



AVON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Vol. 14 No. 1

<http://avontownship.org>

Summer 2014

Greetings!

We hope that you find this issue of the newsletter enjoyable and informative. If you have any questions, please contact us. We encourage you to attend a monthly meeting.

The Avon Township Supervisors

Do I Need A Permit To ?

This is a frequent question that we receive from residents. The most common permits required are: Construction (Building), Driveway, Burning, Certificate of Compliance, Variance, Conditional and Interim Use, and Zoning Change. To determine which permit you might need, contact Stearns County Environmental Services (320.656.3613) or the Clerk. More details are available on the Township website (<http://avontownship.org/forms-permits/>).

The greatest confusion usually relates to “construction permits” and “driveway permits.” A construction, or building, permit is required if you build a new structure, add to or modify an existing one, or change the square footage of a building. However, you do not need a building permit if you just replace roofing or siding.

A driveway permit is necessary if any work on a new or existing driveway impacts or touches a Township road.

You can be assessed a fine if you begin work on a project prior to acquiring the proper permit. A quick call to Stearns County or the Clerk will help you avoid a fine and get you started toward obtaining the proper permit.

Use of the Town Hall

The Town Hall is available for use by non-profit and similar organizations, but not for private events and parties. The Township does not want to compete with local venues. More information and an application are available on the website.

Township Finances

The Township recently received a rating of “A+” from Standard & Poor’s. This rating recognizes that the Township is in good financial shape. By carefully managing tax dollars, the Township has been able to build a Town Hall, Maintenance Shop and Salt Shed, as well as purchase snowplows, a ditch mower, skid loader and other equipment to take care of Township Roads. The Town Hall will be paid off in about six years. Best of all – this has been done without raising the tax levy for several years!

Snow Removal

It was a long snowy winter that required lots of plowing and salt/sand. The Township did its best to quickly and efficiently clear the roads. If you have suggestions or comments about plowing, please contact one of the supervisors.

There were several calls this winter about mailboxes that were damaged during plowing. Unless the plow physically hits a mailbox, the Township is not liable for the damage. Typically, mailboxes are damaged from the snow that is thrown up. That is why residents should install a break-away mailbox post. In fact, they are the only post approved by the USPS. The mailbox and posts will not be damaged if hit by snow or a plow because they will swing out of the way and then spring back into place. Some vendors are listed on our website at <http://avontownship.org/roads/>.

Township residents are reminded that it is a misdemeanor to plow snow onto or across public roads. Snow piles left on or near a road can freeze into a solid mass creating hazardous situations for vehicles and snowplows. When snow is pushed across the road it leaves ridges, which can freeze and when hit by a plow or vehicle can throw the vehicle across the road. Please do not push snow across the road.

Township residents are also reminded to remove parked vehicles from Township roads to assist in snow removal.

Wanted: The Township will be hiring a Snow Plow Driver for winter 2014 – 2015. Must have a Class B license and Health Card. Contact the Clerk for an application.

New Salt Shed

Last fall the Township finished construction of a salt storage building. It replaces our previous salt shed, which was located on a five-acre parcel of land adjacent to Budde Trucking. The land and building were sold to provide the funds for the construction of the new salt shed. We are now able to store our entire winter needs of salt/sand at our own facility.

Avon Compost Site

The Avon Compost Facility is open for use by Avon Township residents. The site, which is located at the end of Angelfish Avenue, is open 24/7. Township residents are permitted to dump grass clippings, leaves, and brush.

Road Work

The Supervisors inspected Township roads in April and identified areas in need of work. An engineering firm has been hired to help prepare bids for possible roadwork. Roads under consideration for resurfacing are Norway Road, Upper Spunk Lake Road and 325th Street. There is also lots of brushing to do in the ditches. Larger brush will be cut with a chainsaw and chipped. Smaller brush and grasses will be cut with our new ditch mower. Herbicide may be applied to help control brush and noxious weeds in some of the more rural and heavily vegetated areas. If you don't want your property sprayed, you may opt out of spraying by contacting the Clerk. However, it is still your obligation to control brush and noxious weeds in the road right-of-way.

Township Information

The Township website, <http://avontownship.org>, is designed to provide a portal to information about the Township. Visit the site to find copies of minutes, agendas, forms, news and links to other sites of interest. If you have comments or suggestions about the website, please contact the Clerk. Legal notices are published in the *Avon/Albany Enterprise* and posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Hall, at *Dahlin's* in Avon and *The Store* in St. Anna.

AVON TOWNSHIP AT A GLANCE

Town Hall: located at 16881 Queens Road; Avon, MN 56310

Web Site: <http://avontownship.org>

Board of Supervisors: *(meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM)*

Richard Bresnahan, Chair (320) 356 – 7919

John Merdan (320) 356 – 7668

Roger Nelson (320) 339 – 1972

Treasurer: Kelly Martini (320) 356 – 9134

Clerk: Stephen Saupe (320) 248 – 8036

Planning Commission: *(meets the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM)*

LeRov Gondringer

Will Huston

Gerry Kremers

Ken Mergen (Chair)

Stephen Saupe