

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

March 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: Added to the agenda were: (a) annual bridge inspection; (b) Joint Planning Board report; and (c) Liability insurance. Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mergen 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). Corrections to the previous report were made which reflected changing the category to which an expense was charged. There is a question about how to pay a person to clean the building but is not on the official payroll. 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 01/31/11	68,317.35	147,142.37	14,244.12	600.00	141,482.27	371,786.11
Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	68,317.35	147,142.37	14,244.13	600.00	141,482.27	371,786.11
Disbursements	22,824.62	8,387.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,211.92
Ending balance 01/31/11	45,492.73	138,755.07	14,244.12	600.00	141,482.27	340,574.19

Claims: Martini presented claims (1558 – 1576). Bresnahan moved to approve the claims. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Road Report: Several issues were discussed:

1. Bridge Inspection – the Town received a letter from Mr. Mitchell Anderson, Stearns County Highway Engineer, that the black diagonals on the delineators for the bridge over Spunk Creek on Queens Road are facing the wrong direction. Corrective action will be determined during the annual road inspection.
2. Snow and Ice Control Policy – Resolution 03-02-11 adopting a snow and ice control policy was discussed. Bresnahan moved to approve Resolution 03-02-11. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Annual Road Inspection – The road inspection was set for Saturday, April 16 at 9:00 AM. The Supervisors will meet at the Town Hall parking lot at 9:00 AM. The public is welcome. The Supervisors will use a private vehicle rather than rent a 15-passenger van. Saupe will publish.

Bresnahan moved to accept the road report. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

1. 439 Ordinance Update – Heidi Winskowski, Stearns County Environmental Services attended the meeting to discuss updating the MOU to reflect the new 439 Ordinance. The Township wants to continue to approve Conditional Use Permits.
2. Avon Hills Meeting – The Avon Hills Initiative has obtained grant funding to bring a consultant to discuss planning issues. The meeting will be held at our Town Hall and will include representatives from Collegetown Township and Stearns County Environmental Services. Saupe will publish.
3. Landscaping – There was general agreement to landscape most of the grounds with native prairie grasses and forbs and rain gardens in the wetland area. A buffer of lawn would be left around the Town Hall. Funding from the state Legacy Fund could pay up to 75% of the cost. Jane Merdan, Master Gardener, is willing to donate time for landscaping, and this can be used as matching funds for any grant funding received.

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

Public Hearings: none.

New Business:

1. **CAPX2020 Update** – Mr. Gerry Von Korff, Rinke-Noonan, appeared to update the Supervisors on the CAPX2020 situation. Mr. Van Korff stated that township residents did a good job during the testimony phase. Our case for route G, which our ecological consultants (AES) showed to have the least impact on homes and the environment, was ultimately supported by St. John's, NORCA, the DNR, and Nature Conservancy. We are now waiting for the applicant's response, the Administrative Law Judge's Findings and Recommended Route and the final PUC decision. The Township will continue to be involved as necessary.
2. **Studniski in Avon Hills** – Mr. Tom Studniski appeared to ask the Supervisors to be exempt from the Avon Hills environmental zoning district. 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. Mr. Studniski was told to contact the County for more information.
3. **Resolutions Accepting Donations** – Bresnahan moved to accept Resolutions 03-02-11-1 (ceramics), 03-02011-2 (notebooks), 03-02-11-3 (maple syrup), 03-02-11-4 (gourd bowl), all of which were donations for the door prizes at the Open House. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Annual Meeting** – The program for the Annual Meeting and the proposed budget for 2012 were discussed. There was a question about whether the Town can contribute to the Fire Relief Association. Bresnahan will contact our attorney for clarification. Bresnahan moved to approve the budget for 2012, moving the Fire Relief Fund amount into the Fire Fund category. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion

carried. The proposed agenda was discussed and amended. Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as modified. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. Martini will make 50 copies.

5. **Mining Operations in the Township** – Stearns County Environmental Services requested information about the location of mining operations in the Town. Possible mining operations not included on the Stearns County list include those of Ramler, Blattner, Kierzik, and Maleska. Gondringer will follow up with the County.
6. **Planning Board Membership** – the terms of Rushmeyer and Saupe are up this year.
7. **Flood Emergency Planning** – Stearns County Emergency Management is prepping for potential floods this April. The Town is concerned about potential flood on Upper Spunk Lake Road which could affect County Road 9.

Reports/Announcements:

1. Joint Powers Board Report – Bresnahan reported that Mr. Joe Straley was granted a permit for his WECS from the Joint Powers Board. Ms. Marge Evans is replacing Mr. Hugh Knox on the Board. The next meeting is April 12, 2011 (second Tuesday) to elect new officers.
2. Weed Inspection Meeting – will be held March 30. Gondringer and Merdan will attend.
3. Don Adams Retiring – Stearns County Environmental Services director Don Adams is retiring on May 6th.
4. Fire Board – Merdan reported on the recent Fire Board meeting. The City doesn't understand why the Township would want any ownership. The recent agreement means the Town will pay a little more for fire service.
5. Certificate of Real Estate Values – One was received from the County for property owned by Baker (County Road 9 - \$65,000)
6. There will be a *Product Selection and Installation for Small Road Project Erosion Control and Storm Water Management* workshop by Stearns County on March 8, 2011
7. Town Officers Association Meeting will be held on April 28, 7:45 PM at the Freeport Community Center
8. The Township Officer Spring Short Courses will be held at various locations from March 14 – April 1.
9. We received the *Technology Exchange Newsletter* – Winter 2011 edition.
10. The Minnesota Spring Maintenance Training Expo will be held April 12-13, 2011 at the St. Cloud Civic Center.
11. The Roads Scholar *Gravel Road Maintenance & Design* workshop will be held March 24 (Alexandria), March 31 (Albert Lea) and April 6 (Grand Rapids)
12. We received a copy of the Central Applicators brochure – right of way vegetation managers, and information about Township Officer Group Life Insurance.

Announcement of next meeting: April 6, 2011 at 7:30 PM

Adjournment: Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 PM. Merdan second. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Minutes approved: