

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

August 18, 2010

Avon City Hall

Call to Order: Chair Gondringer called the meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors to order at 8:00 P.M.

Pledge: Clerk Saupe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present –Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer, Kelly Martini, John Merdan, and Stephen Saupe. Absent – none.

Approval of Agenda: Added to the agenda were (a) discussion of issue related to the recent storm; (b) snowplow acquisition; and (c) sinkhole on Two Rivers Road. Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mergan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Minutes will be examined at the September 1st meeting.

Claims: A claim check to Bonestroo, which had been approved at the previous meeting, needed to be rewritten and resigned. Other claims will be presented at the September 1st meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report will be presented at the September 1st meeting.

Road Report: There is a considerable amount of brush in the ditches, especially on 365th, after the recent storm. We will need to find someone to cut it up. The 'dead end' sign on 165th Ave needs to be put back up. Bresnahan moved to authorize Merdan to make decisions on brush cleanup from the storm to insure that our roads are safe and passable. Gondringer second. All in favor. Motion carried. Bresnahan moved to authorize attendance at the Maintenance Expo in St. Cloud. Gondringer second. All in favor. Motion carried. The regular Road Report will be presented at the September 1st meeting.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board report will be presented at the September 1st meeting.

Public Hearings: There were no public hearings.

Business:

1. **Sink Hole on Two Rivers Road** – Merdan reported that he filled the sinkhole. It was about three feet deep and it appears that the underlying culvert has collapsed. Bids to repair the culvert were requested and obtained from Lange Excavating (\$6754) and Bardson Excavating (\$2960) companies. The repair will require about 32 feet of 24-inch culvert. Merdan moved to approve the bid from Craig Bardson Excavating to repair the culvert on Two Rivers Road. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Spraying** – Multiple complaints were received about the ditch spraying by Cold Spring Coop along 325th Street and elsewhere in the Township. On 325th mature trees were sprayed and many limbs have died. In other areas, thistles and brush were missed. Residents were also surprised that the Coop worker didn't seem to be wearing safety gear.
3. **Mobile Home Park Issues** – The Township received a letter from Fire Chief Eric Linn concerning a recent call and unsafe conditions. Another individual reported that a tree/branch fell

on her home but that after about a month Mr. Pitzer had not yet taken any action to remove it. The sheriff directed her to complain to the township. This also affected at least one other neighbor. Since this is private property it is not a Township issue. Possible suggestions were to contact Stearns County for assistance or perhaps withhold rent until the tree is removed.

4. **Signs** – Martini reported that the 911 signs she ordered have arrived. Also, Mr. Tom King will take care of the downed sign by his home.
5. **Building Update** – Construction Manager Stephen Plantenberg provided an update on the building project. The painter has just finished the interior, with a few remaining areas to be touched up. Overhead doors for the maintenance building will be installed next week. The electric is connected. There was a deduction for the septic system since it was less expensive to run the line under the maintenance building. The final site grading will take place next week. The vent hood will be installed soon but the Supervisors need to select a color for the appliances. White was chosen. Lighting for the bathroom and exterior were examined and choices made. Mr. Plantenberg is looking into flagpole selections. We will need to determine a garbage service and how to key the building. Mr. Plantenberg recommended an entry mat under the canopy. It was decided to install 12-inch aluminum lettering stating “Avon Township” on the front of the building. Martini will look into interior furnishings. Mr. Plantenberg indicated that a project in Fergus Falls has leftover white boards and chairs that may be available for low cost. The building should be completed by early October or even late September. We will need to publish and post a change of town hall locations. Since the project is nearly complete, we will need to make a decision on whether to continue the third Wednesday meetings. The September 15th meeting will likely be the last. The change will be published/posted in the usual way. Martini has been in contact with the MAT about insurance for the new Township Hall and Maintenance facility. Saupe will contact Mahowald for an additional quote.
6. **Snow Plows** – Gondringer and Merdan have been shopping for a snowplow. To date they have examined several in the \$20 – \$40K range and all are either too expensive and/or in poor repair. They have a lead on another plow being sold by a local dealer. Mr. Linus Koopmeiners, who has had experience purchasing trucks, has offered to assist. Martini also stated that her father would be willing to help. Merdan will follow up. The Township will ultimately require two plows, one which would be a backup. The Board has township authorization for spending \$60K for two trucks. Any purchase over \$50K would require Township approval. A pickup with blade will also be needed for cul-de-sacs. As a temporary measure, someone could be hired to do this work.
7. **Snow Plow Driver** – Saupe sent an advertisement for a driver to the *Stearns Morrison-Enterprise*. He will also send it to the *St. Cloud Times*. An employment application form was received from Colledgeville Township and will be used as a basis for our application. The form was edited for our situation and Saupe will retype for the next meeting. Among other things, the successful applicant will require a valid Class B driver’s license, a good driving record, and available in the evenings as well as day. Bresnahan questioned whether priority must be given for military service when hiring. We will need to identify the best route for the driver to take. Preference for plowing will be given to trunk road systems. Rotating the sequence of plowing roads was also suggested. At least one backup driver will need to be hired.

Announcements:

- The County will host a Public Hearing on September 14th at 10:05AM (Stearns County Administration Building) to amend Ordinance 439 related to feedlot conditional use permits, in vessel compositing and miscellaneous amendments
- The Township received the following Certificates of Real Estate Values: Hanson – 35561 Cty Rd 155 - \$381,748; Nolden – 33132 154th Ave - \$140,000; Kramer – 32777 182nd Ave - \$305,000; Springer – 19206 Two Rivers - \$135,000; Bechtold – 37535 Cty Rd 55 - \$94,900; Schreifels – 19297 Two Rivers Rd - \$144,500; Eibensteiner – 160th Ave - \$120,000; McGuinness- 160th Ave - \$115,000.
- The Township received the following Construction Site Permits –Buttweiler (move non-conforming RV off of property line); Kolodjeski Farm (animal holding areas); Denne (replace deck); Pilarski (pole mounted solar panels)
- Saupe announced that he attended the MAT Summer Short Course and received information about unemployment insurance.
- Gondringer and Merdan will likely attend the Albany Area Schools First Monday meeting on August 30, 2010.
- A census worker called seeking an address in the township (15716 390th St.); it is apparently an error.

Adjournment: Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 PM. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is September 1st, 2010 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Saupe, Clerk

Minutes amended and approved: September 1, 2010