** Mr. John Merdan nominated Mr. Lee Larkey to serve as moderator for the meeting. Mr. Jeff Lange second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Reading of Agenda:** Mr. Jim Sand and Mr. Steve Wilhelm requested to the Road Report a discussion of a petition from residents of Narnia Lane. Mr. Lee Larkey moved to not read the agenda. Mr. Joe Lang second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Board of Audit Report:** Mr. Stephen Saupe read the Board of Audit report. In response to a question from a resident, Supervisor Gondringer explained the budget categories (*i.e.*, General Revenue, Road & Bridge, Fire, Capital Improvement). Mr. Dean Martini moved to approve the Board of Audit report as presented. Mr. Bob Yurczyk second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Mr. Stephen Saupe read the minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting. The minutes were corrected to read, “The General Revenue Fund was larger this year...” Mr. Jim Sand moved to approve the amended minutes. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Planning Commission Report:** Planning Commission Chair, Mr. Ken Mergen, presented the Planning Commission report. He stated that the Planning Commission had addressed a variety of issues including (a) Memorandum of Understanding between Avon Township and Stearns County, which is an agreement that outlines the responsibilities of both parties; (b) action on a couple of variances; and (c) prioritization of purchases for the Town. Mr. Earl Sadlowsky moved to accept the Planning Commission report. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Joint Powers Board Report:** Supervisor Richard Bresnahan presented the Joint Powers Board report. There was only one meeting that was held as required in April. The City and Town disagree on the formula for the annexation percentage. The City has suggested the agreement may not be renewed when it expires. Mr. Joe Lang moved to accept the Joint Powers Board report. Mr. Gerry Kremer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Road Report:** Supervisor John Merdan, presented the Road Report. All roads were inspected in April, 2011. One mile of 355<sup>th</sup> and short sections of Norway Road, Shorewood Drive and Parkwood Circle were resurfaced. Assorted road repairs and maintenance were completed including brushing, crack-filling

(the Town used 19,000 pounds of rubberized material), and repairing the storm drain system in Blattner Addition. Mr. Joe Lang noted that some of the rubber is coming off with plowing. Mr. Merdan replied that a certain percentage is removed. Mr. Lee Larkey inquired if the Town is planning and budgeting for long-term road repairs and replacement. Supervisor Gondringer indicated that funds are limited and that the worst roads are repaired first. Supervisor Bresnahan stated that the Town has developed a database to monitor roads. Mr. Bob Yurczyk moved to approve the Road Report. Mr. Dean Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried. The road inspection date for 2012 (April 21<sup>st</sup>) was announced. Ms. Barb Lang requested that the Supervisors examine the need for a culvert on Pelican Lake Road that appears to drain into the lake.

**Narnia Lane:** Mr. Jim Sand and Mr. Steve Wilhelm presented a petition for the Town to take over their private road. The petition requests the Avon Township Board to establish as a public road that part of Narnia Lane, approximately a quarter mile, that is currently privately maintained by members of the Narnia Road Association. All the residents of Narnia Lane signed the petition, with the exception of one landowner who is not living in the area. Mr. Steve Wilhelm moved for the Supervisors to accept the petition. Mr. Will Huston second. Motion carried. One opposed.

**Land Sale** – Mr. LeRoy Gondringer reported that the Town owns a 5-acre parcel near Budde Trucking. This is the site of the Town salt shed. Two individuals who want to purchase the property have approached the Town. The Supervisors are looking for feedback about whether to sell the property now or to hold onto it until market conditions improve. Mr. Ken Mergen has consulted with realtors and appraisers and reported that the approximate appraised value is approximately \$139,000 – 160,000. Mr. Jeff Lange moved to recommend that the Town proceed to try and sell the property near Budde Trucking and use the funds from selling the property to build a salt shed at the Town Hall site. Ms. Barb Lang second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Appropriation of Township Budget 2013 & Levy Approval:** The proposed budget for 2013 was presented. The Supervisors recommended a 2013 levy of \$424,100, which is the same as the past few years. There will be a new source of income in the future from cable fees. The Town currently owes less than \$500,000 on the building, which will be paid off in nine years. Mr. Joe Lang moved to approve the General Revenue Levy of \$149,400, Road & Bridge Levy of \$201,200, Fire Fund Levy of \$63,500, Capital Reserve Levy of \$10,000 and Total Levy for 2013 of \$424,100. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Official Posting Places & Newspaper:** Mr. Ken Mergen moved that the Township Hall, *Dahlin's* and *The Store* be the legal posting places. Mr. Jim Sand second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Jim Sand moved that the *Albany Enterprise* be the legal newspaper for the Town. Mr. Gene Casey second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Poll Hours & Annual Meeting:** Mr. Jeff Lang moved to hold the Annual Town Meeting and Election at the Avon Township Hall on the first Tuesday of March. Mr. Gerry Kremers second. All in favor. Motion carried. Because there were so few voters early in the day, Mr. Ken Mergen moved that the Annual Town Election be held from 2:00 – 8:00 PM. Mr. Gene Casey second. All in favor. Motion carried. Redistricting has divided the Town into two precincts, 13A and 13B.

**Memorials & Awards Funding** – Mr. Jeff Lange moved to allow the Supervisors to spend \$250 or less on awards, memorials and recognition. Ms. Barb Lang second. Motion carried. One opposed.

**Fire Department Report:** Mr. Eric Linn, Fire Chief, did not attend the meeting to present a Fire Report. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer provided comments from Chief Linn. There were 41 calls in the Town last year including one structure fire and two grass fires.

**Other:** Ms. Barb Lang thanked the Supervisors for their work and for the informative web site.

**Adjournment:** Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30 PM. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

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Lee Larkey, Moderator

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date

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Stephen Saupe, Clerk