

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

March 3, 2010
Avon City Hall

Call to Order: The meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Gondringer at 7:30 P.M.

Pledge: Clerk Saupe lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present – Kelly Martini, Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer, John Merdan, Stephen Saupe.

Approval of Agenda: Several additions were made to the agenda including: (a) planning board report, (b) road report; (c) discussion of road inspection; (d) CAPX2020 report; and (e) Fire service. Merdan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Several corrections to the minutes from the February 3rd meeting were suggested including a motion to discontinue township participation in the Avon newsletter. No corrections to the minutes from February 17th were made. Gondringer moved to accept the minutes as amended/written. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. The Supervisors normally sign the corrected minutes for the files.

Treasurer's Report/Claims: Martini presented the treasurer's report for approval (below). Fees (\$6.00) from the election are missing and likely still in Clerk Smith's home. Martini presented the claims for the Supervisor's signatures. Bresnahan moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

	General Revenue	Road & Bridge	Fire	Road Damage Deposit	Capital Improvement Fund	Total
Balance from 01/31/10	\$7539.38	\$201,892.85	\$24,744.44	\$400.00	\$195,752.05	\$430,328.72
Receipts	\$1,022.57	\$10,115.57	\$1,798.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,936.15
Total	\$8,561.95	\$212,008/42	\$26,542.45	\$400.00	\$195,752.05	\$443,264.87
Disbursements	\$8,150.31	\$10,304.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,454.79
Ending balance (2/28/10)	\$411.64	\$201,703.94	\$26,542.45	\$400.00	\$195,752.05	\$424,810.08

Road Report: Snowplowing cost the township approximately \$15,000 for February. Martini will ask Jeff Lange to attend the next Supervisor's meeting to discuss billing.

Planning Board Report: Planning Board Chair, Ken Mergen, presented a report from the recent meeting of the Planning Board. He indicated that Lowell Rushmeyer has expressed concerns that the new facility meet subdivision ordinance. The Board wondered if Saupe is elected to serve as Clerk if he forfeits his position; Martini said 'no.' The Planning Board has requested to move their meeting to 7:30 PM to finish earlier and for uniformity with the

Supervisor meeting. Bresnahan moved to approve the Planning Board move its meeting to 7:30 beginning with the April meeting, assuming the Planning Board is in agreement. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carries. Saupe will post the change in the *Stearns-Enterprise* once the Planning Board formally approves the change. Next month the Supervisors will need to appoint members of Planning Board whose terms will expire. Roger Nelson wants to know if he will be retained for brush cutting next summer. Nelson said that if the last few cuttings were never sprayed and will need herbicide treatment. It is an ideal time to burn the brush piles from last fall. We should get Fire Chief Linn's opinion. Bresnahan moved to contact Chief Linn about burning brush from last years road cuttings. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Business:

1. **Smith Memorial Fund** - Bresnahan had been in contact with Steve and Jim Smith. They want to donate \$1000 towards a memorial for the new township hall in honor of their mother, Renee, who served the township as Clerk with great dedication for many years. Possible ideas included framing a portrait of Renee, a bench, plaque, rock or other garden, or tree planting. The family will be consulted.
2. **182nd Avenue Road Work Bid** – Mr. Stan Hanson, from Bonestroo Engineering, appeared to seek approval to initiate the bidding process for the 182nd Ave project. Bids will be opened at the Planning Board meeting on March 31. Bonestroo will publish the announcement in the *Stearns-Enterprise* on Mar 9th and 16th. They will send it to *Construction Bulletin* for publication on one issue. Bresnahan moved to approve moving forward with the bidding process and to set the bid opening date for the March 31 Planning Board meeting. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. **Road Inspection** – The Supervisors will set the date for the annual road inspection at the April meeting.
4. **David Drown** – Mr. Drown did not appear. There may have been confusion about whether he would be at this meeting or the next one.
5. **Facility Report** – Construction Manager Stephen Plantenberg said that Schultz Engineering said we don't need structures for storm water retention since the overall footprint has been decreased. An area for potential water overflow in future will be created at a lower cost. Copies of soil borings were presented to the Supervisors. The good news is that there were no surprises in the soils which are good for building sites. The boring data will be incorporated into the bid document. Plantenberg has had lots of calls about the project. The documents will be ready to send to the printer next week (Wednesday). Plantenberg is working on the project schedule. The township wants access by early October because we need snow plows on the site by Nov 1st. Bid opening will be April 1st, likely at Morton office in St. Cloud. Authorization to proceed could be considered at the April 6th Supervisor meeting. The documents will include a sealed seam roof which would be best if not too expensive. However, the drawings don't need to be revised. Plantenberg will present information about the project at the Annual Meeting. The bid announcement will be posted in the *Stearns-Morrison Enterprise* on

