

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission

October 28, 2015

Avon Township Hall (16881 Queens Road, Avon)

Call to Order: Chairman Gondringer called to order the regular meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission at 7:30 PM. in the Main Chamber of the Town Hall.

Pledge: Clerk Saupe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement of Recording: The Clerk announced the meeting was going to be recorded and turned on the recorder.

Roll Call: Present – Will Huston, LeRoy Gondringer, Gerry Kremers, Ken Mergen, and Stephen Saupe.

Approval of Agenda: A discussion of a donation of furniture to the Town Hall was added to the agenda. Mergen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Kremers second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Mergen moved to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2015 meeting as presented. Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearings: *none scheduled*

Scheduled Business:

- Zoning in the St. Anna Area** – The discussion from the last meeting concerning future land use and zoning in the St. Anna area was continued. There was general agreement that the area north of Pelican Lake currently listed as Townsite should be changed to Moderate Residential. There was similar agreement that the area to the east of St. Anna currently planned as Shoreland/ Concentrated residential should be changed to Moderate Residential. There was no consensus about future land use south of St. Anna. Three possible options emerged: (1) including only the Weber and northern five acres of the Baker properties in the Moderate Residential district. Pro's - this option doesn't encourage additional growth and addresses a specific request. Con's – it is reactionary and not proactive concerning future growth in the area. This plan is favored by Mergen and Saupe; (2) Extending the new R5 zoning boundary of the Baker property west to Pelican Lake. Pro's – it squares off the Baker property and acknowledges future potential development of the Becker property adjacent to St. Anna. This option is favored by Gondringer & Kremers; and (3) Setting the southern edge of the Baker property as the boundary of the Moderate Residential District and squaring this off with the Moderate Residential District east of St. Anna. Pro's – the option acknowledges future growth in the area. This option is favored by Huston. The options will be presented to the Supervisors.
- Joint City / Town Meeting** – the City and Town recently held a joint meeting to discuss a variety of issues including: (a) Aquatic invasive species – Ms. Christine Jurek, MN DNR, gave a presentation on treatment options for Eurasian water milfoil in the Spunk Lake system. She suggested that it is unlikely that the plant will be eradicated. The goals (completely rid the lake vs. keep under control) and costs (time, money, risk of doing more harm) of treatment must be balanced as a management plan is developed; (b) CodeRed System – this is an emergency management system for contacting residents and the cost would be jointly shared with the City. Huston moved to recommend to the Supervisors to not adopt the CodeRed system. Mergen second. Four in favor. One opposed (Saupe); (c) Solar Gardens – the City is considering a Solar Garden initiative to help reduce costs; (d)

Drainage – there are drainage issues in the City. Solutions may involve properties in both the Town and City; and (e) Building permits in the Joint Powers Area will continue to be handled by the Joint Powers Board as is currently specified in the MOU with the County since there will be few of them.

- 3. **Office Furniture** – Huston announced that his company is remodeling and that they are willing to donate their used furniture to the Town Hall. It was agreed to gladly accept this generous donation.
- 4. **eMail Policy** – There is no official MAT or other policy concerning use of private email servers for Township business. However, in the event of a lawsuit, it is possible that email can become a public document. As a consequence, the MAT attorney recommends a separate server.
- 5. **Free Speech Policy** – A Supervisor or Planning Commission member has a right to express his/her opinion and use the title of the position. However, if someone misrepresents a Town decision while using a title, he/she could be personally liable for any wrongful actions.

Other & Old Business: *none*

Announcements/Reports:

Adjournment: Mergen moved to adjourn the meeting at about 9:00 PM. Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is November 25, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Approval:

LeRoy Gondringer, Chair

Date

Attest:

Date