

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

## August 6, 2014

**Call to Order:** Chairman Bresnahan called the meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Main Chamber of the Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon (MN). Bresnahan welcomed guests from the City of Avon.

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

**Roll Call:** Present – Richard Bresnahan, Kelly Martini, John Merdan, Roger Nelson, and Stephen Saupe. Also present – Ken Mergen (*Planning Commission Chair*), Joe Koopmeiners (*maintenance*).

**Approval of Agenda:** No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

**Minutes:** Merdan moved to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2014 meeting with the correction that the vote for Resolution 07-02-14-2 should reflect that Nelson opposed the resolution. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried. Nelson moved to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2014 meeting as presented. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Martini read the Treasurer's Report and provided the Cash Control Statement for the period 07/01/2014 to 07/31/2014 (*below*). Checks 7912, 7913, and 7955 were voided. In addition, a check to Rinke-Noonan was voided because it was a duplicate payment from the previous month. Martini signed a letter from David Drown Associates to authorize continued service on our Bond. Nelson stated that in March he made a motion eliminating having a Supervisor attend meetings of the Planning Commission and to prohibit any payment for a Supervisor to attend the meeting. No record of this motion could be found. The 2015 certified Township Aid for the Township will be \$1836, half to be received July 2015 and the other half in December 2015. Merdan moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.

### For the Period 07/01/2014 to 07/31/2014

<b>Name of Fund</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>Total Disbursed</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
General Revenue	\$43,149.03	\$87,142.73	\$18,564.38	\$111,727.38
Road and Bridge	\$391,248.61	\$106,340.82	\$8,739.44	\$488,849.99
Fire	(\$54,994.18)	\$34,281.95	\$0.00	(\$20,712.23)
Road Damage Deposit	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$43,102.81	\$5,399.66	\$27.72	\$48,474.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$423,306.27</b>	<b>\$233,165.16</b>	<b>\$27,331.54</b>	<b>\$629,139.89</b>

**Approval of Claims & Payroll:** Martini presented claims 2330 – 2351. Claims #2328 & 2329 were for PERA for Koopmeiners. Claim 2327 should have been included in the claims last month. Nelson moved to approve the payroll and the claims. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Road & Maintenance Report:**

1. **Plow Driver** – only one application has been received. The *ad hoc* hiring committee has not yet met.
2. **Mowing for Residents** – a resident inquired whether or not the Township could mow her private driveway. To avoid competing with local business and to avoid liability issues, the policy of the Township is to not mow grass or plow snow on private property.

3. **Road Construction Update** – Upper Spunk Lake Road will be resurfaced later this summer – likely in late September or early October. The Town engineers recommended B-grade oil rather than C-grade oil because the latter provides a more flexible road surface that stands up better to winter freeze-thaw cycles. Two dips on Norway Road may be patched.
4. **Road Obstructions** – Letters were sent to several residents but the obstructions have not yet been removed. Nelson will contact one resident.
5. **T-sign** – A “T-sign” will be erected by St. Wendel Township at the intersection of Norway Road and 135<sup>th</sup> to alert motorists that there is a private residence to north of this intersection.
6. **Driveway on Two Rivers Road** – a resident is resurfacing a driveway. Nelson will meet with the resident to insure that the toe of the road is not removed. Nelson will also speak to a resident about moving a fence in the road right-of-way.

**Planning Commission Report:** Mr. Ken Mergen, Planning Commission Chair, presented the Planning Commission report. Mergen reported:

1. **Ebnet variance** – Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Melissa Ebnet appeared to request a variance of 11 feet to construct an addition onto their home. Nelson moved to waive the variance fee due to the fact that the addition was part of their recent public hearing concerning the construction of a garage. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Merdan moved to set a public hearing to consider a variance request by Tony & Melissa Ebnet on August 27, 2014 at 7:45 PM. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Driveway Permit Notification Form:** The Planning Commission recommends adoption of a Driveway Notification form to be used by Stearns County to alert residents to the need for a driveway permit. Nelson moved to approve the Driveway Notification Form. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Saupé will contact the County to initiate its use.
3. **Resolution 08-06-14** – The Planning Commission recommends adoption of a resolution that outlines standards for driveways in Avon Township. Merdan moved to approve Resolution 08-06-14 that provides standards for driveways in Avon Township. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Driveway Access Permit** – The Planning Commission recommends adoption of a revised Driveway Access Permit. Merdan moved to approve the revised Driveway Access Permit. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **Wobegon Trail parking** – Mr. Cliff Borgerding presented information to the Planning Commission about the Wobegon Trail, particularly in reference to parking needs along Township road areas. Mr. Borgerding stated that he simply was presenting information to the Commission and no assistance by the Town was requested. Bresnahan stated that the Township is not interested in creating parking along minimum maintenance roads.
6. **Mailboxes** – Installing breakaway mailbox posts along Township roads as they are resurfaced would be costly. If the Township does it, the Planning Commission suggests the possibility of having the maintenance employee construct the posts to save money.

