

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Residents of Avon Township Stearns County, MN

March 11, 2014

Avon Town Hall – 16681 Queens Road, Avon MN 56310

Call to Order: Clerk Stephen Saupe called to order the Annual Meeting of Avon Township at 8:40 PM.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions: Township Board (Kelly Martini, Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer, John Merdan, Stephen Saupe) and Planning Commission (Ken Mergen) members were introduced. Approximately 35 residents were in attendance.

Nomination and Election of Moderator: Mr. LeRoy Gondringer nominated Mr. Ken Mergen for moderator. No second. Motion failed. Ms. Kelly Martini nominated Mr. Jeff Lange to serve as moderator for the meeting. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Lee Larkey, who has served as moderator in the past, was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Eric Linn suggested sending a card to Mr. Larkey and related a story about the year that there was a fire at Mr. Larkey's home during the Annual Meeting.

Election Results: Mr. Roger Nelson was elected to a three-year term as supervisor and Mr. Stephen Saupe was elected to a two-year term as Clerk.

Approval of Agenda: A discussion of the upcoming road inspection was added to the agenda (19c). Mr. Eric Linn moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Clerk Stephen Saupe read the minutes from the 2013 Annual Meeting. Mr. Rick Pogatschnik moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Paul Buttweiler second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board of Audit Report: Clerk Stephen Saupe read the Board of Audit report. Mr. August Preusser inquired about current township employees/staff – the Township currently has one full-time maintenance person. There was a question about the balance in the Fire Fund – the new levy takes this amount into consideration. Mr. Ken Kierzek moved to approve the Board of Audit report. Mr. Ed Springer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Report: Planning Commission Chair, Mr. Ken Mergen, presented the Planning Commission report. He stated that the Planning Commission had a slow year and that is one reason why the December meeting was cancelled. There were a few variances that mostly were for land swaps. Mr. Jeff Meyers purchased the Township land and salt shed that were for sale near Budde Trucking. The Town replaced the salt shed by constructing a new one on our site. Mr. Lowell Rushmeyer retired from the Planning Commission and was replaced by Mr. Will Huston. Saint John's is planning to put an addition on their existing solar field; there will be a public hearing at the end of the month. A request to build a home on 11 acres was denied because the parcel didn't have adequate land in the A40 zone. The Planning Commission also considered an Interim Use Permit by Knife River to operate a gravel mine. Mr. Dean Martini moved to accept the Planning Commission report. Mr. Russ Waterman second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Joint Planning Board Report: Supervisor Richard Bresnahan presented the Joint Planning Board report. There were two meetings this year to discuss issues pertaining to the joint annexation area. The Board handled a few property boundary adjustments. The Wellhead Protection Plan for the City of Avon is nearly finished and public hearings will be held. There are about five years remaining in the Joint Powers agreement between the City and Township. Mr. Earl Sadlowsky moved to accept the Joint Planning Commission report. Mr. Paul Buttweiler second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Mr. Joel Richter, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department Report. Chief Richter recently began this position after serving 11 years as Assistant Fire Chief. He reported that during the past year the department responded to 33 medical and 8 fire calls in the Township that required 565 hours of service. He also reported that the department holds two monthly meetings, all trucks and equipment are paid for, and the service plans to maintain a force of 25 members. Three of the members have more than 25 years of experience. Following the report, Supervisor Richard Bresnahan presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the previous fire chief, Eric Linn, for his long and outstanding service to our community.

Road Report: Supervisor John Merdan presented the Road Report. The Township tarred 135th Ave this year and the cost was shared with St. Wendel Township. We continue to cut brush in the right-of-way and plan on spraying this summer. Contact the Clerk to opt out of spraying. The Township plans to alert residents when spraying will occur through the website and email. Several roads were routed and rubberized including Sunnyfield Circle, Two Rivers Road, St. Anna Road, 182nd Avenue, Norman Road, Queens Road, 355th St., 365th Street, and 370th Street. The Township purchased a pickup plow for cul-de-sacs and other uses. We will do our own roadside mowing this year. A salt shed was constructed on our site. Mr. Rick Pogatschnick moved to approve the Road Report. Mr. Dean Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Appropriation of Township Budget for 2014: The proposed budget for 2015 was presented. The Supervisors recommend a 2015 levy of \$424,100, which is the same as the past few years. Mr. Russ Waterman moved to approve the Town budget recommended by the Supervisors. Ms. Kelly Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Levy Approval for 2015: Mr. August Preusser moved to approve a General Revenue levy of \$153,900 for 2015. Ms. Kelly Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Joe Lang moved to approve a Road & Bridge levy of \$196,700 for 2015. Mr. Dick Fisher second. All in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Kelly Martini moved to approve a Fire Fund levy of \$63,500 for 2015. Mr. Paul Buttweiler second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Dean Martini moved to approve a Capital Reserve levy of \$10,000 for 2015. Ms. Kelly Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Russ Waterman moved to approve a Total levy for 2015 of \$424,100. Mr. Paul Buttweiler second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Official Posting Places & Newspaper: Mr. Ken Mergen moved that the Township Hall, *Dahlin's* and *The Store* be the legal posting places. Mr. Joe Lang second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Ken Mergen moved that the *Albany Enterprise* be the legal newspaper for the Town. Mr. Dick Fisher second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Poll Hours & Annual Meeting: Mr. Joe Lang moved to hold the Annual Town Election at the Avon Township Hall on the second Tuesday of March from 2:00 – 8:00 PM and the Annual Meeting on the same day at 8:30 PM. Ms. Sue Rushmeyer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Memorials & Awards Funding – Mr. Stanley Streit moved to allow the Supervisors to spend a maximum of \$250 on awards, memorials and recognition. Mr. Dick Fisher second. Motion carried. One opposed.

Other: Mr. Tim Preusser moved to recommend to the Supervisors to continue the gopher bounty for \$3.00 per gopher. Roger Nelson second. All in favor. Motion carried. Residents requested legal notices be sent to the email list. Road inspection will be held in mid-April. Call one of the Supervisors if you know of a road that may require repair. Mr. Gene Casey alerted Supervisors to brush that had been cut by Xcel last summer after some storms but was never chipped. Mr. Jeff Lange thanked LeRoy Gondringer for his service as Supervisor.

Adjournment: Mr. Paul Buttweiler moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:45 PM. Ms. Kelly Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Signatures

Jeff Lange, Moderator

date

Stephen Saupe, Clerk

date