

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

November 17, 2010

Avon Township Hall

Call to Order: Chair Gondringer called the meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors to order at 8:00 P.M.

Pledge: Clerk Saupe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present – Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer, Kelly Martini, John Merdan, and Stephen Saupe.

Approval of Agenda: Added to the agenda were: (a) discussion of policy for groups using the new building; (b) need for a building caretaker. Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Minutes will be examined at the December 8th meeting.

Claims: A claim was received from the Tri-County Humane Society for a stray dog. The remainder of the claims will be presented at the December 8th meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurers report will be presented at the December 8th meeting.

Road Report: The following issues were discussed:

1. Luke Johnson will chip piles of brush this weekend.
2. Plowing private roads/drives - Currently, the township is only going to plow Ms. R. Anderson's drive because this was part of the negotiation for the land purchase. According to a document from the MN Association of Townships attorney, Township insurance covers plowing regardless of whether or not it is a township road. If the township does plow private roads, the township should charge full market value.
3. First snow – Gondringer and Merdan will ride along with the plow operators during the first few snows to insure that our new drivers know the proper routes.
4. Air Compressor – Because the plow trucks have air brakes it takes about five minutes to generate the necessary pressure (90 psi) before the trucks can be moved out of the buildings. To move the trucks out of the building quicker to minimize fumes, the brakes can be first pressurized with an air compressor. Merdan will work with Joe Koopmeiners to determine what is needed and purchase a compressor, hose and necessary fittings.
5. Mailboxes – residents are reminded to install swing-away mailboxes.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board report will be presented at the December 8th meeting.

Public Hearings: There were no public hearings.

Business:

1. **Address Change** – Martini reported that she picked up some township mail from the Smith's. She called several places to change the name/address for future mailings.
2. **CAPX2020** - Bresnahan and our township attorney, Mr. J Von Korf, attended the public hearings in Barnesville and Fergus Falls and will attend subsequent ones. In addition to members of the public, the hearings are attended by representatives from Excel, the Public Service Commission, Commerce Department, MN DOT, and the other interveners. The Judge is described as being well prepared and knowledgeable. Township residents, especially those directly affected, are encouraged to attend a hearing(s) to provide personal testimony. The most effective testimony involves being well-prepared, citing specific examples where the power line will have a impact on people and the environment, especially at the township level. The Township's long history of preservation, as evident in our 1981 and 1989 comprehensive plans, may help our case. Gondringer thanked Bresnahan for his time and effort representing Avon Township.
3. **Signs** – all signs in the Township will need to meet new federal rules on reflectivity by 2018. This conversion will be costly. Supervisors are planning for the upgrade in phases. A plan needs to be in effect by Jan 2010 and by Jan 2015 all road signs must comply, followed by street signs in Jan 2018.
4. **Building** – A representative from Precise Heating & Cooling showed township officials how to work the controls for the heating/cooling system. They offered a service contract for yearly maintenance. We will need furnace filters. Martini is working on summarizing total costs for the building project.
5. **Township Gmail Account** – The Township has a gmail account, though some reported not being able to access it. Saupe will check into this.
6. **Mailing Address** – Supervisors discussed whether we should have a PO Box to avoid having mail accumulate at the home of a former township official, as is the case with mail being received at Ms. Renee Smith's. One suggestion is to use the township address but to have all the mail forwarded to the Clerk or other.
7. **Facility Use Committee** – Bresnahan moved to appoint Treasurer Martini and Ms. Marion Gondringer to serve on a committee to develop policies for groups wanting to use the new building. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Issues to consider – fee structure, housekeeping, and use by different types of groups (non-profits, governmental, other community organizations). Saupe will bring this issue to the Planning Board for suggestions.
8. **Township Newsletter** – Saupe reported that the editor of the *Stearns-Morrison Enterprise* would welcome a regular column from the Township. We need to sort out who will write the column.
9. **Gas Service** – Gondringer contacted Gas Service and they fixed some erroneous charges in our original contract and that the tanks will be filled on the 'keep full' program.
10. **Thermostats** – the in-floor heating thermostat is set at 59 F and cannot be changed. Covers are needed for the thermostats in the hall.

11. **Caretaker** – Gondringer suggested that a caretaker could be hired to check the building regularly. The caretaker could monitor the heat, clean, etc. Martini volunteered. No action was taken; if the need arises, it will be discussed again.
12. **Batzer Property** – the Township received notice from the County that Mr. Bruce Batzer had done considerable work on his property on Achman Lake without receiving appropriate permits. Bresnahan moved to send a letter to the County that the Township opposes Mr. Batzer's request to replace the existing deck (4 ft x 4 ft) with anything larger. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Saupe signed a gambling permit request for the Holdingford Lions Club for a raffle at the Pelican Lake Ballroom on February 27, 2011.
- Construction Site Permits were received from the County – Schmainda (pole shed, Co Rd 154); Huston (18 x 24 addition; remove porch, 360th St.)

Adjournment: Merdan moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 PM. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is December 8, 2010 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Saupe, Clerk

Minutes amended and approved: Dec 8, 2010