

## Joint Meeting of the City of Avon & Avon Township

October 21, 2015

Avon City Hall

**Call to Order:** Avon City Mayor Hugh Knox called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The City generously provided a pizza snack for everyone in attendance.

**Pledge:** Mayor Knox led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Aquatic Invasive Species:** Mayor Knox introduced Ms. Christine Jurek, MN DNR, who gave a presentation about aquatic invasive species (AIS) especially Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). This plant, which is now in Middle and Lower Spunk Lakes differs from the native northern water milfoil by having more leaflets and a reddish stem. She indicated that several factors affect the plant including climate, hydrology, nutrient load, and geomorphology. EWM especially likes nutrient-rich waters whereas northern water milfoil prefers lakes with lower nutrient levels. She suggested that one way to help reduce the potential for EWM is to manage nutrient loads into the lake including planting filter strips, sewage treatment, and reducing storm water runoff. Once EWM gets established the two main ways of control are herbicides (2,4 D analogs) and mechanical control (handpicking or harvesters). One disadvantage of herbicides is that they are relatively non-selective and act on other plants like northern water milfoil and bladderwort. She presented data from a case study on Bay Lake in which aggressive treatment for EWM failed to stop its spread. She suggested that 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. Prevention includes watercraft inspections, citizen monitoring programs (a new program is being developed by the UM Extension), and signage.

**CodeRed Emergency Management System:** Mr. Brady Klingfus, a police officer from Paynesville, provided an overview of the Code Red system from ENC, Inc. He said the City and Town of Paynesville are using it with great success and are very pleased with the system. It can be used for: (a) emergency management alerts such as chemical spills, snow emergencies, and flood evacuation; (b) law enforcement such as missing or at risk children, wanted criminals, and sexual predator notifications; (c) public health such as drinking water contamination and flu notifications; (d) public works such as road work, snow plowing, and road closures; and (e) internal use such as board member communication, first responder alerts, and official comments. It would cost the City and Town \$3500 a year, with the cost being split. Five individuals would be granted access to send messages.

**Solar Gardens** – Mayor Knox suggested that the City and Town could become involved in a Solar Garden initiative to help reduce Town/City energy costs. The plan wouldn't be to rent out land for a system or to own it but rather to subscribe to a planned development.

**Drainage Issues** – Some residents in the City are having drainage problems. The City has hired an engineering firm (SEH) to help identify solutions which may involve properties in both the City and Town.

**Building Permits in the Joint Powers Area** – Since there will be relatively few of them, the general suggestion was to continue to handle building and other permits on an individual basis rather than change the MOU with the County. Both entities will consider options.

**Middle Spunk Lake** – Some Township residents on the lake have requested water and sewer from the City.

**Adjournment** – Mayor Knox adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk  
Avon Township  
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