

Avon Township Supervisors Meeting – April 1, 2026

Tentative Agenda Packet

1. Call to order – 7:00 PM; Avon Township Hall, Queens Road, Avon (MN). Also, available via Zoom (*see footnote below*)
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of agenda
5. Approval of minutes – February 4, 2026; March 4, 2026; and Qualification Meeting
6. Public Hearings – *none scheduled*
7. Public Comments
8. Planning Commission Report
 - a. Edwards Variance – motion on decision regarding variance; complete document (if approved, Town keeps signed original)
 - b. Frie variance – motion to set public hearing
 - c. Gilk Rezone request (*appended*) – complete Township recommendation form (*appended*); motion to support, or not, request for rezoning
 - d. Pierskalla inquiry regarding land split – needs clarification of request from County
 - e. Appointments to fill two openings for 2026-2029
9. Treasurer’s Report – *Kelly Martini*
 - a. Approval of the Treasurer’s Report & Cash Control Statement
 - b. Clarify in minutes discrepancy between end balance of Road & Bridge and General Revenue in December and the beginning balance in January.
 - c.
10. Claims & Payroll – *Kelly Martini*
 - a. Approval of claims, receipts & payroll
 - b. Lumley access permit refund – OK?
 - c.
11. Town Hall Report
 - a. Resolution 04-01-26-1. Accepting gift (thermostat)
 - b. Fire extinguishers
 - c.
12. Road Report & Roadwork Update
 - a.
 - b.
13. Scheduled Business
 - a. Lion’s request for event – approval
 - b. Liquor license – Immaculate Conception Church – motion to approve, complete form, return
 - c.
14. Other Business (*added at meeting*)
 - a.
 - b.
15. Reports
 - a. Fifth Monday – Blonigen
 - b.
16. Announcements
 - a. **Signs** (incl. 911) – none

Note: The complete agenda is available at www.avontownshipmn.gov. All Town Meetings are available via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8325486945>. Passcode: AvonTown. The Clerk may record the proceedings of this meeting to ensure accuracy of the minutes. The recording will be deleted upon completion of minutes and will not become public (Resolution 01-03-18).

- b. **Construction Site Permits** – none
 - c. **Special Assessment Searches** – none
 - d. **Feedlot permits** –
 - e. **County Hearings/Meeting** – none
 - f. Request to use Hall for grad party denied.
 - g. Request to use Hall for Boy Scout event April 26
 - h. Water sampling through Stearns County – Martini
 - i. Gravel mining operations (Studniski, Heinen) need new permitting if continue
 - j. Contact County if we do roadwork so they can check for any monuments in the road
 - k. Stearns County Officers Association meeting – April 23
17. Old Business – Culvert mapping project & County app; 135th Avenue project with St. Wendel; Case to display old documents; Window treatments for Town Hall; Exterior sign for the Hall; Salt shed overhang/awning; Employee *Handbook* including earned sick time etc.; Pipeline Agreement; brush cutter rental for 2025; Records to historical society
18. Signatures (*as necessary*)
- a. Audit Board Minutes
 - b. Audit Board Report
19. Announcement of next meeting: May 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM
20. Other Upcoming Meetings/Events
- a. LBAE Meeting – April 13, 2026; 6:00 PM
 - b. Stearns County Officer's Association Meeting, Freeport – April 23
 - c. PC Meeting – April 29, 2026
21. Adjournment

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Board of Supervisors

February 4, 2026

Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon (MN)

Call to Order: Chad Klocker called the meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Main Chamber of the Avon Township Hall. This meeting, like other Town meetings, was also available virtually via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8325486945>, Passcode: AvonTown.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present – Craig Blonigen, Marion Gondringer (*Acting Clerk*), Chad Klocker, and Kelly Martini. Absent: Bryan Rassier. Clerk Saupe is on leave of absence. There was a quorum. Also present – Paul Buttweiler, Casey Jansky, and Andrew Wensmann.

Approval of Agenda: Klocker moved to approve the agenda as presented. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Blonigen moved to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2026 meeting as presented. Klocker second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearings: none scheduled

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Planning Commission (PC) Report – *presented by Andrew Wensmann*

- Frie variance inquiry** – Ms. Cindy Frie (34139 Lower Spunk Lane; PID 03.01227.0007) appeared at the meeting to discuss a variance to construct an addition to her garage that would be closer to the road right-of-way than currently permitted. Because it was not clear to the PC the exact variance she would require, Ms. Frie was requested to get an updated survey because it was not clear how close the structure would be to the center-of-the-road. She emailed a revised survey. The PC will examine the request at their February meeting and forward a recommend to the Supervisors for setting a public hearing at the March meeting. The Supervisors expressed concerns about how close any new addition will be and especially access of the proposed addition directly from the road, rather than from the side as in a previous plan.
- Hunting law change** – The County is looking for input on the new legislation. The PC discussed the upcoming change but had no recommendation. The Supervisors agreed and will take no action. No Township recommendations regarding the proposed changes will be made to the County.
- Permits in 2025** – the County maintains a listing of permits. The PC reviewed permits this year to ensure the County database was up to date.
- Road Plan** – Blonigen has been working on updating our road inventory. He created a nifty algorithm to determine which roads are in need of resurfacing. There is a slight discrepancy between the road mileage numbers maintained by the County and Township, perhaps due to rounding differences. The Town will consider remeasuring at some point in the future.

- 5. **Emergency Election Plan** – the PC reviewed and edited the elections emergency plan. An alternate elections site is currently St. Anna Church. We will do a little more research.
- 6. **Emergency Contact List** – the PC discussed who should be listed (all Supervisors, Clerk). It will be posted at the Hall.

Blonigen moved to approve the PC report. Klocker second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer provided the Cash Control statement from January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026 (*appended below*) and read the Treasurer’s report. Blonigen moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Klocker second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

For the Period : 1/1/2026 To 1/31/2026

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Total Disbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
General Fund	\$303,428.85	\$1,649.01	\$27,689.82	\$277,388.04
Road and Bridge	\$311,395.56	\$3,425.68	\$14,758.20	\$300,063.04
Demolition Escrow - Maciejewski	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Novel Solar Decommissioning Escro	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Novel Vegetation Plan Escro	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Road Damage Deposit	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Fire Fund	\$110,796.70	\$1,345.53	\$73,732.00	\$38,410.23
General Capital Projects	\$17,475.79	\$44.85	\$0.00	\$17,520.64
ARPA Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$746,096.90	\$6,465.07	\$116,180.02	\$636,381.95

Claims, Receipts & Payroll: The claims (4979-4993) totaled \$7,149.04. Claim 4978 was for the new plow for \$25,000. The disbursements (**Appendix 1**) and receipts (**Appendix 2**) registers are appended. The approved payroll was \$4,100.04.

A request to return a driveway deposit for Lumley will be held until the project can be adequately inspected. It currently appears wider than approved. Checks 11617 and 11637 were voided. Martini reported that we didn’t receive any gravel tax this year.

