

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

July 16, 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).

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*), Marion Gondringer (*Deputy Clerk*).

Approval of Agenda: Discussions of a Narnia Lane property and a Certificate of Compliance were added to the agenda. Merdan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Scheduled Business:

1. **Bid Opening/Roadwork** – Two bids for roadwork were received, one from Hardrives and the other from Knife River. Bresnahan thanked both companies for submitting bids. The bid results are summarized below:

Company	Upper Spunk Lake Road	Norway Road	325th Street
Hardrives	\$436,423.90	\$534,154.32	\$228,720.99
Knife River	\$427,533.75	\$521,309.55	\$221,185.95

Mr. Will Huston from Westwood Engineering will review the bids. The bids were higher than anticipated. The Township doesn't have the funds for all three projects. The increased cost of roadwork may require increasing the levy. Merdan moved to accept the bid from Knife River to resurface Upper Spunk Lake Road pending a satisfactory review of the bids by Westwood Engineering. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried. Norway Road and 325th could be done in a successive year especially now that the engineering has been completed.

2. **Schneider County Variance** – The Stearns County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing to consider a request from Kurt & Sheryl Schneider to transfer a building credit to a tract that does not have a building credit from a tract that is not contiguous nor has been under the applicant's ownership for a minimum of three years. The Supervisors are opposed to any variances to this section of Ordinance 439. Nelson moved to send a Supervisor and a Planning Commission member to the hearing to represent the Township. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Merdan and Huston will attend the hearing as representatives of the Township. Merdan moved that the Township draft a letter opposing variances to the three-year waiting period when transferring a building credit. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried. The Clerk will prepare a letter and send it to the Supervisors for editing and approval.
3. **Escrow Agreement with Stearns County** – Merdan moved to approve the agreement drafted by Attorney Adam Ripple to allow Stearns County to deposit \$5000 in an escrow account in lieu of a bond for the Studniski gravel pit. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried. The document was signed and will be returned to Attorney Ripple for signatures from the County.

4. **Sheep on the Lam** – Bresnahan reported that on the Fourth of July he spent several hours in Blattner Addition with residents and the sheriff rounding up some sheep that had escaped from their owner.
5. **Ditch work on 370th** – a resident called about the need to clean out the ditch. This was done last year but it apparently filled in with all the rain this spring. Merdan moved to authorize Koopmeiners to work on the ditch on 370th. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. **Brushing at the corner of Lower Spunk Lane and Co Rd 9** – a resident called to say it was difficult for drivers to see at this corner. Nelson moved to authorize Merdan to contact the resident about trimming the hedges at the corner. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. **Noxious Weed Follow-Up** – the Clerk received a call about the follow-up letter the Township sent concerning the need to remove noxious weeds from their property. The resident had not yet received a notice from Stearns County and was alerted to contact Supervisor Nelson.
8. **Narnia Lane** – a resident wants to build another accessory building. They were told to contact Stearns County Environmental Services which handles all building permits for the Township.
9. **Building Credits & Land Sale** – a resident is considering selling a few acres to a neighbor and was concerned about the effect on the building credits remaining on his property. He was told to contact Stearns County Environmental Services.
10. **Mowing** – the general plan is to mow thistles around July 1st and then take a second pass to mow the road right-of-way.

Reports/Announcements

1. An ad for a snowplow driver appeared in the *Enterprise* and *Peach*. Applicants will be reviewed at the end of the month by an *ad hoc* committee (Mergen, Gondringer, Koopmeiners).
2. Road Grading – Bresnahan spoke to Jeff Lange about road grading. The Township now plans to do all of our own grading. The Township will contact Collegeville Township about their proposal to share our salt shed in exchange for road grading.
3. Gary Grossinger, Stearns County Assessor is retiring August 1, 2014.
4. Mr. Jim Dierkheising requested to be placed on the no-spray list. He also wondered why an old basswood was trimmed. The tree is in the road right-of-way and had hazardous branches hanging over the road.
5. The County will hold a public hearing on July 29, 2014 at 10:10 AM to consider Ordinance Number 501 amending Ordinance 439 modify the outdoor storage requirements for recycling centers. The Township takes no exception to this change.

Announcement of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be August 6, 2014 in the Avon Township Hall.

Adjournment: Merdan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Saupe, Clerk

Supervisor Approval

Richard Bresnahan

John Merdan

Roger Nelson

Attest

date