the 16th & 23rd. The Building Committee isn't needed at the meeting on March 17th and won't have any more scheduled meetings for awhile. Saupe will contact the committee and put this on the web site.

6. **Fire Service:** Bresnahan reported that the State Fire Marshall had visited the Mobile Home Court and found numerous violations. The Fire Marshall wants the township to do something, but the Township attorneys advise to move slow because it's a tough issue balancing safety with a place for people to live. Possible ideas included: Stearns County has an ordinance in place, the Fire Department can order people to leave, or the State Fire Code related to manufactured homes can be adopted. Bresnahan will contact Catholic Charities to see if we can get assistance from non-profits to deal with the living situation in a positive manner. HRA has not been helpful in the past. Gondringer suggested that the township buy out non-compliant homes when current owners vacate/move. One difficult issue is who owns them; title searches could be expensive. We will look for the original Conditional Use Permit for the trailer park.

After the recent meeting with the Fire Board in which the City proposed changing the formula for billing, Bresnahan contacted St. John's. They are very interested in arranging shared fire protection. Colledgeville is also interested and there will be a joint meeting. The City of Avon sent a letter to the Supervisors notifying the Township of the need to sign a new contract for fire service within 180 days. The next scheduled meeting of the Fire Board is May 12.

7. **Township Life Insurance** – Sadly, the Township does not own life insurance which we hoped could go to Clerk Smith's heirs. We were erroneously listed in the township brochure.
8. **Agenda for the Annual Meeting.** The Supervisors discussed the agenda for the Annual Meeting. Next year we will start the meeting at 8:15 PM to allow for time to close the polls and tally results. Martini will order pizza from Brudies. EAeverything is in place for the election. Two absentee ballots have been received to date. Merdan will move the machines/supplies to the church.
9. **Stray Cats** – with Clerk Smith's passing, the Township will need a place for stray cats.

Reports/Announcements:

- **CAPX2020** – Bresnahan gave an update concerning CAPX2020. The last meeting of the Task Force was February 25th and they forwarded recommendations to the PUC. The Task Force discussed alternative routes. It is unlikely the line would be run underground because of the cost. The Task Force recommendations focused on minimizing disruption to small land owners, and keep to main highway right-of-ways. Minutes from the meeting will be provided to members to check for accuracy. There is no good route and PUC is realizing that there is also a bottleneck through St. Joseph and into Waite Parke. The bad news is that if the line takes a southern route it will require cutting about 800 acres of trees. County Commissioners initially voted to run the line down I-94 but MN DOT won't allow the line over the rest areas. Commissioner Otte was quoted at the

meeting that there is one nice paradise left in our county (Avon Hills/St. John's), don't ruin it. Bresnahan said the comment was sincere and touching. It's not certain that the Task Force recommendations will be seriously considered and they may still do whatever they want. Scott Hylla has done a lot of work on this project. It would be good to combine forces. The Schwalbe's who attended the meeting thanked the Supervisors for putting their letter in the *Enterprise*. Gondringer said that Bresnahan has done a great job on the Task Force.

Adjournment: Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting at about 10:45 PM. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is April 7, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Saupe, Clerk

Minutes amended and approved: