

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Residents of Avon Township Stearns County, MN

March 10, 2015

Avon Town Hall – 16681 Queens Road, Avon MN 56310

Call to Order: Clerk Stephen Saupe called to order the Annual Meeting of Avon Township at about 8:40 PM.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions: Township Board members (Kelly Martini, Richard Bresnahan, Roger Nelson, John Merdan, Stephen Saupe) and Planning Commission members (Ken Mergen, Gerry Kremers, Will Huston, LeRoy Gondringer) members were introduced. Deputy Clerk Marion Gondringer, Deputy Treasurer Paul Buttweiler, and maintenance worker Joe Koopmeiners, were also introduced. Approximately 40 residents were in attendance.

Nomination and Election of Moderator: Mr. LeRoy Gondringer nominated Mr. Lee Larkey for moderator. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Election Results: Mr. John Merdan was elected to a three-year term as supervisor and Ms. Kelly Martini was elected to a two-year term as Treasurer.

Approval of Agenda: Moderator Larkey suggested moving the Fire Report before the Planning Commission report. Mr. Ken Mergen moved to do this. Mr. Denis McGuiness second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Clerk Saupe read the minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting. There were two corrections – there is only one year remaining in the Joint Powers Agreement with the City, and the correct street name is St. Anna Drive. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Ken Kierzek second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board of Audit Report: Clerk Saupe read the Board of Audit report. Mr. Dean Martini moved to approve the Board of Audit report. Ms. Kelly Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Mr. Joel Richter, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department Report. Chief Richter reported that during the past year the department responded to 52 medical and 15 fire calls in the Township (compared to 23 medical/12 fire in Collegeville Township; 37 medical/7 fire in the City). There were also 22 interstate calls. There were a total of 174 calls involving 2,368 hours. This doesn't include the time firefighters spent training, etc. There were three major fundraisers (Blattner Golf Outing, Spunk Days raffle, calendar sales). All equipment is paid for. The department goal is to have 25 fully trained firefighters. They are working on a new brush rig. A new furnace was purchased for the Fire Hall and a leak in the roof was repaired. Calendar sales earned roughly \$4,500.

Planning Commission Report: Planning Commission Chair, Mr. Ken Mergen, presented the Planning Commission report. LeRoy Gondringer was appointed to the Planning Commission to replace Roger Nelson who became Supervisor. The Planning Commission recommended a ban on e-cigarettes in the Town Hall, looked into noise and parking ordinances, inquired about receiving funding from speeding

tickets, and handled a request by St. John's for an extension to their solar field. Mr. Gene Casey moved to accept the Planning Commission report. Mr. Dean Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Joint Planning Board Report: Mr. Ken Mergen presented the Joint Planning Board report. The City's Wellhead Protection Plan is now complete. The City and Town will likely renew the Joint Powers agreement for another 10 years. Mr. Ken Kierzek moved to accept the Joint Planning Commission report. Mr. Paul Buttweiler second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Road Report: Supervisor John Merdan presented the Road Report. The Township tarred Upper Spunk Lake road. Mr. Mark Casey reported that his driveway approach needs to be lowered as a result of the roadwork. We continued to cut trees in the road right-of-way. The Town will spray again this year for weeds, brush and especially poison ivy; contact the Clerk to opt out of spraying. The Township purchased a ditch mower; we now cut our own ditches. Mr. Nelson reported that a beetle is being used as biological control to get rid of a population of leafy spurge on Tower Road. Mr. Gerry Kremers moved to approve the Road Report. Mr. Joe Koopmeiners second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Aquatic Invasive Species – Mr. Denis McGuiness, Avon Area Lakes Association, addressed the meeting to alert residents to the discovery of Eurasian milfoil in Middle Spunk and Lower Spunk Lakes. The Lakes Association obtained funding from the DNR and from donations to pay for a treatment to Middle Spunk in the fall. The group has recently completed a grant to Stearns County to request additional funds. Mr. McGuiness requested that the Township levy include funding for control of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Mr. Cliff Borgerding spoke in favor of the need to control AIS. Mr. Borgerding moved to include \$2000 in the 2016 levy for the control of aquatic invasive species. Mr. Mark Casey second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Two Rivers Lake Ditch Work – no action taken.

Appropriation of Township Budget for 2016: The proposed budget for 2016 was presented. The Supervisors originally recommended a 2016 levy of \$424,100, which is the same as the past few years. Residents voted to increase the levy by \$2000, for AIS control, to a total of \$426,100.

Levy Approval for 2016: Mr. Lee Larkey moved to approve a General Revenue levy of \$149,700 for 2016. Mr. Cliff Borgerding second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Lee Larkey moved to approve a Road & Bridge levy of \$200,400 for 2016. Mr. Cliff Borgerding second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Lee Larkey moved to approve a Fire Fund levy of \$66,000 for 2016. Mr. Cliff Borgerding second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Lee Larkey moved to approve a Capital Reserve levy of \$10,000 for 2016. Mr. Cliff Borgerding second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Lee Larkey moved to approve a Total levy for 2016 of \$426,100. Mr. Cliff Borgerding second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Official Posting Places & Newspaper: Mr. Will Huston moved that the Township Hall, *Dahlin's* and *The Store* be the legal posting places. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Ken Mergen moved that the *Albany Enterprise* be the legal newspaper for the Town. Mr. Dean Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Poll Hours & Annual Meeting: Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to hold the Annual Town Election at the Avon Township Hall on the second Tuesday of March from 2:00 – 8:00 PM and the Annual Meeting on the same day at 8:30 PM. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Memorials & Awards Funding – Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to allow the Supervisors to spend a maximum of \$250 on awards, memorials and recognition. Mr. Will Huston second. Motion carried. All in favor.

Other: Mr. Cliff Borgerding recommended that money saved on road spraying could be used to treat area lakes for AIS. Mr. Stanley Streit inquired about the payment plan for the Town Hall. Mr. Richard Bresnahan responded that there are about five years left on the loan. The Township recently considered refinancing the interest rate on the bond but it wouldn't pay to do so.

Announcements: Mr. Richard Bresnahan reported that the Township joined with Saint John's Abbey and Saint John's University to oppose the proposed route of the Sandpiper Oil Pipeline along the I-94 corridor. Bresnahan also reported that the images hanging in the building are the first art exhibit in Minnesota in a Township Hall and were produced by artist Paul Wagner and sponsored by the Minnesota Arts Board. Supervisor Nelson reported that the Township no longer has a gopher bounty.

Adjournment: Mr. Cliff Borgerding moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:05 PM. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Signatures

Lee Larkey, Moderator

date

Stephen Saupe, Clerk

date