Blonigen moved to accept the Cash Control Statement and Treasurer’s Report, and the Claims, Receipts and Payroll. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Town Hall Report: Windows will be examined in the spring. The electric bill seemed high. Perhaps someone inadvertently turned up the thermostat on the in-floor heating unit. The on-demand water heater in the shop doesn’t work. Soap dispensers in the bathroom don’t work – they will be replaced with hand pumps.

Road Report: We have been plowing quite a bit. All is well. A swing-away box/post was damaged; it will be replaced. There is a concern that the title for the new truck has the wrong year. Klocker will follow up with DMV. Some residents have raised their mailboxes on 4x4’s to make it easier for the post office to access it. It could cause a problem for the plow. There are obstacles on the side of the road at the mobile home park. The Town has a tax-free number for Harbor Freight. Klocker will order salt when it is needed.

Blonigen moved to approve the Road Report and Town Hall report. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Business:

1. **MAT Spring Short Course** – Authorization to attend the meeting on March 24, 2026 (St. Cloud Holiday Inn) will be handled next month.
2. **LBAE meeting** – The meeting has been scheduled for April 13, 6:00 PM by the Assessor's office. This works for the Supervisors.
3. **Hand sanitizing stations** – Martini removed them from the Hall and entryway.
4. **OAA Legals/PID's updated** – Changes are acceptable to the Supervisors. Klocker moved to accept the updates to the Orderly Annexation Agreement. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Other Business: none

Reports:

1. **Fifth Monday** –Blonigen attended the meeting. They are having financial issues and looking at a potential 3% cut in the budget. Albany Township may assess residents on Sand Lake road for a project.

Announcements:

- a) **Signs** (incl. 911) – none
- b) **Construction Site Permits** – none
- c) **Special Assessment Searches** – none
- d) **Feedlot permits** – none
- e) **County Hearings/Meeting** – none
- f) **Fire Department** (December 2025 calls) – **City:** Medical 5, Fire/Other 0; **Town:** Medical 4; Fire/Other 1; **Collegeville:** Medical 4, Fire/Other 0; **St. Wendel:** Medical 0, Fire/Other 0; **I-94,** 3.
- g) An inquiry was received from Magnifi Financial regarding for Certificate of Occupancy for new construction. These are not done by the Township.
- h) A Uline catalog was received.
- i) An LTAP workshop brochure was received. Topics include chainsaw safety, leadership skills, management, and roadway maintenance.
- j) An emergency preparedness survey completed for County.
- k) A brochure was received from Willenbring for tree trimming/removal for hire (ajw8690@gmail.com; 320-290-0450).
- l) Lisa Gilk inquired about a potential rezoning request.
- m) A gambling permit was signed for a St. Anna Sportsmen's Club raffle.

Old Business: Culvert mapping; 135th Avenue project with St. Wendel; Windows; Case to display old documents; Window treatments; Exterior sign for the Hall; hiring HR / payroll company; salt shed overhang/awning; CDL License changes; Employee *Handbook*, concrete sealing; *Employee Handbook* including earned sick time etc.; Pipeline Agreement.

Signatures / Documents / Treasurer: Documents were signed as necessary.

Announcement of Next Regular Supervisor Meeting: March 4, 2026; 7:00 PM.

Other Upcoming Meetings/Events: *(available on Zoom at the URL above):*

- a) Town Hall open to accept absentee ballots – March 7, 2026; 10 AM – 12 PM
- b) Public Accuracy Test – March 7, 2026; 10:15 AM
- c) Town Hall open to accept absentee ballots – March 9, 2026; 1-5 PM
- d) Township election (2-8 PM) & Annual Meeting (8:15 PM) – March 10, 2026

Adjournment. Blonigen moved to adjourn the meeting at about 8:30 PM. Klocker second. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk
Marion Gondringer, Acting Clerk

date: February 20, 2026

Supervisor Signatures:

date: _____

Craig Blonigen

Chad Klocker

Bryan Rassier

Appendix 1. Disbursement Register (Feb)

Avon Township

Disbursements Register

2/3/2026

Fund Name: All Funds

Date Range: 01/01/2026 To 01/31/2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Void</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>F-A-O-P</u>	<u>Total</u>
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11589	January 7 Payperiod	N	Clerk	100-41425-103-	\$ 351.98
	Total For Check	11589					\$ 351.98
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11590	January 7 Payperiod	N	Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-103-	\$ 2,241.16
	Total For Check	11590					\$ 2,241.16
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11591	January 7 Payperiod	N	Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-103-	\$ 2,195.25
	Total For Check	11591					\$ 2,195.25
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11592	January 7 Payperiod	N	Treasurer	100-41510-103-	\$ 292.62
	Total For Check	11592					\$ 292.62
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11593	January 7 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 65.51
	Total For Check	11593					\$ 65.51
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11594	January 7 Payperiod	N	Clerk	100-41425-103-	\$ 393.07
	Total For Check	11594					\$ 393.07
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11595	January 7 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 138.52
	Total For Check	11595					\$ 138.52
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11596	January 7 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 69.26
	Total For Check	11596					\$ 69.26
01/07/2026	Chad Klocker	11597	skid loader window	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-403-	\$ 241.44
	Total For Check	11597					\$ 241.44
01/07/2026	Casey Jansky	11598	oasis post mount	N	General Government Buildings and Plant	201-41940-223-	\$ 107.42
	Total For Check	11598					\$ 107.42
01/07/2026	Dillon Hedlund	11599	coupler, hose, seal tape, radiator cap	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-221-	\$ 89.97
	Total For Check	11599					\$ 89.97
01/07/2026	STAR PUBLICATIONS, LLC	11600	Inv #2025-20203	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-351-	\$ 75.20
	Total For Check	11600					\$ 75.20

Fund Name: All Funds
 Date Range: 01/01/2026 To 01/31/2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Void</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>F-A-O-P</u>	<u>Total</u>
01/07/2026	DVS Renewal	11601	2014 MIDS TRL, 2017 FORD SRW, 1996 FORD CHA	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-212-	\$ 20.25
		11601				201-43126-212-	\$ 20.25
		11601				201-43126-212-	\$ 20.25
		Total For Check					\$ 60.75
01/07/2026	MATIT	11602	Inv # 15377	N	Insurance (LMCIT, MATIT, workers comp, etc)	100-41970-360-	\$ 355.00
		Total For Check					\$ 355.00
01/07/2026	STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC	11603	Inv# 2456673 #2503935	N	Paved Streets	201-43121-300-	\$ 878.20
		11603				201-43121-300-	\$ 2,504.75
		Total For Check					\$ 3,382.95
01/07/2026	DRH Transport LLC	11604	DOT MACK 08	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-300-	\$ 100.00
		Total For Check					\$ 100.00
01/07/2026	MAC's HARDWARE	11605	Inv #953048, #953072, #953099, #953153	N	Other General Government	100-41901-227-	\$ 11.99
		11605			Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-221-	\$ 346.56
		11605				201-43126-221-	\$ 65.93
		11605				201-43126-228-	\$ 51.95
		Total For Check					\$ 476.43
01/07/2026	Andy's Towing	11606	1996 Ford Ditch pullout, 2008 Mack Ditch pullout	N	Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-310-1996	\$ 863.06
		11606				201-43125-310-2008	\$ 654.71
		Total For Check					\$ 1,517.77
01/07/2026	LANGE TRENCHING, INC	11607	8.5 blading roads, 58.36 class 5 on Peach Drive	N	Paved Streets	201-43121-300-	\$ 1,530.00
		11607				201-43121-300-	\$ 827.00
		Total For Check					\$ 2,357.00
01/07/2026	CENTRAL HYDRAULICS, INC	11608	Inv#661170	N	General Government Buildings and Plant	201-41940-221-	\$ 550.72
		Total For Check					\$ 550.72
01/07/2026	ALBANY AUTO VALUE	11609	battery, anti gel diesel extre	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-221-	\$ 383.98
		11609				201-43126-221-	\$ 49.91
		Total For Check					\$ 433.89

