

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors
August 26, 2009
Avon City Hall

Call to Order: A special meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Gondringer at 9:25 P.M.

Roll Call: Present – LeRoy Gondringer, Richard Bresnahan. Absent – John Merdan.

Business:

1. **St. John's Solar Project** – The Supervisor's met to consider approval for the conditional use permit for the St. John's Solar project. Br. Benedict Leuthmer and Mr. Bill Boom were present from St. John's. Representatives from Westwood Renewables were also present. Gondringer and Bresnahan had been present at the public hearing during the Planning Board meeting that directly preceded this special meeting. Gondringer stated that a condition of approval would be that the township reserve the right to inspect the project as needed. When asked about access, Br. Benedict indicated that a five-foot high agricultural fence would be erected around the exterior. The site would have restricted access and would be locked. Bresnahan moved to approve a conditional use permit for the construction of a solar facility by St. John's with the conditions that it adheres to County Ordinance 427 and any parallel review by Ms. Angie Berg from Stearns County Environmental Services, and that St. John's grant access for a site visit when requested. Gondringer second. Motion carried. This motion will need to be recorded.
2. **Menke Variance** – Mr. Patrick Menke appeared to request a variance to build a shed on his property closer to the road than current ordinance requires. Gondringer and Bresnahan had been present at the public hearing during the Planning Board meeting that directly preceded this special meeting. Bresnahan moved to approve the variance to construct a shed inline with the rest of the neighbors that is 53 feet from the center of the road or 20 feet from the road right-of-way (whichever is greater). Gondringer second. Motion carried.
3. **Township Facility Discussion** – Mr. Ralph Leither from Lifestyle Lumber appeared to provide advice concerning construction of a Township facility. Mr. Leither had served as the general contractor for the Collegeville Township facility. Although Collegeville hired an architect, Mr. Leither indicated that it was unnecessary because his company had done the basic plans. However, a building engineer would be necessary. Avon would likely use the basic plans from Collegeville. Mr. Leither indicated that he recommended hiring locally because local contractors provide the best value for the tax dollar. Gondringer indicated that we'd likely present two or three concepts to the township for approval. Mr. Leither indicated that a single facility with a maintenance shop and meeting room wouldn't save significant money versus two separate structures.

Adjournment: Gondringer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. Bresnahan second. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Saupe, Deputy Clerk
Minutes amended & approved: