

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors

November 1, 2017

Avon Township Hall, 16881 Queens Road, Avon (MN)

Call to Order: Chairman Huston called the meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors to order at 7:30 P.M. in the main chamber of the Avon Township Hall and welcomed guests.

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present – Will Huston, Mike Linn, Kelly Martini, John Merdan, and Stephen Saupe. Also present – Paul Buttweiler (*Deputy Treasurer*), Marion Gondringer (*Deputy Clerk*), and Joseph Koopmeiners (*Maintenance*).

Approval of Agenda: Merdan moved to approve the agenda as presented. Linn second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Linn moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2017 meeting as presented. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Report

1. **Bullert Preliminary Plat** – Dan Bullert appeared at the Planning Commission meeting to request approval for a preliminary plat for Lupine Meadows. The Planning Commission supports the plat with a single driveway shared by the three new lots. The Bullert's attended this meeting and provided a revised plat. Linn moved to approve the revised preliminary plat for Lupine Meadows with a single shared driveway. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Membership** – There are no applicants for the open Planning Commission position. The Planning Commission recommends recruiting potential candidates. Saupe and Linn will contact potential applicants.
3. **Enterprise** – it was recommended that the November contribution feature snow removal.
4. **Logo** – a stylized version of the Town Hall will be used for the basis of a Township logo.

Linn moved to approve the Planning Commission report. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Martini read the Treasurer's Report and provided the Cash Control Statement for the period 10/01/2017 to 10/31/2017 (*below*). Merdan moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Linn second. All in favor. Motion carried. Huston signed a document authorizing use of SAFES (State Auditor Form Entry System) to submit required documents electronically at the end of the year.

Claims & Payroll: Martini presented the October claims (3204 – 3219). October PERA claims were 3202 and 3203. Linn moved to approve the payroll and claims. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried.

For the Period : 10/1/2017 To 10/31/2017

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Total Disbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
General Fund	\$128,108.18	\$5,326.34	\$4,008.71	\$129,425.81
Road and Bridge	\$137,864.74	\$0.00	\$37,610.49	\$100,254.25
Road Damage Deposit	\$2,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,050.00
Fire Fund	\$11,743.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,743.08
General Capital Projects	\$40,562.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,562.91
Total	\$320,328.91	\$5,326.34	\$41,619.20	\$284,036.05

Town Hall Maintenance Report – Presented by Mr. Joseph Koopmeiners:

1. **Gutters** – Koopmeiners obtained quotes for installation of gutters on the Town Hall. Merdan moved to authorize Koopmeiners to accept a quote to install seamless gutters on the Town Hall assuming it was equal to or lower than \$1940. Linn second. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Inventory** – Koopmeiners completed an inventory of the shop. The Clerk entered the data in a spreadsheet. Koopmeiners will edit the document. Koopmeiners is working on the Town Hall inventory.

Linn moved to approve the Town Hall report. Merdan second. Motion carried.

Road Report – Presented by Mr. Joseph Koopmeiners:

1. **Monthly Road Work** – included grading 360th & Peach Drive, tree cutting and trimming (Parkwood Circle, Two Rivers, Sunnyfield Circle, Peach Drive, 360th), filling potholes (Norway, Lower Spunk, Nordica, Koopy Lane, and applying gravel/road repair (Lower Spunk Lane, 135th Ave).
2. **Noxious Weed Report** – The 2017 Annual Township Noxious Weed Report was completed. The Town sprayed 15 miles of road and mowed 130 miles to control noxious weeds. The cost of mowing and spraying, including personnel time, was \$300 and \$600, respectively. The report will be submitted to the Highway Department.
3. **Bus Stop Signs** – Koopmeiners will install signs on Norway and Tower roads. Residents and the School District will be contacted to determine the best placement. An extra set of signs will be ordered.
4. **Vehicles in Road ROW** – a truck is parked in the road right-of-way on Nob Hill and will be a hazard for the plow. A letter will be sent requesting the truck be moved. A letter was sent to a resident to remove a vehicle in the ROW on Upper Spunk Lake Road.
5. **Road Inspection Follow-Up** – After road inspection in April, several residents were sent letters to fix assorted issues. Koopmeiners re-inspected noncompliant properties. Follow-up letters will be sent as necessary.

Linn moved to approve the Town Hall report. Merdan second. Motion carried.

Public Hearings: None scheduled.

