

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

March 8, 2011; 8:30 PM

Avon Town Hall – 16681 Queens Road, Avon MN 56310

Pledge: Stephen Saupe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order: Clerk Stephen Saupe called the Annual Meeting of Avon Township to order at 8:30 PM. Residents were welcomed to the first meeting in the new Town Hall.

Introductions: Township Board (Kelly Martini, Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer, John Merdan, Stephen Saupe) and Planning Commission (Ken Mergen, Gerry Kremers) members were introduced. Twenty-two individuals were in attendance.

Election Results: Mr. LeRoy Gondringer was elected to a three-year term as supervisor and Ms. Kelly Martini was elected to a two-year term as Treasurer.

Nomination and Election of Moderator: Mr. Ken Mergen nominated Mr. Lee Larkey to serve as moderator for the meeting. Mr. Gene Casey second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Lee Larkey suggested moving the Fire Department report to the next item on the agenda. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to approve the agenda as modified. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Mr. Eric Linn, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department Report. Chief Linn introduced the Assistant Chief, Mr. Joel Richter, and reported that there were 59 calls in the Town in 2010. There were 49 medical and 10 fire-related calls involving 755 hours of time. The total budget was \$80,330 with an approximate cost distribution of Avon City – 40%, Avon Township – 40%, and Collegetown Township – 20%. The Department billed 22 calls for non-residents directly to insurance companies. Collected funds are deposited into a building fund; 9 have been collected to date and 13 are still pending. Fundraisers included the Blattner golf-outing, Spunk Days raffle, pull tabs, and ads for the Calendar. The Department has received an insurance service rating of 8 out of 10, with 1 being the highest score. Future projects include suspending their electrical plug-ins, planning for a new fire hall, and replacing the ambulance. The Department is at full strength with 25 members. Chief Linn stated that the Department has held the line on costs and appreciates the Township's support. Supervisor John Merdan complimented the Avon Fire Department for the excellent job.

Minutes: Mr. Stephen Saupe, Town Clerk, read the minutes from the 2010 Annual Meeting. Mr. Dean Martini moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. John Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Town Treasurer, Ms. Kelly Martini, read the Treasurer's Report. The Fire Relief Fund was moved to General Revenue and the amount varies yearly based on usage, which makes it hard to budget. The General Revenue was larger this year than normal because it included costs for the building. Mr. Richard Gondringer moved to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Mr. Gerry Kremers 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 addressed a variety of issues including: (a) request by St. John's to erect a wind turbine, (b) the Town Hall project, (c) two new home sites; and (d) a plat for an agricultural barn. The Planning Commission is also working with Stearns County to update the Town's Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Earl Sadlowsky moved to accept the Planning Commission report. Mr. John Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Hall Project – Supervisor LeRoy Gondringer provided an overview of the building project. Initially, a Task Force was appointed and identified a need for a Town Facility. A Building Committee was then appointed and met to help design the project. The architect for the project was Mr. D Tideman from Grooters, Leopold & Tideman and RA Morton served as construction manager. The project was finished in fall 2010. One of the main reasons for the project was the need for snow removal. Based on costs from 2009-2010, Mr. Gondringer estimated that the Town saves approximately \$2000 per trip, as well as the retainer fee, for a savings this year of approximately \$39,000. This amount covers the cost of a plow truck. The Town may work with St. Wendel Township to pool resources for purchasing salt/sand. The Town uses approximately 200 yards per winter. The Town is slowly working on furnishing the new Town Hall. Mr. Richard Gondringer moved to approve the Town Hall project report. Mr. Richard Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Official Meeting Place: Mr. Earl Sadlowsky moved to designate the Avon Township Hall as the official meeting place for Avon Township. Ms. Kelly Martini second. The vote was unanimous (22 in favor, no opposed, no abstentions). Motion carried.

Building Use Policy: The Supervisors sought feedback from residents on public use of the Town Hall. There seemed general agreement that: (a) the Town needs to clarify any impact of public use on our liability insurance; (b) a damage deposit should be requested; (c) the Town should cover costs in renting the space; (d) generally don't issue a key to users; and (e) tread lightly and see what happens.

Joint Powers Board Report: Supervisor Richard Bresnahan presented the Joint Powers Board report. There were two meetings. The primary issue was to consider and approve a request by Mr. Joseph Straley for a conditional use permit to erect a wind turbine on his property. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to accept the Joint Powers Board report. Mr. Dean Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

CAPX2020 Report: Supervisor Bresnahan provide an update on the CAPX2020 power line project. The Town was one of three interveners in the case and is represented by Mr. Jerry Van Korff from Rinke-Noonan. The Town also hired an environmental consulting firm, Applied Ecological Systems from Wisconsin. The final Town brief was sent in last week and we are now awaiting a response by Excel. To date, attorney fees have totaled about \$52,000.

Road Report: Supervisor John Merdan, presented the Road Report. He stated that the Town roads are in good shape. The Town did a lot of brushing work this year and also rebuilt 182nd St. for a cost of approximately \$98,000. We are now plowing our own snow, have purchased two snowplows and hired two drivers. The current salt shed is located on five acres owned by the Town adjacent to Budde Trucking. The Town eventually plans to sell this site to offset the cost to build a salt shed at the Town Hall.

Township Budget 2012: The budget for 2012 was presented. The Supervisors recommended a 2012 levy of \$424,000, which is the same as this year. Mr. Richard Gondringer moved to approve the budget for 2012. Mr. Dean Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Official Posting Places & Newspaper: Ms. Kelly Martini moved that the Township Hall, Dahlin's and The Store be the legal posting places. Mr. Gene Casey second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Richard Bresnahan moved that the *Albany Enterprise* be the legal newspaper for the Town. Mr. Gene Casey second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Poll Hours & Annual Meeting: Mr. Richard Gondringer moved that the Annual Town Election will be held from 12:00 – 8:00 PM and the Annual Town Meeting will be held at 8:30 PM, both on the first Tuesday of March at the Avon Town Hall. Mr. Dean Martini second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Mr. Richard Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Mr. John Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Lee Larkey, Moderator

date

Stephen Saupe, Clerk