7. **Road Map** – The Township Road map was edited and revised. Mr. Will Huston will make necessary corrections and print copies for the Hall and Maintenance Shop.
8. **Finding of Facts** – The Planning Commission recommends adoption of the revised Findings of Facts forms. Merdan moved to approve the “Findings of Facts – Variance” and “Findings of Facts – Conditional/Interim Use” forms. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Merdan moved to approve the Planning Commission report. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion approved.

**Public Hearings:** *none scheduled*

**Business:**

1. **Eurasian Milfoil** – Mr. Dennis McGuinness, Mr. John Habben, and Mr. Jim Stang who were representing the Avon Area Lakes Association Avon City Council appeared to alert the Supervisors to the presence of Eurasian milfoil in Middle Spunk Lake between the beach and boat launch. This is a serious aquatic weed that could potentially spread to Upper and Lower Spunk lakes. Merdan moved to appoint Stephen Saupe as the Township representative to a working group studying the problem. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Additional Meeting** – The Supervisors decided that an additional monthly meeting is not necessary at this time.
3. **Propane** – Koopmeiners checked into propane prices offered by local dealers. Nelson moved to authorize the purchase of propane from Wenner (Cold Spring) if the price is approximately \$1.59 per gallon. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Voting** – The Public Accuracy Test will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Martini will pick up the supplies from the County on Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Ramler Variance** – Mr. Greg Ramler appeared to request a variance to construct an addition to his home closer to the road than current ordinance permits. Mr. Ramler was advised that he should attend the next meeting of the Planning Commission (August 27) to begin the process.
6. **Curbing on Red Maple** – Mr. Greg Ramler stated that he is planning to remove the curbing on his property, which is a hazard for the snowplow. He will also assist a neighbor with the job.
7. **Helping Hands** – Nelson moved to approve the use of the Town Hall by the Holdingford Helping Hands organization for a program for Seniors. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
8. **Rausch/Studniski Gravel Pit Bond** – now that the Township has an escrow account with Stearns County, the previous bond has been cancelled.

**Other/Old Business**

1. **Township Logo** – no action.
2. **Snow & Ice Control Policy** – no action.

**Reports/Announcements**

1. No Certificates of Real Estate Value were received.
2. No Feedlot Permits were received.
3. No 911 Signs were requested.
4. No feedlot permits were received.
5. Construction Site Permits – Maciejewski (15612 Parkwood Circle; 28 x 30 detached garage); Thielman (36661 Pelican Lake Road; rebuild 8 x 25 deck); Ritter (34166 Tower Road; garage & sugar shack)
6. There were two Special Assessment Searches – Hennek (36989 Pelican Lake Road) and Baker (15747 Parkwood Circle).
7. A variance requested by Kurt & Sheryl Schneider to transfer a building credit before it is permitted by ordinance was denied by Stearns County.
8. The MN LTAP *Technology Exchange* newsletter was received.
9. The 2013 Census estimates the population of Avon Township as 2270 and estimates that there are 794 households in the Township.
10. Noxious weed follow-up letters sent to residents as requested by the County.
11. A letter was sent to Mr. Voss to request removing a tank from the road right-of-way.
12. The Saint John’s Solar project is on hold.
13. The MAT District 5 Meeting & Election will be August 19<sup>th</sup> in Wilmar.
14. Couri & Ruppe Law Office sent a brochure concerning legal seminars.
15. The revised title for the new trailer showing the correct Township address was received.

**Announcement of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be July 16, 2014 at 7:30 PM in Avon Township Hall.

**Adjournment:** Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Saupe, Clerk

Supervisor Approval

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Richard Bresnahan

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John Merdan

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Roger Nelson

Attest

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date