Fund Name: All Funds

Date Range: 01/01/2026 To 01/31/2026

Date	Vendor	Check #	Description	Void	Account Name	F-A-O-P	Total
01/07/2026	THE STORE	11610	FUEL FOR TRUCKS -November	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-212-	\$ 775.85
		Total For Check	11610				\$ 775.85
01/07/2026	CITY OF AVON	11611	2025 2nd half fire contract	N	Fire	226-42201-310-	\$ 73,732.00
		Total For Check	11611				\$ 73,732.00
01/07/2026	Payroll Period Ending 12/31/2025	11612	January 7 Payperiod	N	Other General Government	201-41901-103-	\$ 96.97
		Total For Check	11612				\$ 96.97
01/07/2026	XCEL ENERGY	WD010720261	electric bill	N	General Government Buildings and Plant	100-41940-380-	\$ 462.60
		Total For Check	WD010720261				\$ 462.60
01/07/2026	Albany Mutual Telephone	WD010720262	Internet	N	Clerk	100-41425-325-	\$ 59.51
		Total For Check	WD010720262				\$ 59.51
01/07/2026	PERA	WD010720263	DCP & Coordinated Plans	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 7.50
		WD010720263			Clerk	100-41425-103-	\$ 102.40
		WD010720263			Treasurer	100-41510-103-	\$ 33.50
		Total For Check	WD010720263				\$ 143.40
01/07/2026	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	WD010720264	December taxes	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-121-	\$ 13.08
		WD010720264			Clerk	100-41110-122-	\$ 55.80
		WD010720264			Clerk	100-41425-121-	\$ 22.78
		WD010720264			Clerk	100-41425-122-	\$ 97.34
		WD010720264			Treasurer	100-41510-121-	\$ 14.08
		WD010720264			Treasurer	100-41510-122-	\$ 60.14
		WD010720264			Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-121-	\$ 26.98
		WD010720264			Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-122-	\$ 115.64
		Total For Check	WD010720264				\$ 405.84
01/07/2026	MINNESOTA REVENUE	WD010720265	2025 4th quarter	N	General Government Buildings and Plant	100-41940-103-	\$ 7.94
		Total For Check	WD010720265				\$ 7.94
01/20/2026	CITY OF DEEPHAVEN	11613	2006 STERLING	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	100-43126-550-	\$ 25,000.00
		Total For Check	11613				\$ 25,000.00
Total For Selected Checks							\$ 116,180.02

Appendix 2. Receipts Register (Feb)

Avon Township		Receipts Register						2/3/2026	
Fund Name: All Funds									
Date Range: 01/01/2026 To 01/31/2026									
Date	Remitter	Receipt #	Description	Deposit ID	Void	Account Name	F-A-P	Total	
01/02/2026	Avon Auto Repair	2014	tax refund	(01/02/2026) -	N	Avon Auto Repair Refund	201-34152-	\$ 45.94	
								<u>\$ 45.94</u>	
01/09/2026	Steve Saupe	2015	Affidavit of Candidacy - Clerk	(01/09/2026) -	N	Recording of Legal Instruments	100-34102-	\$ 2.00	
								<u>\$ 2.00</u>	
01/09/2026	Chad Klocker	2016	Affidavit of Candidacy - Supervisor	(01/09/2026) -	N	Recording of Legal Instruments	100-34102-	\$ 2.00	
								<u>\$ 2.00</u>	
01/20/2026	Midcontinent	2017	cable fee	(01/20/2026) -	N	Royalties	100-36220-	\$ 235.10	
								<u>\$ 235.10</u>	
01/23/2026	Stearns County	2018	2025 Tax Settlement	(01/23/2026) -	N	Current Ad Valorem Taxes	100-31010-	\$ 984.85	
							Mobile Home Tax	100-31030-	\$ 22.60
							Current Ad Valorem Taxes	201-31010-	\$ 3,303.94
							Mobile Home Tax	201-31030-	\$ 75.80
							Current Ad Valorem Taxes	226-31010-	\$ 1,315.35
							Mobile Home Tax	226-31030-	\$ 30.18
							Current Ad Valorem Taxes	401-31010-	\$ 43.85
							Mobile Home Tax	401-31030-	\$ 1.00
								<u>\$ 5,777.57</u>	
01/31/2026	American Heritage	2019	MMR Interest	(01/31/2026) -	N	Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 377.24	
								<u>\$ 377.24</u>	
01/31/2026	Magnifi	2020	MMR Interest	(01/31/2026) -	N	Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 25.22	
								<u>\$ 25.22</u>	
Total for Selected Receipts								<u><u>\$ 6,465.07</u></u>	

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Board of Supervisors

March 4, 2026

Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon (MN)

Call to Order: Craig Blonigen called the meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Main Chamber of the Avon Township Hall. This meeting, like other Town meetings, was also available virtually via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8325486945>, Passcode: AvonTown.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present – Craig Blonigen, Marion Gondringer (*Acting Clerk*), Kelly Martini, and Bryan Rassier. Absent: Chad Klocker. Clerk Saupe is on leave of absence. There was a quorum.

Approval of Agenda: Rassier moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a permit for the Immaculate Conception Church. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes from the February 4, 2026 meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

Public Hearings: none scheduled.

Public Comments: Joe & Marie Koopmeiners appeared to complain about the amount of sod that has been plowed up along his property. The plow driver is not taking a right-hand turn, but is choosing to skip that side of the road and return later to do the opposite side of the road. Clumps are 6-8 inches thick and Koopmeiners feels there is excessive amount of sod that has been dug up along that road property. Blonigen will talk to Dylan Helund who is plowing that road to determine what is taking place. Pictures and video have been submitted documenting this issue.

Sheriff's Department Report: A deputy appeared to provide the periodic reports/updates from the Sheriff. He reported that there were 45 calls for service in December and most (16) were related to traffic. In January there were 56 calls and half were for traffic. He said that there was nothing out of the ordinary occurred in the Township. He said that if a resident has a complaint regarding illegal burning, to immediately contact the Sheriff so that they can investigate. The deputy invited questions/comments – there were none – and also suggested that items could be forwarded to him through Supervisor Klocker.