Business:

1. **Glanville Smith Property** – Mr. Lowell Rushmeyer appeared to share information with the Town about the Glanville Smith property on Tower Road that is owned by St. Cloud State University (SCSU). Mr. Rushmeyer stated that Glanville Smith was an architect and writer who lived in Cold Spring. He was described as a “Renaissance man.” He originally purchased the property in the 1950’s and wanted to preserve it. Smith approached the Nature Conservancy but they declined so it was offered to SCSU with the condition it return to the heirs if it were to be sold. Mr. Rushmeyer said that he and about 30 neighbors are in favor of the DNR acquiring the property. The Supervisors support this and passed a motion at the previous meeting supporting acquisition of the property by the DNR as a Scientific and Natural Area. A letter was sent to the DNR in support of their acquisition of the SCSU/Glanville Smith property.
2. **LRIP Grant** – Huston is working on the proposal to resurface/recondition Norway Road. He has been in contact with Jodi Teich at Stearns County. No copy of any past application has been located. Stearns County passed a resolution in support of the project. Merdan moved to approve Resolution 11-01-17: Resolution in Support of Avon Township LRIP Grant. Linn second. All in favor. Motion carried. A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes. Huston will contact the sheriff’s office to see if there have been any accidents.
3. **Meeting Time** – Linn moved to change the starting time of the Supervisors monthly meeting and Planning Commission monthly meeting to 7:00 PM starting in January 2018. Merdan second. All in favor. Motion carried. The Clerk will publish.
4. **MOU** – No action taken this month. We will follow up and report back next month.

Other/Old Business:

1. No action was taken on a Town logo, THK bike race, LUCA/Census or Fines revenues. Martini, Huston and Saupe will meet before Thanksgiving to discuss.

Recurring Reports:

1. There were no requests for 911 signs.
2. Certificates of Real Estate Value are now available online.
3. Construction Site Permits were received for Thielman (12 x 13 addition on deck and 12 x 12 deck), Klocker (36 x 72 shed).
4. There were no Feedlot Permits.
5. A Special Assessment Search was completed for a property on Nob Hill Drive.
6. The County will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance 546 (new land use – limited rural manufacturing) on November 14th.

Announcements & Brief Reports:

1. Huston has signed up to complete Board of Appeals Training.
2. A gambling permit was signed for the Holdingford Lions Club.
3. Martini provided an update on the Town Officers meeting in Freeport.
4. A resident inquired about temporary residence in a trailer while a home is being built. The resident was informed that this is regulated by Stearns County and that the Town takes no exception.
5. The County approved a permit for the Blattner project. There is a road access issue to be resolved by the landowners.

- 6. Holdingford School District 738 will hold an election on Special Election on November 7, 2017 (7 AM – 8 PM) to consider approval of a general education levy increase.
- 7. The Town was contacted by the Ecology Democracy Network to support bills that would replace the current measure of economic well-being with the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI).
- 8. Ditch work on County Ditch 25 will begin winter 2017.
- 9. CenterPoint alerted the Town that there will be a natural gas rate hike of approximately 5.5%.
- 10. Knife River alerted the Towns that the Ramler/Pierskalla Temporary Asphalt plant will end approximately November 10, 2017.
- 11. Stearns County has sent a survey to residents and requests feedback.
- 12. Avon Lakes Association is actively seeking grant funding, is working on issues in Linneman Lake (*i.e.*, bog, shoreline cleanup), is enrolled in the Amazon Smile fundraising program, and will host a Christmas Party in December. They request including a link to their website on the Town website.
- 13. No representatives from the Town attended Fifth Monday.
- 14. Email messages to Supervisor Merdan are frequently undelivered.
- 15. Martini and Merdan will attend the annual MAT conference in Rochester in mid-November.

Announcement of Next Regular Supervisor Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Announcement of Other Town Meetings: *none scheduled.*

Adjournment: Merdan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 PM. Linn second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen G. Saupe Clerk

Clerk signature: _____ **date:** November 21, 2017

Supervisor Signatures: _____ **date:** _____

Will Huston Mike Linn John Merdan

RESOLUTION 11-01-17

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AVON TOWNSHIP
LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

WHEREAS, Norway Road is a main east/west artery through Avon Township in the event that I-94 is closed and traffic needs to be rerouted; and

WHEREAS, Norway Road requires resurfacing/reconditioning for safe passage; and

WHEREAS, several corners of Norway road should be widen to improve safety; and

WHEREAS, Norway Road is heavily used by walkers, joggers, and bicyclists from Saint John’s University, the College of St. Benedict, and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Norway Road is a primary access point, via Meadowview Road, to the Lake Wobegon Trail by trail users; and

WHEREAS, Norway Road is a part of the annual Tour of Saints bicycle ride; and

WHEREAS, Norway Road, via Meadowview Road, is a first responder access point to the Lake Wobegon Trail in the event of emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Avon Township, Stearns County, Minnesota supports submitting an LRIP Grant to recondition Norway Road.

Adopted this 1st day of November, 2017.

BY THE TOWN BOARD

	Yes	No	Abstain
Supervisor _____ Will Huston	___	___	___
Supervisor _____ Mike Linn	___	___	___
Supervisor _____ John Merdan	___	___	___

Attest:

Stephen Saupe, Town Clerk

date