

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

February 2, 2011
Avon Township Hall

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

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Approval of Agenda: A discussion of the Straley WECS project was added to the agenda. Merdan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Bresnahan moved to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2011 meeting as written. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Bresnahan moved to approved the minutes of the January 22, 2011 meeting as written. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Martini presented the Treasurer's Report for approval (below). A check for Gravel tax was received from the County. 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 12/31/10	78,695.66	147,869.76	13,518.80	600.00	141,239.05	381,923.27
Receipts	1,292.58	4,006.11	725.32	0.00	243.22	6,267.23
Total	79,988.51	153,036.07	14,244.10	600.00	141,482.27	388,190.51
Disbursements	11,670.89	4,733.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,404.39
Ending balance 01/31/11	68,317.35	147,142.37	14,244.12	600.00	141,482.27	371,786.11

Claims: Martini presented claims (1541 – 1557). The work of our intern (Neva Widner) on the CAPX2020 project is being shared with St. John's. Bresnahan said that she is doing a great job for the Township. Bresnahan moved to approve the claims. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Road Report: Several issues were discussed:

1. Snow Plowing – a letter from Mr. T Heinen, a resident, praising the Town's snowplowing efforts was read. Merdan reported that at the Fifth Monday meeting the Albany Superintendent said he hasn't heard any complaints about plowing. Our previous plow service (Lange's) did a good job but we are now saving money by doing our own. Buecker's apparently requested more sand/salt on Nob Hill Road because the trucks are having a difficult time getting up this stretch of road.
2. St. Wendel Township & Snow Plowing – Mr. Carl Stich appeared to request that the Town plow and sand a stretch of 355th to County Road 3. When the Lange's were plowing for the Town there was informal agreement that Avon would maintain this stretch of road in exchange for St. Wendel taking care of a road near St. John's. The Supervisor's were unaware of this agreement but we will start. Gondringer will inform our plow drivers. The possibility of forming a Coop between St. Wendel

and Avon Townships for purchasing sand/salt mix was discussed. We will contact St. Wendel this summer to see if we can save money by jointly ordering.

3. Resolution establishing a snow and ice control policy will be discussed at the next meeting.

Planning Board Report: Ken Mergen, Planning Board Chair, presented the Planning Board Report. Topics discussed were:

1. Straley WECS CUP – The Planning Board recommends approval of a Conditional Use Permit for Mr. Joseph Straley to install a wind turbine on his property, contingent on the property being in the Town. There is a question of whether or not the property is part of the Annexation area. Some maps indicate that it is, but the parcel number is absent from the annexation agreement documents. If in the Annexation area then the CUP should be issued from the Joint Powers Board. Planning Board member Lowell Rushmeyer and Bresnahan will look into it. In the event that project is in the Town, the Supervisors decided to act on the request to save Mr. Straley a return visit. Merdan moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit for the WECS proposed by Mr. Joseph Straley, contingent on the property being in the Town. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Eibensteiner CUP Renewal – Mr. Matthew Eibensteiner appeared to seek approval to extend the Conditional Use Permit he was granted to construct a home on his property on 160th Ave and to request adding a shed. Bresnahan moved to extend the Conditional Use Permit (dated 1 September, 2010) for Mr. Eibensteiner for six months and to allow the construction of a shed within the building envelope. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Saupe will follow up the County to determine which form(s) is required.
3. The terms of Lowell Rushmeyer and Stephen Saupe are up this year. They are willing to serve another term if reappointed.

Bresnahan moved to approve the Planning Board report. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Hearings: none.