Planning Commission (PC) Report – Blonigen announced that there was no PC meeting in February because there was not a quorum. However, there were two requests that needed to be addressed:

22. **Edwards variance** – There was a request by Douglas J. Edwards, 17953 Upper Spunk Lake Road, Avon (MN), PID 03.01525.0000, for a variance to construct a garage closer to the center-of-the-road than is currently permitted. Rassier moved to set a public hearing on March 25, 2026 at 7:15 PM to consider a request by Douglas J. Edwards, 17953 Upper Spunk Lake Road, Avon (MN), PID 03.01525.0000, for a variance from Section 9.9.9.A(3) of Avon Township Ordinance #6 to construct a garage 13 feet closer to the COR than is currently permitted by Ordinance #6, 9.9.9A(3). Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
23. **Frie variance** – Ms. Cindy Frie (34139 Lower Spunk Lane; PID 03.01227.0007) has requested a variance to construct an addition to her garage that would be about 24 closer to the road right-of-way than currently permitted. Blonigen said that he had examined the property and said this would be a controversial request because the addition would be so close to the road that a larger vehicle parked on the pad would hang a few inches into the road. Rassier moved to set a public hearing on March 25, 2026 at 7:30 PM to consider a

variance to allow construction of a garage addition 23 feet closer to the road than is currently permitted by Ordinance #6, 9.9.9A(3). Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Frie zoomed into the meeting and said would consider changing the access to the garage (approach from north) to avoid this problem. To provide time for Ms. Frie to reconsider her plans and confirm the actual variance distance requested, Rassier moved to rescind the motion for a public hearing for Ms. Frie. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Frie stated that she agreed to a postponement of the hearing until the April 2026 PC meeting. She also said that she would consider paying for a site visit. She will have her contractor stake out the location of the addition; Blonigen said he would come and measure it once it was staked.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer provided the Cash Control statement from February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026 (*appended below*) and read the Treasurer’s report. Rassier moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Martini reported that the CD’s came due. They were rolled over and the interest was put in General Revenue. There is a discrepancy between the end balances of Road & Bridge and General Revenue in December and the beginning balances in January. Martini will look into this and return to the April meeting. She thought that there was a coding issue.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk to split the monthly stipend during the Clerk’s leave of absence. Motion by Rassier to approve as per directions from Saupe. Second by Blonigen. Approved.

End of year report presented as a revision, with totals included on the same page. Martini will scan and send to Saupe to add to the Audit board report.

For the Period : 2/1/2026 To 2/28/2026

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Total Disbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
General Fund	\$277,388.04	\$11,790.39	\$5,385.40	\$283,793.03
Road and Bridge	\$300,063.04	\$50,932.85	\$5,863.68	\$345,132.21
Demolition Escrow - Maciejewski	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Novel Solar Decommissioning Escro	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Novel Vegetation Plan Escro	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Road Damage Deposit	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Fire Fund	\$38,410.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,410.23
General Capital Projects	\$17,520.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,520.64
ARPA Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$636,381.95	\$62,723.24	\$11,249.08	\$687,856.11

Claims, Receipts & Payroll: The claims (4995-5011) totaled \$7,395.13. The disbursements (**Appendix 1**) and receipts (**Appendix 2**) registers are appended. The approved payroll was \$2,670.95. Blonigen moved to accept the Claims, Receipts and Payroll. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Check 11639 was voided. The propane tank was filled. A credit was received from *The Store* for selling the wrong fuel. Martini provided a list of outstanding checks as requested.

Town Hall Report: Blonigen is considering gifting to the Township two programable thermostats. The Clerk will draft a resolution to accept the gifts.

Road Report: Two people are interested in the plow truck but the auction did not meet reserve, which was \$8K. Motion by Rassier to offer the truck to Will Huston, the highest bidder, and then open it to others if he doesn’t

want it. Second by Blonigen. Both in favor. Motion carried. Rubbish has been removed from road ditches on St. Anna Drive among others. Blonigen reported a compliment about plowing. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer suggested that the Town has been sending out plows more often this year which has contributed the good roads. No action was taken on scheduling another road inspection.

Business:

1. **Fire Board** – No one from the Town attended the most recent Fire Board meeting. Discussion took place concerning the \$45,000 increase in the billed amount for the next year. Blonigen stated that there have been fewer than the 40% calls for which we are being billed. This discrepancy was not explainable. Klocker was called for input on the reason for this increase. He said that expenses in 2025 were high because they finished the fire department and the extra funding had not been bonded. Therefore, the extra amount was attributed to the amount needed to complete the New Fire Hall. This should not reoccur. Klocker believed it would be prudent to raise the levy by \$45k for the next two levy years. Klocker will do preliminary research on road costs for next year with Stantec. The initial evidence suggests prices may be down by 10%.
2. **Audit Board Minutes** – Blonigen moved to adopt the Audit Board Minutes with a General Revenue Levy of \$89,950, Road & Bridge levy of \$420,950, Fire fund levy of \$209,000, Capitol Reserve levy of \$5,000, for a total levy of \$724,900. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried. The fire fund levy was increased to account for the increase in the fire department invoice.
3. **Audit Board Report** – The Supervisors reviewed/edited the Audit Board report to include the new levy amounts. Blonigen moved to approve the Audit Board Report with the revised levy amounts. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Annual Meeting Agenda** – The Supervisors discussed the draft of the agenda. Blonigen moved to approve the agenda. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Rassier said that he wouldn't be attending the Annual Meeting, but would be at the Board of Canvass meeting.
5. **Adoption of Emergency Election Plan** – Fr. Gregory ok'd the use of the St. Anna Church basement. Rassier moved to approve the updated Emergency Election Plan. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
6. **MAT Short Course** – Rassier moved to authorize participation in the MAT Spring Short Course by Town board members. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
7. **Lion's Club** – The Lion's Club requested to use the corner near the empty lot on 1st street on Saturday June 27th for an event (pollinator action). There was a discussion about the location, whether the event would be on private property, and parking. The Supervisors request more information.
8. **Election Update** – Martini reported that we are ready for the upcoming Township election.
9. **Calls for the Township** – The Clerk receives most of the calls from residents regarding issues in the Township. There is a concern that some calls are not forwarded soon enough to the appropriate Supervisor. One option suggested was for the Clerk to include in his voice mail message a note to contact Supervisor Klocker in the event of a road issue.
10. **Over Weight Trucks** – Klocker reported receiving a request from a delivery truck to run heavy during road restrictions. The Supervisors agreed that we would not give permission and that the driver is on their own.

11. **PC Performance Reviews** – The terms of Loreli Yurczyk and Steve Saupe have ended. Both are willing to serve another term. Town policy is to review continuing members at the March meeting, at the discretion of the Supervisors.

