

Avon Township News

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Avon Township Zoning Administration

Elections Tuesday March 13th

Election hours will be from Noon to 8pm at Avon City Hall. The election will be for three positions; the Clerk and one supervisor for a three year term and one supervisor for one year to complete Mike Guggenberger's term. The candidates who filed for the positions are as follows:

Town Clerk -- Renee Smith (incumbent) 2years
Supervisor Three year – John Merdan
Supervisor One year – Richard Bresnahan

John and Richard both served on the Planning board before their appointments to the Board of Supervisors. They were appointed to as supervisors for part of the past year due to the resignations of Ken Stommes and Mike Guggenberger. Ken and Mike both moved out of Avon Township last year and as a result had to resign their positions. We want to thank both of them for their service to the residents of Avon Township.

Write in candidates are allowed in the township elections if you feel another person is a better candidate for a position. Be sure to get out and vote even if you can't make the meeting itself.

Annual Meeting 8pm at the Avon City Hall on Tuesday March 15th.

There are a number of issues to be reviewed at the meeting a few of which are listed below.

The most important issue will be the approval of a budget for the 2007 fiscal year for the levy to be assessed and payable in 2006. The budget is always two years into the future.

Road maintenance and repair is the largest component of the budget. The Board of Supervisor decided not to apply crack fill to the roads this past year and to focus on making repairs instead. It appears this is working and saving money that can be better spent on resurfacing. This will be discussed in more

detail at the meeting before the budget is approved.

A financial report will be provided at the meeting showing revenues and expenses for the township for the past year along with projections for the budget.

Board of Equalization Mtg May 8th 7pm City Hall

This is the opportunity to question how the valuation is determined for your property which is then used to determine how much real estate tax you pay. If you feel your property is valued higher than it should be this is your opportunity to challenge the estimated value of your property.

Orderly Annexation Review:

The map for the Orderly Annexation Area is complete and will be posted at City Hall for everyone to see.

The Joint Planning Board is in place and will have the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) completed shortly. This will define who is responsible for what concerning permits for construction in the Orderly Annexation area.

Project Planning Time

This is the time to plan those construction projects for next summer. This year residents will need to keep in mind that if their property is in the Orderly Annexation Area any permits will be reviewed by the Joint Planning Board. Cliff Borgerding will still be the contact person for permits in the annexation area.

The township issues permits for accessory buildings outside of the shoreland overlay district and for driveway permits for new construction building sites. Contact Cliff Borgerding (356-7191) or by email at cliffborgerding@aol.com.

All other permits are issued by Stearns County Environmental Services (656-3613) at the Administrative Center in St Cloud. You can check the county website for more info at www.co.stearns.mn.us/departments/environment.

Remember all buildings and structures in the lakeshore overlay district require permits ... even small structures near the lake. Permits can often be issued for what are called "water accessory buildings" without any special hearings or hoops to jump through if they are within certain guidelines.

As always it's better to check first than to go ahead with a construction project and then find out you've violated a rule and you have to pay fines or remove a project after you have spent time and money. You can always call Cliff Borgerding to get you started on the process.

Here's a summary of the construction related activities in the township year to date as of December 31, 2005.

County Activities

- 2 New Home Permits Reviewed
- 11 Home Remodels/Additions Reviewed
- 4 Residential Accessory Bldg Permits Reviewed
- 1 Farm Accessory Bldg Permits Reviewed
- 1 Decks/Gazebos/Porches Reviewed
- 20 Total County Activities**

Township Activities

- 10 Accessory Building Permits Issued
- 1 Communications Tower Acc Bldg permits
- 3 Driveway Permits Issued
- 1 Certificates of Compliance Issued
- 5 Plats/Splits Received
- 4 Variances Received
- 1 Rezoning Requests Received
- 1 Interim Use Permit Requests Received
- 31 Total Township Activities**

51 Total County & Township Activities

Avon Hills Initiative Update:

A conference was held on February 4th that was well attended that covered a number of topics related to developments and issues related to building and preserving the Avon Hills area's beauty and charm.

Snow removal notes:

Winter is still here so here are some reminders for you remember about snow removal.

1. No parking on any road right-of-way during winter months.
2. Plows will be dispatched according to snow conditions.
3. Widening and sanding roads will be done after all roads have been plowed at least once to allow use of the road.
4. Plows are not liable for any damage to fences on township property or mailboxes that are not up to US Postal Standards.
5. Cleaning snow away from mailboxes is the responsibility of the property owner.
6. Snow from private driveways may not be dumped on the township right-of-way. Adjacent land owners will be held liable for all damages and injuries incurred by snow piles pushed on the road right-of-way.

Remember too, snowplows are LARGE HEAVY TRUCKS and they can't stop on a dime nor can they maneuver as quickly as your car or passenger truck. Most of the time plows also have snow flying around making visibility for the driver difficult. Slow down and give them the respect they deserve! They don't lose any battle with passenger vehicles and trying to win against them will only cost you money or your life!

Planning Board Notes:

The board has finished a draft of a new subdivision ordinance for the township to guide developments outside the orderly annexation area within the township. It will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for final review in April.

Township government is the most basic form of democracy in our country. Participate ... get involved and attend the Annual meeting and share in the responsibility of governing our township! Don't forget to vote.

See you at the Annual Meeting.