

Avon Township News

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Avon Township Zoning Administrator

Winter's coming soon! White stuff was on my deck yesterday... thank God it was only a few flakes! We all know it's only a matter of time until we're shoveling snow and hoping our cars start in the morning. It's the season for putting things to rest until the sunshine and spring rains come back to bring us new life in nature and a new energy in ourselves.

Snow Plowing Reminders

Plows will be dispatched according to winter conditions and all roads will be opened first and only after all roads have been plowed will the roads be widen and sanded

Remember to keep your vehicles and other property off the road right of way so the snowplows don't hit anything. Also, don't follow plows too close because they are really "immovable objects" compared to most of our passenger vehicles.

Plows tend to wreak havoc on sheet metal and plastic on cars and trucks if they hit a plow so give them plenty of space on the road. They may not see you with all that snow flying off the plow.

Remember! Don't put the snow from your driveway in the road right of way or you may be making payments on a plow repair or worse cause an accident.

Your mail carrier and the newspaper carrier will be really happy too if you shovel out your mailbox so the mail and the paper can be delivered easier as well. Give the carriers a break and shovel that snow away from your Mail box.

Annexation Activity

We have had a couple of annexations requests again. Four acres on the east edge of Avon that were part of the Jansky farmstead have been annexed to the city. Jeff Meyer and his brother are planning to build some homes and multi-family housing on the property. Current plans are for

housing geared toward seniors with one level living as well as senior apartments.

Another project is in the works to consider annexing 325 acres west of town to the City of Avon. The properties involved are owned by Larry Melton, Larry Gertken and Cliff Mitchell.

The developer is planning to build a variety of housing on the property over a period of about ten years. This project is in the early stages.

The owners have submitted an annexation request to the city which the city has approved and the township is currently reviewing. The Township board will be securing legal advice to make sure they are aware of the ramifications of the proposed annexation because of the size of the request. The board feels it is prudent to make sure they understand the process and its potential effects on the township before approving the annexation request.

The board plans to move as quickly as practical but deliberately to make sure they know their obligations and the consequences their decision. In most cases the township does not have the ability to stop an annexation but one this size can be more complex and requires the board to make sure township interests are protected.

Elections – Filing Information

Two positions are up for election at the Annual Township Meeting on the second Tuesday in March 2004. The Supervisor position currently held by Leroy Gondringer and the Treasurer position currently held by Kelly Martini are up for election.

Anyone interested in filing for the positions must file an application with the Township Clerk, Renee Smith, between Tuesday, December 28th and Tuesday, January 11th at 5 PM.

Renee can be reached by phone at 320-356-7191 or by mail or in person at 16895 County Road 9 Avon MN to request the application form. The date for the annual meeting and the filing dates are set by Minnesota state law.

Planning Board Activities

Over the winter the planning board will be working on design standards for future residential development in the township. The board is continuing the growth planning effort the township began two years ago. The current annexation activity points out the importance of the township continuing its efforts to plan appropriately for the changes coming to our community -- both in the city and the township.

The Planning Board will be meeting an hour before its regular monthly meetings beginning with the November 24th meeting. The board will meet from 7 to 8 pm and review what other townships are doing regarding design standards or subdivision ordinances and begin to identify what issues are important to be included in standards for Avon Township. Before any standards are adopted public hearings will be held to make the public aware of what is proposed.

The public is encouraged to attend the planning board meetings to help identify issues to be considered and to help develop the final recommendation for the Board of Supervisors. The process will likely continue at least until late spring of 2005.

HCP and the Township

About half of the people involved in the HCP process are from the township. The Planning Land Use and Zoning Task Force formally asked the Township Board of Supervisors at their November meeting to take a more active role in the HCP process. Ken Stommes, Board of Supervisors Chair, and Steve Plantenberg, Planning Board Chair, will speak at the task force's November 11th meeting to share what the township has done to this point to plan for the future of the township.

911 Signs

Approximately 40 signs still need to be installed in the township. A survey was conducted in October to identify missing signs and those signs have been ordered. The posts for the signs will be installed before the frost is too deep and signs will be attached when they are received.

It takes 6-8 weeks to get the signs from the manufacturer and they should arrive at the end of November or early December. If you don't have a sign contact Cliff Borgerding at 356-7191 to make sure your sign has been ordered.

Residents should also prune or remove any brush, trees, weeds or other obstructions that block or hide the 911 signs. Many signs that are in place can't be seen easily because they are blocked by something. This is a good time to take care of any obstructions.

Total Activities
YTD October 31, 2004

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| 18 | Township Accessory Building Permits Issued |
| 11 | Township Driveway Permits Issued |
| 2 | Township Plats/Splits approved |
| 7 | Township Variances Granted |
| 6 | Township Certificates of Compliance Issued |
| 1 | Township Rezoning Requests Approved |
| 1 | Township Condition Use Permits |
| 2 | Township City Annexation Requests Presented |
| 48 | Total Township Actions Taken |
| 13 | County New Home Permits Issued |
| 16 | County Home Remodels/Additions |
| 12 | County Accessory Bldg Permits Issued |
| 4 | County Decks/Gazebos/Porches |
| 45 | Total County Actions Taken |

All public notices for the township are published in the Stearns Morrison Enterprise and posted at the Avon State Bank, Dahlin's Supermarket and at The Store in St. Anna

Well, that's all the news from this part of Lake Wobegon Country! Enjoy the season change and enjoy holidays coming up. Don't forget ... get involved in your community by participating in the various events and organizations that help make our community a great place to live, work and play!