Yurczyk Review – The Supervisors noted that she attends meetings and is on time. Blonigen said she always acts in a respectful manner toward other members. Rassier said that there have been complaints from the public. He said that she had screamed at members of the public. Yurczyk denied it. Blonigen said he has never seen Lori being rude or dismissive to anyone in the public. Blonigen said that she has showed no conflict of interest and has not acted in a self-serving manner. She is familiar with pertinent Town and County rules. Blonigen said she and LeRoy are the two most knowledgeable individuals in the Town. Blonigen said she should be reappointed. Rassier said that she should not be reappointed.

Saupe Review – Blonigen said he is respectful, on time, attends meetings, participates fully, has shown no conflicts of interest, is familiar with Town and County policies, and has done a good job for the Town. Rassier agreed.

12. **Orderly Annexation Agreement** – Blonigen signed the agreement for the Township.

Other Business: *none*

Reports: *none*

Announcements:

- n) **Signs** (incl. 911) – none
 - o) **Construction Site Permits** – none
 - p) **Special Assessment Searches** – none
 - q) **Feedlot permits** – Morgel Farm (36882 COUNTY ROAD 155 AVON MN 56310)
 - r) **County Hearings/Meeting** – none
 - s) **Fire Department** (January 2026 calls) – **City:** Medical 6, Fire/Other 3; **Town:** Medical 10; Fire/Other 0; **Collegeville:** Medical 1, Fire/Other 0; **St. Wendel:** Medical 0, Fire/Other 0; **I-94,** 0.
 - t) A question received whether a cabin scheduled to be replaced at 33485 Poverty Point Drive has gotten a CSP. There is nothing on record yet.
 - u) There was a complaint regarding burning smelly materials on Upper Spunk Lake Road. It was suggested to call the Sheriff's department.
24. **Old Business** – Culvert mapping project & County app; 135th Avenue project with St. Wendel; Case to display old documents; Window treatments for Town Hall; Exterior sign for the Hall; Hiring HR / payroll company; Salt shed overhang/awning; Employee *Handbook* including earned sick time etc.; Pipeline Agreement; brush cutter rental for 2025; Records to historical society
25. **Signatures** (*as necessary*)

26. **Announcement of next meeting:** April 1 (*no foolin'*), 2026 at 7:00 PM

27. Other Upcoming Meetings/Events

- a. Township Day at the Capitol – March 2, 2026
- b. Town Hall open to accept absentee ballots – March 7, 2026; 10 AM – 12 PM
- c. Public Accuracy Test – March 7, 2026; 10:15 AM
- d. Town Hall open to accept absentee ballots – March 9, 2026; 1-5 PM
- e. Township election (2-8 PM) & Annual Meeting (8:15 PM) – March 10, 2026
- f. Township Organization/Qualification meeting – March 18, 7:00 PM
- g. MAT Spring Short Course – March 24, 2026 (St. Cloud)
- h. LBAE Meeting – April 13; 6:00 PM

Adjournment. Rassier moved to adjourn the meeting at about 8:45 PM. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
2026

Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk
Marion Gondringer, Acting Clerk

date: March 7,

Supervisor Signatures:

date: _____

Craig Blonigen

Chad Klocker

Bryan Rassier

Appendix 1. Disbursement Register

Avon Township		Disbursements Register					3/7/2026	
Fund Name: All Funds								
Date Range: 02/01/2026 To 02/28/2026								
Date	Vendor	Check #	Description	Void	Account Name	F-A-O-P	Total	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11614	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 260.73	
	Total For Check	11614					\$ 260.73	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11615	February 4 Payperiod	N	Treasurer	100-41510-103-	\$ 68.93	
	Total For Check	11615					\$ 68.93	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11616	February 4 Payperiod	N	Clerk	100-41425-103-	\$ 350.17	
	Total For Check	11616					\$ 350.17	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11618	February 4 Payperiod	N	Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-103-	\$ 749.06	
	Total For Check	11618					\$ 749.06	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11619	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 28.93	
	Total For Check	11619					\$ 28.93	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11620	February 4 Payperiod	N	Treasurer	100-41510-103-	\$ 425.85	
	Total For Check	11620					\$ 425.85	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11621	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 65.18	
	Total For Check	11621					\$ 65.18	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11622	February 4 Payperiod	N	Clerk	100-41425-103-	\$ 425.85	
	Total For Check	11622					\$ 425.85	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11623	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 137.86	
	Total For Check	11623					\$ 137.86	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11624	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 68.93	
	Total For Check	11624					\$ 68.93	
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11625	February 4 Payperiod	N	Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-103-	\$ 1,518.55	
	Total For Check	11625					\$ 1,518.55	
02/04/2026	KELLY MARTINI	11626	toner, 1099's	N	Treasurer	100-41510-203-	\$ 133.88	
	Total For Check	11626					\$ 133.88	
02/04/2026	Dillon Hedlund	11627	Mud flap, Filters,Parts, Diesel Fuel	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-212-	\$ 249.63	
		11627				201-43126-221-	\$ 332.09	

Report Version: 03/31/2015

Page 1 of 3

Fund Name: All Funds								
Date Range: 02/01/2026 To 02/28/2026								
Date	Vendor	Check #	Description	Void	Account Name	F-A-O-P	Total	
		WD020420262			Treasurer	100-41510-121-	\$ 9.72	
		WD020420262				100-41510-122-	\$ 41.54	
		WD020420262			Other General Government	201-41901-121-	\$ 3.04	
		WD020420262				201-41901-122-	\$ 13.02	
		WD020420262			Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-121-	\$ 149.46	
		WD020420262				201-43125-122-	\$ 639.06	
		WD020420262				201-43125-171-	\$ 154.54	
	Total For Check	WD020420262					\$ 1,187.90	
02/04/2026	XCEL ENERGY	WD020420263	electric bill	N	General Government Buildings and Plant	100-41940-380-	\$ 525.54	
	Total For Check	WD020420263					\$ 525.54	
02/04/2026	Albany Mutual Telephone	WD020420264	Internet	N	Clerk	100-41425-325-	\$ 59.51	
	Total For Check	WD020420264					\$ 59.51	
Total For Selected Checks							\$ 11,249.08	

Appendix 2. Receipts Register

Avon Township

Receipts Register

3/7/2026

Fund Name: All Funds

Date Range: 02/01/2026 To 02/28/2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Remitter</u>	<u>Receipt #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Deposit ID</u>	<u>Void</u> <u>Account Name</u>	<u>F-A-P</u>	<u>Total</u>
02/04/2026	Morgan Lumley	2021	911 sign - 37880	(02/04/2026) -	N 911 SIGN	201-34310-	\$ 150.00
							<u>\$ 150.00</u>
02/11/2026	MN State	2022	Fine Violations	(02/11/2026) -	N Township share of fine violations in county	100-35105-	\$ 226.65
							<u>\$ 226.65</u>
02/12/2026	Midcontinent	2023	cable fee	(02/12/2026) -	N Royalties	100-36220-	\$ 218.46
							<u>\$ 218.46</u>
02/23/2026	Magnifi	2024	CD Interest	(02/23/2026) -	N Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 10,966.99
							<u>\$ 10,966.99</u>
02/26/2026	Stearns County	2025	Gas Tax	(02/26/2026) -	N Municipal State Aid for Streets - Maintenance (Gas Tax, Road Allotment)	201-33418-	\$ 50,782.85
							<u>\$ 50,782.85</u>
02/28/2026	American Heritage	2026	MMR Interest	(02/28/2026) -	N Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 352.46
							<u>\$ 352.46</u>
02/28/2026	Magnifi	2027	MMR Interest	(02/28/2026) -	N Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 25.83
							<u>\$ 25.83</u>
Total for Selected Receipts							<u><u>\$ 62,723.24</u></u>

DRAFT Minutes of the Avon Township Board of Qualification & Organizational Meeting

March 18, 2026 7:00 PM

Call to Order: Chair Chad Klocker called to order the Qualification/Organizational meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors at 7:00 P.M. in the Main Chamber of the Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon. The meeting was also available virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8325486945> (Passcode: AvonTown).

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present: Craig Blonigen, Marion Gondringer (Acting Clerk), Chad Klocker, and Kelly Martini (Treasurer). Absent: Bryan Rassier & Stephen Saupe (*leave of absence*). There was quorum.

Approval of Agenda: Blonigen moved to approve the agenda. Klocker second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Business:

1. **Board of Canvass Minutes** – The Board of Canvass meeting minutes were reviewed. Blonigen moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 meeting of the Board of Canvass certifying the results for the 2026 Annual Township Election. The Board discussed the origin of a mystery ballot from 2022 that appeared in the ballot box. It was likely inadvertently mailed to someone on the permanent absentee ballot list.
2. **New Officers:** Chad Klocker was sworn-in as Supervisor for a three-year term (2026– 2028). He recited and signed the Oath of Office, and was issued a Certificate of Election, which was also signed. Campaign financial statements have been obtained from all candidates (Klocker, Saupe) in the election.
3. **Chair & Vice-Chair** – Blonigen nominated Klocker to serve as Chair of the Board of the Avon Township Supervisors. Klocker second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Klocker nominated Blonigen to serve as Vice-Chair. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Transfer of Town Records/Keys** – No transfer of records, computers or keys were required as a result of the election because both elected officials are incumbents. Klocker noted that the code to the lockbox for the Maintenance Shed has been changed. If anyone needs the code, contact him. The master key still works. The key code for the lockbox to the Town Hall has not been changed.
5. **Appoint Committee Chairs/Members** – The Supervisors discussed the role/responsibility of the committees. Klocker moved to appoint Blonigen to be the Fire Board representative. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Rassier was suggested to be the TriCounty Humane Society rep. Klocker moved to approve all of the existing assignments with the two noted changes. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. A summary of the assignments follows.
 - **County Liaison** – Chad Klocker
 - **Emergency Contact** – Chad Klocker
 - **Fifth Monday** – Craig Blonigen
 - **Fire Board** – Craig Blonigen
 - **Grounds & Buildings** – Chad Klocker
 - **Humane Society** – Bryan Rassier
 - **Joint Powers Board** – Craig Blonigen
 - **Legal** – Chad Klocker
 - **Maintenance Worker Supervisor** – Chad Klocker

- **Planning Commission (PC) Liaison** – Craig Blonigen
 - **Roads & Snow** – Chad Klocker
 - **Weeds & Roadside Restoration** – Chad Klocker
 - **Zoning Administrator** – Stephen Saupe
6. **Potential Conflicts** – The Supervisors considered potential conflicts of interest. The main conflict that was identified is that the Supervisors might occasionally be required to help with roadwork. To avoid this potential conflict, the Supervisors considered three resolutions to provide assistance on road projects and other emergency work. The Supervisors signed Resolutions 03-18-26-1, 03-18-26-2, and 03-18-26-3 (Authoring contracts with Klocker, Blonigen, and Rassier, respectively).
 7. **Treasurer/Clerk** – both reported that all necessary documents have been filed and updated as necessary.
 8. **Authorize Work** – Blonigen moved to authorize Treasurer (and Deputy), Clerk (and Deputy), and Roads Supervisor to purchase routine and necessary office and other supplies required to carry out their assigned duties and responsibilities. Klocker second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
 9. **Housekeeping/Maintenance Report** – Blonigen reported that he is planning on replacing the thermostats to be digitally coded. Klocker reported that bulbs outside are now LED and suggested that a front light could be changed to motion sensitive lights. Salt sand- trucks are $\frac{3}{4}$ full and when that is used up, we are out of sand. Huls can provide more salt sand as needed. We will hold off on getting more at this time to enable salt shed to be cleaned out, pressured washed, and sealed. No plowing issues with the most recent snowfall except that garbage cans were still in the way on the 325th cul-de-sac. Items are being placed in the road in the trailer park. A letter needs to go to owner to either clean it up, or be assessed for the cleanup expenses for the Township to clean it up. There was a suggestion to vacate the road. Windows in the hall to be addressed in the spring.
 10. **Official Newspaper** – Klocker moved to approve the decision by residents at the Annual Meeting to use the *Star-Post* as the official Township newspaper. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
 11. **Official Posting Places** – Blonigen moved to approve the decision by residents at the Annual Meeting to use *The Store & Town Hall* as the official posting places. Klocker second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
 12. **Levy Certification** – Blonigen moved to approve the decision by residents at the Annual Meeting to set the following levy amounts: Total levy –\$724,900; General Revenue – \$69,950; Road & Bridge – \$440,950; Fire – \$209,000; and Capital Reserve –\$5,000. Klocker second. All in favor. Motion carried.
 13. **Designate Town Bank** – Blonigen moved to continue our accounts with the American Heritage Bank. Klocker second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
 14. **Salary, Fee, & Mileage Schedule** – The Supervisors reviewed the Fee Schedule and Salary/Wage Scale. Klocker moved to add all Township officials to the Hourly Wage/Zoning Administrator section. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. in the hourly wage for zoning administrator to all township officials. It was noted that the Fee Schedule should be edited to include 'damage' deposit for Access permits.
 15. **Township Policies / AWAIR** – The Supervisors reviewed currently policies. No action was needed.
 16. **AWAIR** – the Supervisors approved and signed the 2026 AWAIR program.

