

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Board
February 23, 2011
Avon Township Hall

Call to Order: Chairman Mergen called to order the regular meeting of the Planning Board at 7:30 P.M. in the main Chamber of the Town Hall.

Pledge: Clerk Saupe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present – Ken Mergen, Roger Nelson, Gerry Kremers, Lowell Rushmeyer, Stephen Saupe. Also present were Supervisors LeRoy Gondringer, Richard Bresnahan, John Merdan.

Approval of Agenda: Added to the agenda was: (a) discussion of landscaping. Mergen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Several typographic mistakes in the January 26, 2011 minutes were corrected. Rushmeyer moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2011 meeting as amended. Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearing: none

Business:

- 1. Planning Meeting** – Ms. Heidi Winkowski, Stearns County Environmental Services, appeared to discuss updating/revising the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Township. As a consequence of adopting the new County 439 Ordinance that replaces Ordinance 209, County staff are meeting with Townships. The purpose of these meetings is to update MOU's so that they are consistent with the new Ordinance and also to provide Townships with an opportunity to make changes to their current MOU. A variety of changes/modifications to the MOU were discussed. Ms. Winkowski will make the necessary changes to the document and will provide the Township with an updated copy for final approval. Ms. Winkowski will wait until after a planning meeting in late March before finalizing the MOU document.
- 2. Landscaping** – There was general agreement that it is a good idea to landscape most of the grounds with native prairie grasses and forbs and rain gardens in the wetland area. A buffer of lawn would be left around the Town Hall. We plan to apply for funding from the state Legacy Funds. These monies pay up to 75% of the cost for selected projects. Merdan and Saupe will work on this project.

Announcements:

- **Avon Hills Meeting** – Gondringer announced that representatives from Colledgeville Township, Avon Township, the County, and the Avon Hills group will meet with planner Brian Ross to discuss various aspects of zoning and planning. This meeting will be held in the Town Hall on March 28, 2011.
- **CAPX2020** – The Township submitted our brief in the case last week. We are now waiting to learn the decision of the judge.

- **Green Acres** – Changes will occur in the Green Acres program such that it will return roughly to the way it was a few years ago.
- **Fire Board Meeting** – Merdan reported that the recent meeting went well. The funding formula has changed which has increased the Township contribution. There will be an increase in costs for the Fireman’s Fund. There was a question whether the Township is permitted to pay into this Fund.
- **Files** – Township officials are encouraged to bring to the Town Hall any Township files/documents they have at home so they can be sorted and filed. Old copies of the 209 Ordinance can be discarded since this document was replaced by Ordinance 439.
- **Joint Powers Board Meeting** – the next meeting will occur February 28, 2011 at 7:00 PM, Avon City Hall to consider the request by Mr. Joseph Straley to erect a wind turbine at his residence.

Adjournment: Rushmeyer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is March 30, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Saupe, Clerk

Minutes amended & approved: