

# 2025 AVON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

## March 11, 2025

**Call to Order:** Clerk Stephen Saupe called to order the 2025 Annual Meeting of Avon Township at about 8:20 PM in the Main Chamber of the Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon (MN). This meeting, like all Township meetings, was also available on Zoom at the following URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8325486945> (Pass code: AvonTown).

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge was recited.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Clerk Saupe welcomed approximately 20 residents to the Annual Meeting and introduced the Town staff who were present. These included: Paul Buttweiler (*Deputy Treasurer*), Craig Blonigen (*Planning Commission, PC*); LeRoy Gondringer (*Supervisor*), Marion Gondringer (*Deputy Clerk*), Kelly Martini (*Treasurer*), Bryan Rassier (*Supervisor*), Stephen Saupe (*Clerk*), Rich Sanoski (*PC*), Andrew Wensmann (*PC*), and Lori Yurczyk (*PC*). The meeting rules (*i.e., only residents are permitted to vote*) were also announced. LeRoy Gondringer did not run for re-election; he was recognized for his many years of outstanding service to the Township.

**Nomination and Election of Moderator:** LeRoy Gondringer nominated Bob Yurczyk to serve as Moderator for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich Sanoski. Kelly Martini nominated Eric Linn to serve as moderator. Frank Himsl second. No other nominations were made. Residents raised their hand to vote. Eric Linn received 11 votes. Bob Yurczyk received 9 votes. Mr. Linn was elected to serve as moderator and he took a seat at the dais and ran the remainder of the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda:** Kelly Martini moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Bryan Rassier. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Election Results:** Craig Blonigen was elected to a three-year term (2025-2028) as Supervisor. Kelly Martini was re-elected to a two-year term as Treasurer (2025-2027).

**Avon Fire Department Report:** Chief Chuck Swenson appeared at the meeting to provide a report (*appended*) from the Avon Fire Department. He reported that there was a total of 288 calls in 2024, which was an increase of 6 calls from 2023. There were 113 calls in the Township. Of these, most were medical (85%) and the remainder (15%) were fire-related. In addition, the crew was involved in assorted monthly trainings, meetings, fund raising, and other activities. There were three fund-raisers (Golf Outing, Spunk Days Raffle, Yearly Calendar). Unit #6 (Rescue) will soon be replaced. The cost was covered by fund raising and donations. Unit #11 (Second Rescue, person hauler) will be replaced in the future. There are currently 28 members, with two in training. They are working on retention in the hiring process. The Fire Hall expansion is nearly complete with just a few punch list items remaining. The project was about \$65,000 under budget. Some outside work (*i.e., landscaping, sidewalks*) remains. They are planning for an Open House. Chief Swenson encouraged residents to keep brush and trees cut back from their driveways.

**Road Report:** Supervisor Bryan Rassier presented the 2024 Road Report (*appended to the agenda*). In addition to routine maintenance (weed control, grading gravel roads, mowing ditches, snowplowing/sanding), during the past year the Township resurfaced 145<sup>th</sup> Avenue and replaced a culvert on Shorewood Drive. Upcoming projects in 2025 include resurfacing the western half of Queens Road and crack-sealing Parkwood Circle. An LRIP grant application submitted by the Township to MNDOT to resurface Queens Road was denied. Our full-time maintenance worker resigned. Applications were recruited for the position, but none of the applicants could be hired because they didn't have a CDL license. The Supervisors are in discussions about how to fill this opening.

**Planning Commission (PC) Report:** Lori Yurczyk presented the 2024 PC report (*appended to the agenda*). She reported that the PC met 12 times and provided input to the Supervisors regarding resident requests for plat approval, certificates of compliance, access (driveway) permits, conditional use permits, variances, a transfer of development rights, and encroachment agreements. The PC also discussed CUP requests to the County by Shady's Sunset Bay, including for an after-the-fact permit for a bandshell and outdoor concerts. LeRoy Gondringer provided an update on the Shady's situation. He said that after the Supervisors voted 2 to 1 at their last meeting to allow up to 10 events at Shady's. The Township Noise Ordinance requires Shady's to obtain a permit from the Township for every outdoor event, however, there is a question about the enforceability of the ordinance. The County will make the final decision on the CUP.

**Joint Powers Board Report:** Lori Yurczyk, PC Chair and representative to the Joint Powers Board, reported that the JPB makes recommendations about zoning and land use in the Orderly Annexation Area. There was one meeting in 2024 to consider a request to rezone a property on Norway Road to commercial (denied). The Committee is currently working on renewal of the agreement, which is set to expire at the end of the year.

**Minutes of the March 2024 Meeting:** The Clerk briefly summarized the minutes of the March 2024 Annual meeting. Lori Yurczyk moved to not require the minutes to be read aloud since a copy was provided in the agenda packet and that residents could read the minutes on their own. Craig Blonigen second. Motion carried.

**Board of Audit Report:** A copy of the 2025 Board of Audit Report for 2024 including the year-end Cash Control Statement was provided in the agenda packet. The Clerk read the report which shows the Town's financial status. There was a question about which fund is used to purchase equipment like a new snow plow. It depends on the equipment, but normally, as in this case, Road & Bridge. Lori Yurczyk questioned whether the amount for R&B is adequate. Kelly Martini said that it is a concern because prices are going up. LeRoy Gondringer said that roadwork last year was paid from our ARPA fund, which was received during Covid. The fund is now exhausted. The Town also used ARPA funds to help defray costs for broadband installation in the Township. Kelly Martini moved to approve the 2024 Board of Audit report. Paul Buttweiler second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Township Levy for 2025:** After developing a budget for 2026, the Supervisors recommended the following levy amounts for 2026: Total levy –\$699,900; General Revenue – \$89,950; Road & Bridge – \$420,950; Fire –\$184,000; and Capital Reserve – \$5,000.

Lori Yurczyk moved to approve a 2026 **General Revenue** levy of \$89,950. Rich Sanoski second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Paul Buttweiler moved to approve a 2026 **Road & Bridge** levy of \$420,950. Bob Yurczyk second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rich Sanoski moved to approve a 2026 **Fire Fund** levy of \$184,000. Craig Blonigen second. All in favor, Motion carried.

Paul Buttweiler moved to approve a 2026 **Capital Reserve** levy of \$5,000. Bob Yurczyk second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bob Yurczyk moved to approve a 2026 **Total Levy** of \$699,900. Rich Sanoski second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Posting Places:** Kelly Martini moved to approve keeping the Avon Township Hall and *The Store* as the legal posting places. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Legal Newspaper:** Lori Yurczyk moved to approve keeping the *Star-Post* as the legal newspaper for the Township. Rich Sanoski second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**2026 Poll Hours:** Kelly Martini moved to hold the 2026 Annual Township Election from 2:00 – 8:00 PM. Craig Blonigen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**2026 Annual Meeting Time/Location:** The 2026 Annual Meeting will occur on the second Tuesday of March (March 10, 2026). Rich Sanoski moved to hold the Annual Meeting in the Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon (MN) at 8:15 PM. Andrew Wensmann second. All in favor. Motion carried. The Board of Canvass meeting will immediately follow the Annual Meeting.

**Decision on Budget Amount for Memorials & Celebrations:** Kelly Martini moved to approve a budget of \$250 to be used for Town memorials, awards, recognition, and community celebrations. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Request to Vacate Parkwood Court:** When the Township resurfaced half of Parkwood Circle in 2022, Parkwood Court was reworked and essentially removed. The land still belongs to the Township. At the time, the Supervisors said they would be willing to consider vacating the area and returning the land to the adjacent neighbors (*see Resolution 10-05-22-1*). Jeremy & Holly Maursted (15063 Parkwood Court; PID 03.01530.0069) and Sean & Kelly Primus (15047 Parkwood Court; PID 03.01530.0091) were present to request the vacation. Mr. Maursted gave a presentation requesting vacation and reminded the gathering that in 2022 the Supervisors passed a Resolution in support of vacating the road, but no action has been taken. The Supervisors wanted the neighbors to decide on property lines, who would pay the costs (*i.e.*, survey, recording, attorney fees), if Xcel has a concern regarding providing an easement for a power pole, and if there would be a new address for their properties. Neighbor Jim McDougle said it wasn't obvious why the area was created in the first place since it was pretty much only a parking area. The neighbors have agreed on how to split the property. Ken Mergen suggested that a downside of the vacation is that the taxes of the residents might go up. LeRoy Gondringer moved to initiate the vacation of Parkwood Court on the request of the adjacent landowners. Rich Sanoski second. Motion carried. The neighbors will attend the April Supervisor to begin the next steps.

**Additional Comments:** Mr. Frank Himsl inquired why the Supervisors weren't sitting at the dais. He was told that this

meeting was designed to be run by the residents, so the elected officials so the Supervisors intentionally didn't sit up front. LeRoy Gondringer said that in the past, the Supervisors did sit at the dais. Frank Himsl moved to request the Supervisors and PC to sit at the dais during the Annual Meeting. LeRoy Gondringer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rich Sanoski said that the Town should thank LeRoy Gondringer for his long service to the Township and helping to keep taxes down. Mr. Gondringer was given a round of applause. He said he was proudest of being involved in the construction of the Town Hall complex and that it has served the township well.

**Adjournment:** Kelly Martini moved to adjourn the 2025 Annual Meeting of the residents of Avon Township at about 9:30 PM. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Stephen Saupe, *Clerk*

**date:** March 16, 2025

**ATTEST**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Linn, *Moderator*

date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fire Board Summary 2024

<b>2023 Calls:</b>	Avon Twp	Collegeville	City	I94	Mutual Aid
Medicals	96	36	100	12	1
Fires	17	8	12	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>

Percentage of use for Avon Township 39%, City 38%, Coll 16%, shared 7%

Total Calls: 288 up 6 calls compared to last year which was 282 calls for service. Of those 85% are medical calls.

These are paged out calls, does not reflect the required monthly trainings & business meetings, committee meetings, fund raising, mutual aid & chiefs' meetings, fires schools, continued education, public education, amongst many other volunteer time it takes to keep the FD running & trained.

Fund Raisers: Staying about the same amount of income year to year, great membership ambition for these to happen

- Golf Outing
- Spunk Days Raffle
- FD yearly calendar

Future Goals:

- Unit #6 Rescue in process \$95,000 – paid for with donation money & fundraising
- Replace Unit #11, second rescue truck / man hauler - in the coming year(s)
- Continue fund raising efforts & training while using various grants to support such as FEMA/AFG, DNR, MBFTE, & a few others.

We are currently at 28 members, 2 in training, all certified & licensed FF's & EMR's. 1 member with over 35 years, 7 members over 20 years. Hiring will be advertised this spring, hoping to add a couple more.

Fire hall expansion, a few punch list items left

- we are moved in and using the space
- Under budget so far by about \$65,000, some items to finish in spring
- about \$60,000 in donations, a mix of money, materials, and labor from various people and businesses
- hoping to have open house, possibly spring of maybe in conjunction with Fire Prevention week

Please keep trees & brush cut back from driveways & 911 address signs to help us locate you & better serve you getting big truck in & out in case of an emergency.

We appreciate your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted by Chief Swenson