

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission

February 26, 2014

Avon Township Hall (16881 Queens Road, Avon)

Call to Order: Chairman Mergen called to order the regular meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission at 7:30 PM. in the Main Chamber of the Town Hall.

Pledge: Clerk Saupe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Members Present – Will Huston, Gerry Kremers, Ken Mergen, and Stephen Saupe.
Member Absent – Roger Nelson. Also present: LeRoy Gondringer.

Approval of Agenda: Under scheduled business, the name was corrected to read Mr. Tony Ebnet. Huston moved to approve the amended minutes. Kremers second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Huston moved to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2014 meeting as presented. Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearing – *none scheduled.*

Scheduled Business:

- Ebnet Variance** – Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Melissa Ebnet appeared to request a variance to construct an attached garage at their property on Red Maple Drive closer to the road than the current ordinance permits. The steps of variance process were presented to the Ebnets. The Ebnets stated that this is their only option for a garage and storage on their property and that there is little traffic on their road. Mergen moved to recommend to the supervisors to set a public hearing on March 26th at 7:45 PM to consider a variance request by Mr. Tony & Mrs. Melissa Ebnet to construct an attached garage on their residence that would be 18 feet 6 inches from the road. Huston second. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Saint John's Solar Field Expansion** – Br. Benedict Leuthner and Dwight Jelle appeared to present a plan to increase the size of their existing solar field. They plan to install two additional rows of solar panels within the limits of the original four-acre Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The additional panels would increase the power output by about 40%, from 400 to 600 kilowatts. The nearest neighbor apparently does not oppose the project. According to Section 4.8.10 in Stearns County Ordinance 439, an amended CUP is required. Huston moved to recommend to the Supervisors to set a public hearing on March 26th at 7:35 PM to consider a request by Saint John's for an amended CUP for additional solar panels within the original footprint of the solar field. Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Prioritize Township Acquisitions** – The Supervisors requested the Planning Commission to review and update the listing of priorities developed at the 2011. This review was completed (Table 1). Several items (*i.e.*, salt shed) have been acquired or are in the process of acquisition. Other items were considered to be no longer of much importance (*i.e.*, interior decorating). A new list was created and prioritized (Table 2).

Table 1. Progress on Acquisition List – December 2011	
Item (listed in order of priority)	Action
Lawnmower	Acquired
Wood chipper	No action, current service acceptable
Water Softener	Not necessary
Skid Loader	Acquired
Shelving in Office	Partial acquisition
Shelving in Shop	Partial, in progress
Front desk & chairs	No action
Salt shed	Acquired
Lighting for flag pole	Quote obtained
Interior decorating	No action
Pickup with plow	Acquired
Garbage service	Acquired/plan in place
Office furniture	No action
Solar panels	No action
Ditch mower	Acquired
Welding equipment	Partial

Table 2. Prioritized Acquisition List – February 2014	
Item (in order of priority)	Rationale
1. Shelving in the shop	Storage required
1. Cutting torch	For repair work on plows, etc.
2. Snow Plow (dual axle)	To insure functional town plow
2. Snow blower	To clear snow from around building without damaging sidewalks
2. Spot sprayer	For weed control
3. Lights on flag	To comply with law
3. Gutters	To prevent ice formation on sidewalk and funnel water to rain garden
4. Pave parking lot	Easier to clear snow, runoff
4. Desk chairs	Comfort, professional appearance
5. Office shelving	To complete organization
5. Solar panels	Save electric costs
6. Waste bins	To keep hall clean

- 4. **Kurtz Property** – There will be a public hearing at the County on Thursday, February 27th, concerning a structure built by Mr. Eric Kurtz on his property that is larger and taller than permitted. Evidence suggests that Mr. Kurtz was aware of, and ignored, County restrictions. The Township has received complaints about this structure. Saupe moved to recommend that Stearns County not grant an after-the-fact permit to the non-compliant structure built by Mr. Eric Kurtz. Second by Huston. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 5. **Fees from Speeding Tickets** – Kremers reported that Wakefield Township apparently applied to receive money from speeding tickets through the State. Details on acquiring these funds are still not clear.

Other & Old Business: *none*

Announcements/Reports:

- 25% of all fire calls in the Township last year were in the manufactured home park.

Adjournment: Huston moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:20 PM. Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is March 26, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Approval:

Ken Mergen, Chair

Date

Attest:

Date