- 17. **Financial Reporting Forms** – The Treasurer and Clerk confirmed that required forms have been submitted, with the exception of levy information that the Clerk will submit once the appropriate forms are received from the County Auditor.
- 18. **Training Courses** – Klocker moved to authorize Blonigen and himself to attend the upcoming MAT Short Course. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
- 19. **Planning Commission (PC) Report/Update** – nothing new to report. The Supervisors must appoint two members to the PC to replace Saupe and Yurczyk whose terms have expired. Both have agreed to continue on the committee if requested. As per town policy, Saupe was reviewed at the March meeting. Yurczyk was also reviewed. However, her review was tabled because Blonigen (supports) and Rassier (does not support) disagreed about Yurczyk’s performance. The Supervisors will complete the review of Yurczyk at the April meeting and will make appointments to the PC for 2026-2029.
- 20. **Roads** – We should learn in April the status of our LRIP grant submission. It would be better to have more date on road use so the town can move forward with planning for road maintenance. There was a discussion about various roads that need work (*i.e.*, St. Anna Drive, Queens). The Supervisors would like to finish Queens Road. It was suggested that perhaps just a mill and overlay of Queens would be a good solution for the near future. Klocker said that St. Anna Drive is in especially poor condition and that it is likely the City will request that the Township be involved with roadwork on Char Avenue. The City will likely need to run water/sewer under the road. The Lions are planning an event near 1st Street. It will be near Jeff Meyers property. Klocker will follow up.
- 21. **Fifth Monday** – Blonigen will attend the upcoming meeting.

Adjournment: Klocker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. Blonigen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, *Clerk*
Marion Gondringer, *Deputy Clerk*

date: March 22, 2024

Supervisor Approval:

date: _____

Craig Blonigen

Chad Klocker, *Chair*

Bryan Rassier

**AVON TOWNSHIP
VARIANCE DECISION**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEARNS
TOWNSHIP OF AVON**

FILE # 03-09-26

In the matter of: **Douglas Edwards & Tamara Edwards** (9285 Kaiser Circle NE; Otsego, MN 55362)

A request for a Variance submitted by Douglas Edwards & Tamara Edwards from **Section 9.9.9.A(3)** of **AVON TOWNSHIP LAND USE AND ZONING ORDINANCE NUMBER #6** to:

Construct an addition to a garage on their property at 17953 Upper Spunk Lake Road that is 13 feet closer to the center-of-the-road (or 50 feet from the COR) than is currently allowed.

The above matter, regarding the request for a Variance for the following described parcel, was heard before the Avon Township Board of Supervisors on the 1st day of April, 2026.

Legal Description: *Exhibit A appended*

Parcel I.D. #: #: 03.01525.0000 **Township 125 Range 030 Section 29**

Property address: 17953 Upper Spunk Lake Road, Avon, MN 56310

IT IS ORDERED that the Variance be **denied / granted** (*circle one*) and subject to the following conditions:

APPROVAL

Avon Township Chair (*sign*)

Avon Township Chair (*print*)

ATTEST

(*sign*)

Date

(*print; include title*)

Avon Township Seal }

Drafted by:
Avon Township; 16881 Queens Road, Avon, MN 56310
May 2019

EXHIBIT "A"

Legal Description

File No. 2157024-09261

All of Lot 16 and the Westerly 10 feet of Lot 15, less the Northerly 20 feet thereof of Sunny Side, an addition of Government Lot 4, Section 29, Township 125, Range 30 and except that part of Lot 16 lying Northerly of the South line of the North 20 feet of Lot 15 extended due Westerly across said Lot 16.

ALSO: Lot 17 of Sunny Side, an addition in Government Lot 4, Section 29, Township 125, Range 30, Stearns County, Minnesota.

17 March 2026

Dear Avon Township Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

Our parcel 03.01152.0000 at 36861 County Road 9, Avon, was originally 15 acres, then when platted reduced to 13.87 acres. 5 acres are zoned R-5 and 8.87 acres are zoned A-40. We have a feedlot permit. There is a shoreland setback on the south half of the parcel. The property is surrounded by A-40 zoning except for the north property line where our R-5 connects to the 2.26-acre parcel zoned R-5 owned by Webers. North of the Weber property begins the Rural Townsite of St. Anna.

This has worked well for us here over the last 16 years as we built a robust fruit and vegetable farm operation with 4 Animal Units currently used for chickens and horses (previously beef cattle). We continue supplying fresh produce commodities, eggs, and honey from our beehives to our community. Looking ahead at how to best manage our farm for the next 30 years, Sam and I would like to expand our livestock operation slightly by increasing our Animal Units allowance to 9.99 for horses and cattle, build an indoor riding arena, and eventually likely pursue an Agriculture-Oriented CUP to provide small-scale horse boarding, training and riding lessons using the horses and cattle.

There is a substantial and increasing demand currently within our community for horse-related services. 1) We turn down requests constantly for kids' riding lessons because we are limited by weather and just three horses. 2) The 4 indoor riding arenas/boarding facilities in the area have retired or are nearing retirement, and they have been asking for some time when the next generation will take on the responsibilities of supporting the equine sector of our rural community with winter indoor riding space, riding lessons, horse boarding, and horse training as they look toward closing their operations. And 3) The nearest facilities that provide cattle for roping and cutting practice are at least 45 miles away. Thus, there is an increasing need for these services in our immediate area, and we would be willing to help meet those needs.

To do this, we need to rezone 4 acres of our parcel to Agricultural-40 from Residential-5 to better use the land for agricultural uses. This would allow us to:

- 1) Reach the minimum requirement of 10 acres zoned A-40 to use the parcel's full allotment of 9.99 Animal Units. The added livestock will provide training opportunities to our horse community, as well as a small amount of beef to our local food supply. Furthermore, we need the extra manure for our organic produce farm operations for which we incorporate manure appropriately to build soil health and enhance our nutrient management.
- 2) Move livestock to where the land isn't well suited for anything else productive except pasture, and o of land that is less suitable for feedlot use (e.g., erodible hillside).
- 3) Build an aesthetically-pleasing pole shed to be used as an indoor regulation-size dressage riding arena in the only location on the property that is suitable in regard to setback requirements and wise use of the natural landscape.

This plan would also allow us to continue farming the several acres that are best suited for annual tillage for fruits and vegetables, including our high tunnel.

With this request, we would need to also rezone 1 acre with the house from R-5 to R-1, which would be connected to the Residential-zoned parcel (03.00833.0000) to the north. We are not asking to add more dwellings / residence density. We do not have a preference of where the R-1 acre would be defined – it obviously needs to include the house and touch the north property line, but if it's aligned to the west property line, centered, or aligned with the east property line, it does not matter to us. The Land Use staff

at the County's Environmental Services department have advised us this is a viable solution in looking at the County's future land use planning. We would like to work with you at the township to get a recommendation that works for the Township and County.

We've included a sketch from Stearns County Environmental Services showing where the proposed R-1 acre could be located, which also shows the zoning of surrounding properties. As part of the County's application process, they would like the Township to complete Page 5 of the attached application titled "Township Recommendation Form."

Alternatives we considered included:

- 1) Rezoning all 13.87 acres to A-40;
- 2) Rezoning just enough acreage to meet the minimum to allow 9.99 Animal Units (10 acres zoned A-40 and leaving 3.87 acres zoned R-5);
- 3) Rezoning 4 acres of R-5 to A-40 and 1 acre with the house to R-5.

However, from what we understand from the Land Use folks at Environmental Services, these are not viable options.

4) Moving the R-5 area from the east to west. However, this would not eliminate the restriction on Animal Units; there is no practical contiguous location for the new R-5 that would not include current feedlot structures; and this would not eliminate the grazing restriction / it would continue to limit pasture to 8 acres.

