

News from Avon Township

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This is an exciting month for the Township. We are debt-free!

That's right, we just made our last bond payment. At the November meeting, the Supervisors approved the final payment to US Bank for the bond that we used to build the Town Hall and Maintenance Shop.

To provide some historical background on how we got to this point, prior to the construction of the Town Hall we had no place to call 'home.' Our meetings and elections were held in the Avon City Hall. We hired out our snow plowing and road work.

Though this arrangement worked reasonably well for years, by 2008 the Town was faced with several conundrums. We needed to find a place to vote because the City reclaimed the space for their residents. We were confronted by the likelihood we would need to do our own snowplowing. And, our Township records were scattered in various locations and needed to be centralized.

These concerns were presented to the residents at the Annual Meeting in March 2009. In response to their comments, the Supervisors appointed a Task Force in April 2009 to study space needs. At their September 2009 meeting, the Supervisors authorized a meeting of Township residents to vote on the Task Force recommendation to construct a Town Hall and a Maintenance shop for the storage of snowplows.

Town residents were sent a postcard inviting them to attend a Special Meeting in October 2009 to consider the Task Force recommendations. At this meeting, residents voted to authorize the construction project and set a budget limit. Soon after, the Supervisors appointed a Building Committee, and an architect and construction manager were hired for the project. Groundbreaking occurred in May 2010 and the Township took possession of our facilities in October 2010.

There are many Township residents to thank for their work on this project. They include: Richard Bresnahan, Gene Casey, Leroy Gondringer, Zoe Graul, Marcy Heinen, Steve Himsl, Gerry Kremers, Lee Larkey, Eric Linn, Kelly Martini, John Merdan, Ken Mergen, Roger Nelson, Steve Plantenberg, Lowell Rushmeyer, Stephen Saupe, Renee Smith, Ed Springer Jr., and Arlene Truscinski. These individuals either served on an appointed committee or were simply

interested residents who offered suggestions. Hopefully, I haven't left anyone out, but if so, I apologize and thank everyone, named and unnamed, for their participation.

As anyone who has paid off a home mortgage knows, it's an exhilarating feeling. Best of all, you now have extra cash every month. This means that we will be able to even more aggressively repair and replace roads.

Speaking of road repair, you've likely noticed that the Norway Road project is now complete. We have a beautiful new road, largely at MN DOT expense, thanks to a state grant we received. If you have suggestions for other roads in need of repair, let me, or any member of the Town Board know. We will be making our repair decisions in the spring, after the annual road inspection.

Finally, we are seeking additional members for the Planning Commission. If interested, please contact me. Not only will you be able to help the Town make decisions that affect all residents, but you can do so in our beautiful facilities that are now paid for and were built without raising our taxes!