

Avon Township Planning Commission Meeting – June 24, 2026

Agenda Packet

1. Call to order – 7:00 PM; Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon, MN 56310.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of agenda
5. Approval of minutes – May 27, 2026
6. Public Hearing –
7. Public Comments
8. Scheduled Business
 - a. Data center moratorium in the township
 - b.
9. Other Business (*added at meeting*)
 - a.
 - b.
10. Policy Review
 - a. Form Review – Plat review ([Platting](#) – Stearns County; [Minor subdivisions](#); [Major Subdivisions](#); [Plat Application](#); [Stearns County Ordinance 230](#))
 - b.
11. Old Business
 - a. .
 - b.
12. Reports/Announcements
 - a.
 - b.
13. Announcement of next scheduled meeting: July 29, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
14. Other Upcoming Meetings/Events
 - a. Supervisors Meeting – July 1, 2026; 7:00 PM
 - b. Ditch 28 Information Meeting – June 25, 6:30 Albany HS
 - c. Ditch 28 Final Hearing –Final Hearing in the matter of CD28 Redetermination of Benefits; July 16, 2026; 9:00AM; County Board Room; 705 Courthouse Sq; Saint Cloud, MN 56303
 - d.
15. Adjourn

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 the minutes and will not become public (Resolution 01-03-18).*

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission
May 27, 2026

Avon Township Hall (16881 Queens Road, Avon 56310)

Call to Order: Chair Andrew Wensmann called to order the meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission (PC) at 7:00 PM in the Main Chamber of the Town Hall. The meeting was available via Zoom at the URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8325486945> (PIN: AvonTown).

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present – Craig Blonigen, Kelly Caspers, Kelly Martini, Stephen Saupe, and Andrew Wensmann. There was a quorum.

Approval of Agenda: Added to the agenda was a discussion of data centers. Blonigen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Caspers second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Blonigen moved to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2026 meeting as presented. Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried. The minutes from the January 2026 that were signed had been printed from the agenda and included the word “draft” and inaccurate page numbers. The clerk requested that a “clean copy” of the minutes be signed for the book. The PC agreed; Wensmann signed a clean copy of the minutes.

Public Hearings: *none scheduled.*

Public Comments: *none.*

Business:

16. **Oaths of Office** – Thinking that an Oath of Office was only required for elected officials, the Township had stopped the practice of having an Oath of Office for PC members. We recently learned that an oath is required for PC, too. None of the current members had taken an oath, so all took the oath at the meeting tonight.
17. **Election of Officers** – typically occurs at the April meeting. Martini moved to nominate Wensmann to serve as Chair. Wensmann declined. Blonigen moved to nominate Martini for Chair and Caspers for Vice-Chair. Caspers second. All in favor. Motion carried.
18. **Data Centers** – Blonigen reported that he had learned about many issues related to data centers including excessive power and water use. The PC discussed some of these issues. Saupe noted that the township has always been concerned about maintaining for residents a healthy environment and sustainable lifestyle. Wensmann read about a proposed Elk River center would use 35 mW and lots of water. He also thought that he heard that St Joseph has a moratorium. Saupe noted that there currently isn't a good place for a data center that wouldn't require rezoning, though Wensmann noted that if a current manufacturer shut down, there may be options. Blonigen said that cold cooling water is removed from the ground and then discharged above ground. Lots of water is used. Blonigen recommends that the Township enact a moratorium on data centers in the Town. Saupe moved to recommend to the Supervisors to enact a 5-year moratorium on data centers in Avon Township. Blonigen second. All in favor. Motion carried.
19. **Certificate of Compliance** – the PC has been involved in a process to review the various forms used for permits. A new draft of a Certificate of Compliance was evaluated and discussed. The revised form includes an ‘applicant statement,’ submissions requirements, and was slightly reorganized. Martini moved to

recommend to the Supervisors approval of the revised Certificate of Compliance form. Caspers second. All in favor. Motion carried.

20. **Roads Algorithm** – Blonigen reported that the Road Inventory has been updated to include an algorithm for access, road condition, and traffic. The algorithm suggested that Queens Road and Parkwood Circle were top candidates to be resurfaced this year. Blonigen said the Supervisors decided to hold off on Parkwood Circle to use funds to try chip-sealing a variety of roads to increase their road life and save money. Blonigen will send a copy of the revised inventory to the Clerk.

Old Business/Reports/Announcements:

- **Pierskalla/Ramler Mining Permit** – This property is up for auction that closes June 1st. Based on a 2017 Interim Use Permit issued to Knife River Corporation the Township required a \$5,000 bond for cleanup and reclamation of the site. Knife River wants the Township to release the bond. They requested this info last week but were told that approval could only be provided at a Supervisor’s meeting. The Town has been in contact with County regarding this issue and Jennifer Buckentine plans to do a site visit and report back to the Township. To ensure that the requirements of the IUP have been met, Saupe moved to recommend to the Supervisors to hold a site visit, have an aerial photograph taken of the site to confirm that it meets requirements, and to work with the County to ensure that the pit has been closed properly, equipment and waste removed, and that it meets all pertinent County and Township rules and guidelines. Blonigen second. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **Gilk Rezone Hearing** – The Stearns County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 28, 6 PM, Waite Park Service Center to consider the request by Lisa Baker Gilk and Sam Gilk, 36861 Co Rd 9, to rezone a portion of their property to R1.

Next Meeting: The next PC meeting is June 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM (see ‘Call to Order’ for the Zoom log-in).

Adjournment: Martini moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM. Caspers second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Other Meetings: Other upcoming meetings/events include (see ‘Call to Order’ for the Zoom log-in):

- Supervisors Meeting – June 3, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

date: May 29, 2026

Approval:

Kelly Martini, *Planning Commission Chair – signature*

date: _____