New Business:

1. **Streit in Avon Hills** – Mr. Stanley Streit appeared to ask the Supervisors (a) why he wasn't notified that his property is in the Avon Hills environmental zoning district and (b) how does this zoning affects him? Mr. Streit was informed that this is a County issue and that it was the County's responsibility for notifying residents. This occurred a few years ago. The Supervisors consider the zoning district to be a benefit for residents because it will still permit development on a property though provides residents with alternate options such as increasing density if land is permanently protected. There are no additional restrictions on hunting or other activities than already exist. One unanticipated benefit of this zoning district is that it may provide evidence to redirect the CAPX2020 power line.
2. **Avon Community Improvement Committee Update** – Avon City Councilman Hugh Knox appeared to update the Supervisors about the activities of the Avon Improvement Visioning Committee that sponsored meetings to solicit feedback from area (including City & Town) residents. Among the suggestions were a large grocery store, community center, economic development, and improvements on Main Street. Although the Main Street improvements have been completed, unless a major grant shows up, a community center is unlikely in the near future. The ideal location for the facility would be somewhere between Avon and Albany. In a related discussion, Councilman Knox indicated that the City will soon take over the property on the west side of Spunk Lake. Mr. Knox also provided a brief update on the City Beach project – construction should start in the spring.

3. **Open House** – The Open House will be Feb 13 from 1 to 4:00 PM. Most of the arrangements are in place and ready.
4. **Septic Issues at the Mobile Home** – A complaint was received from a resident about sewage backing up into residents' homes and overflowing into ditches. Mr. John Tracy, Stearns County Environmental Services, was contacted and he visited the site. He reported not seeing any problems
5. **CAPX2020 Update** – Bresnahan provided a brief update. Our attorneys are working on a final brief and they will attend the March meeting.
6. **Salt Shed & Land** – It would be desirable to have a salt shed at our new facility. The fate of the existing salt shed and land near Budde Trucking will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.
7. **Donation** – Bresnahan moved to approve Resolution 02-02-11, Resolution Accepting Donation, accepting a donation of two framed plat maps for the Town Hall. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
8. **Kennels** – The County contacted the Town to identify commercial kennels that are breeding or boarding 25 or more animals to alert them about the license program.
9. **Board of Appeals Meeting** – Bresnahan moved to approve the meeting of the Board of Appeal for Thursday May 5 at 7:00 PM. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
10. **SCORE Grant** – Merdan moved to apply for a grant to recycle tires, appliances and to obtain a dumpster for roadside trash. Bresnahan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Martini and Saupe will write the proposal.
11. **Building Use Update** – to date, the Avon Girl Scouts meet on three days of the month. Leaders have apparently met at alternate times. Saupe will contact Ms. Ritzer to clarify whether leader meetings will occur at the Town Hall.
12. **Election Supplies** – Bresnahan moved to purchase 12 table dividers for privacy when voting at a table. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
13. **Upcoming Meeting Agendas** – Saupe provided the Supervisors with tentative agendas for several upcoming meetings. These will be modified as necessary. The agenda for the Annual Meeting was briefly discussed.
14. **Time Sheets** – Martini requests that time sheets be completed with specific activities and hours. Martini also wants time cards submitted to her as soon as possible.
15. **Certificates of Insurance** – Martini noted that the Town must have a Certificate of Insurance if we pay anyone directly. She contacted several contractors to obtain these documents and said to be sure to get these documents.
16. **Budget Discussion** – Supervisors discussed the budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. We won't need to raise taxes this year because of the building project.

Reports/Announcements:

1. Letter from Linda Peck, Rockville Wildlife Rehabilitation Center – Gondringer read a letter received from Ms. Peck that thanked the Township for saving the gophers trapped for the Town bounty. She uses the frozen gophers to feed her birds of prey, which she maintains for educational purposes.
2. CAPX2020 – the final environmental impact statement is available at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25053>.
3. Certificate of Real Estate Values – Hennek (Nakomis Dr; \$11,082)
4. Construction Site Permits – Batzer (County Rd 159; 15 x 15 deck with no roof or pergula)
5. Stalberger variance approved by County.
6. Stearns County Township Day at the Capitol will be held on Feb 23, 2011.
7. There will be a “Product Selection and Installation for Small Road Project Erosion Control and Storm Water Management” workshop sponsored by Stearns County on March 8, 2011.

Announcement of next meeting: March 2, 2011 at 7:30 PM

Adjournment: Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 PM. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Minutes approved: March 2, 2011