5) Locating the proposed agricultural structure in current A-40 zoning. However, this was not a feasible option because of new well setbacks for feedlot structures are now 100', making no alternative area possible given the shoreland setback and the natural sloping of the land in these areas; it would severely limit any future landowner from pursuing a feedlot variance for over 10 Animal Units; and this also wouldn't get us to the 9.99 Animal Units.

We appreciate the time and effort you put into guiding our Township. We would be happy to discuss any alternative solutions you might have that we haven't considered. Heidi Winskowski at Stearns County Environmental Services said she is willing to speak with any Township Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors about the Land Use Ordinance and this proposal. Thank you for your attention to this request and we look forward to discussing at the Township Planning Commission meeting on March 25, 2026 and the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 1, 2026.

Respectfully,

Sam & Lisa Gilk

36861 County Road 9, Avon, MN 56310, (320) 309-0746 Lisa, (320) 309-4222 Sam



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
3301 County Road 138, Waite Park, MN 56387
Phone: (320) 656-3613
StearnsCountyMN.gov

APPLICATION FOR REZONING

Application Fee: \$ _____ File No. _____ Receipt No. _____

Property Owner	Lisa Gilk (maiden name Lisa Baker)		
Address of Property	36861 County Road 9, Avon, MN 56310		
Mailing Address	Same as above		
Applicant (if different from above)	Same as above		
Applicant Mailing Address	Same as above		
Parcel I.D. Number(s)	03.01152.0000	Township	Avon Section 9
Legal Description	LOT 001 BLK 001 BAKERS ACRES SECTION 09 TOWNSHIP 125 RANGE 030		

Staff to Complete	
Overlay Districts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain	<input type="checkbox"/> Airport <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Overlay
<input type="checkbox"/> Shoreland: Water Body Name/Number _____	Classification _____

County's Present Zoning District: A-40 and R-5 Proposed Zoning District: A-40 and R-1

Proposed acreage to be rezoned: 4 acres from R-5 to A-40; and 1 acre from R-5 to R-1

County's Future Land Use Map District: _____

1. Proposed use of the land to be rezoned: We would like to rezone as much as possible of the parcel to Agricultural-40 to be used for agricultural purposes. This would require a rezone of 4 acres from R-5 to A-40, and a rezone of the 1 acre where the house is located to R-1.

2. Describe how the proposed rezoning will be compatible with the Comprehensive Plan (see attached Goals and Objectives). The proposed rezoning to A-40 will allow for more productive and appropriate use of the agricultural land in accordance with soil type and natural features best suited for the farm. This will include allowing for the parcel's full allotment of 9.99 Animal Units and removing pasture/grazing restrictions on land that is best suited for pasture; maintaining fruit and vegetable farming on land best suited for annual cultivation; and building a new agricultural structure in the area of the parcel best suited for a future small-scale agriculture/feedlot-oriented business. The proposed rezoning of 1 acre to R-1 where the house is located is in accordance with the County's land use ordinance, from what we understand.

3. Township Review : (Twp Name) Avon Township Date April 1, 2026
 (A completed Township recommendation form from the Township stating their comments is required prior to the submittal of this rezoning request.)

Property Owner's Signature _____ Date _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of this application authorizes Environmental Services Staff, Board of Adjustment and/or Planning Commission members, and County Board of Commissioners to enter upon the property to perform needed inspections and review. All have county-issued badges. Entry may be without prior notice.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? Staff will review your application and determine if the application is complete. If the application is complete, the application will be scheduled for a Public Hearing with the County Planning Commission who will recommend action to the County Board of Commissioners. It typically takes 2 months from the time a complete application is submitted until the County Board issues final approval or denial of the Rezoning.



TOWNSHIP RECOMMENDATION FORM



APPLICANT INFORMATION To be filled out by County staff.

Applicant Name Parcel Number

Property Address

Request LESA Score

Future Land Use Category

✓ TOWN REVIEW BOARD CHECKLIST

The Town Board has reviewed and considered the following items pertaining to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

(Choose One) Checklist Questions

Yes No **Question 1:** The request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's goals and policies.

Yes No **Question 2:** The request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use designation.

Yes No **Question 3:** The request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Factors.

👍 TOWNSHIP RECOMMENDATION

The (Township Name) Town Board met on (Date) to discuss the request.

The Town Board recommends (choose one) Approval Denial

Township Signature

Please explain the reason for approval or denial of the request, attach additional paper if needed. Meeting minutes are preferred.



Resolution No. 04-01-26-1
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATION

WHEREAS, Avon Township is authorized to accept and maintain donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The following persons and entities have offered to contribute the donations set forth below to the Township:

<u>Name of Donor</u>	<u>Item</u>
Craig Blonigen	2 – programmable thermostats

WHEREAS, the terms of conditions of the donations, if any, are as follows:
none

WHEREAS, All such donations have been contributed to the Township for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, the Avon Township Board of Supervisors finds that it is appropriate to accept the donated offered;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AVON TOWNSHIP (MINNESOTA) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT:

1. The donation described above is accepted and shall be used as allowed by law.
2. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to issue receipt to the donor acknowledging the Town’s receipt of the donor’s donation.

Adopted by the Avon Township Board this 4th day, in the month of April in the year 2026.

BY THE TOWN BOARD

	Yes	No	Abstain
Supervisor _____ Craig Blonigen	___	___	___
Supervisor _____ Chad Klocker	___	___	___
Supervisor _____ Bryan Rassier	___	___	___

Attest:

Marion Gondringer, Acting Town Clerk

date

Request from Lion's Club

Today 2:56 AM

Question- our Lions Club has the Pollinator Project off of 94 on both sides. We are planning an open house with a number of agencies who helped us. The date is Saturday, June 27 from 9 am to 12 pm. We want to use the triangular corner at: 1st SE & 1st NE or Kepper Ave & Norway which is not the city of Avon but township property. We have a 1 million dollar liability policy for accidents. We would like permission to use that corner for that morning. I hope this makes sense.

Today 8:05 AM

Hi Cheri. Thanks for the alert. I assume it's fine. I'll run it by the supervisors



Text Message · RCS



CONSENT OF TOWN BOARD

At a meeting of the Town Board of the **Town of Avon**, County of Stearns, Minnesota, held on the ____ day of _____, 2026, a quorum of the board being present, the following resolution was adopted:

viz:

"Application having been made by _____ of **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, MINNESOTA**, to the County Board of this County for a **Permit for a 1 Day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License at THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH GROUNDS LCOATED AT 37186 COUNTY ROAD 9, AVON MN** in the **Town of Avon**."

"Be It Resolved that the County Board of Stearns County be and it hereby is **authorized to issue** such **Temporary On-Sale Liquor License** for the sale of intoxicating liquors at **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH GROUNDS LOCATED AT 37186 COUNTY ROAD 9, AVON MN** within this town for an event to be held on _____."

A true copy:

Avon Town Clerk

Dated: _____ 20__