

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

March 12, 2013; 8:30 PM

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 8:30 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, Gerry Kremers) members were introduced. Approximately 25 individuals were in attendance.

Election Results: Mr. Richard Bresnahan 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. LeRoy Gondringer nominated Mr. Lee Larkey to serve as moderator for the meeting. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Eric Linn moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Bernadette Larkey second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Clerk Stephen Saupe read the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting. Mr. Ken Mergen moved to approve the minutes. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Board of Audit Report: Clerk Stephen Saupe read the Board of Audit report. Mr. Richard Bresnahan moved to approve the minutes. 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 a relatively slow year that mostly featured action on a couple of variances and plats. The Town land and salt shed near Budde Trucking is still for sale. Because of questions about the precise boundaries, the Town had the property surveyed; a small piece of the five-acre parcel is in the City. The Town is looking into constructing a new salt shed at the Town Hall site. Mr. Mergen noted that on May 7, 1887, a murder was committed on the site of the Town Hall – a woman poisoned her husband with cyanide. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to accept the Planning Commission report. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Joint Planning Board Report: Supervisor Richard Bresnahan presented the Joint Planning Board report. There was one meeting that was held in late February at the Town Hall. A representative from the City was elected Chair. There are two Town properties that are ‘islands’ surrounded by the City that will likely be annexed, and one property will be rezoned. The City is beginning to develop a wellhead and aquifer protection plan. Mr. Gene Casey moved to accept the Joint Planning Board report. Ms. Bernadette Larkey second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Road Report: Supervisor John Merdan presented the Road Report. All roads were inspected in April 2012. Sunnyfield Circle, Two Rivers Road and St. Anna Drive were resurfaced. Lots of brush was cut on Upper Spunk Lake Road, Peach Drive, and Lower Spunk Lane, among other roads. All cuttings were chipped by a new operator because our previous one decided to quit the business. Snowplowing is going

well. More salt/sand mix has been used this year than last year. The Town has a snow removal policy that is posted on the Town website. If there is a problem with a road, residents should contact one of the Supervisors. Mr. Ken Mergen moved to approve the Road Report. Mr. Gerry Kremers second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Appropriation of Township Budget for 2014: Supervisor LeRoy Gondringer presented the proposed budget for 2014. The main expense is the Town Hall bond payment of about \$70,000 for the upcoming year. The building will be paid off in eight years. The Supervisors recommend a 2014 levy of \$424,100, which is the same as the past few years. Mr. Will Huston moved to approve the Town budget recommended by the Supervisors. Mr. Ken Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Levy Approval for 2014: Ms. Kelly Martini moved to approve a General Revenue levy of \$153,900 for 2014. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Kelly Martini moved to approve a Road & Bridge levy of \$196,700 for 2014. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Kelly Martini moved to approve a Fire Fund levy of \$63,500 for 2014. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Kelly Martini moved to approve a Capital Reserve levy of \$10,000 for 2014. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Kelly Martini moved to approve a Total levy for 2014 of \$424,100. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Department Report: Mr. Eric Linn, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department Report. The Fire Department responded to 157 total calls in the City, Town, and Colleeville Township. There were 60 calls in the Town last year (39 medical, 21 fire) that required 745 hours of service. This is an increase from the previous year (41 calls in 2011, 548 hours). The department currently has 25 members, though they may need to increase this number. Fundraisers included the Blattner Golf Open, Spunktacular Days, and the calendar. The department has a new rescue truck. Though used, it is in excellent shape and came with a generator, radios and a cutting tool. They plan to purchase a heavy-duty washing machine to clean gear. Severe weather awareness week is April 15 – 18. The City may be showing some interest in joint ownership of the Fire Department. Mr. Ken Mergen moved to approve the Fire Department report. Mr. Earl Sadlowsky second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Avon Compost Site: The Town owes the City \$2000 for use of the compost facility in 2012 and 2013. Mr. Gene Casey moved that the Town should allocate at least \$1000 to support use of the Avon City Compost facility by Town residents. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried. The Town will use a SCORE grant to help defray remaining costs.

Road Maintenance: Some residents have complained that the roads need to be better cleared of brush and trees. Though the Town has one person doing this, it is difficult to keep ahead especially because the Town has minimized spraying because of resident complaints. The Town will get more aggressive with cutting and spraying. Residents will be allowed to opt out of spraying. If there is a tree in the road, call one of the Supervisors to have it removed. Residents are reminded that no structures, trees or bushes are permitted in the road right-of-way.

Town Newsletter – No one was opposed to a newsletter.

Gopher Bounty – The bounty began a few years ago in response to road damage from gopher tunnels. Mr. Will Huston moved to continue the bounty. Mr. Tim Preusser 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. Richard Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Ken Mergen moved that the *Albany Enterprise* be the legal newspaper for the Town. Mr. Richard Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Poll Hours & Annual Meeting: Mr. Eric Linn 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. Bernadette Larkey second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Memorials & Awards Funding – Mr. Eric Linn moved to allow the Supervisors to spend a maximum of \$250 on awards, memorials and recognition. Mr. Will Huston second. Motion carried. One opposed.

Other: Mr. Eric Linn reminded residents that burning permits can be obtained from the DNR (link available on the Town website).

Adjournment: Mr. LeRoy Gondringer moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:45 PM. Mr. Will Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Signatures

Lee Larkey, Moderator

date

Stephen Saupe, Clerk