

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Board of Supervisors

March 4, 2026

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

**Call to Order:** Craig Blonigen called the meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Main Chamber of the Avon Township Hall. This meeting, like other Town meetings, was also available virtually via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8325486945>, Passcode: AvonTown.

**Pledge:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call:** Present – Craig Blonigen, Marion Gondringer (*Acting Clerk*), Kelly Martini, and Bryan Rassier. Absent: Chad Klocker. Clerk Saupe is on leave of absence. There was a quorum.

**Approval of Agenda:** Rassier moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a permit for the Immaculate Conception Church. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Approval of the minutes from the February 4, 2026 meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

**Public Hearings:** none scheduled.

**Public Comments:** Joe & Marie Koopmeiners appeared to complain about the amount of sod that has been plowed up along his property. The plow driver is not taking a right-hand turn, but is choosing to skip that side of the road and return later to do the opposite side of the road. Clumps are 6-8 inches thick and Koopmeiners feels there is excessive amount of sod that has been dug up along that road property. Blonigen will talk to Dylan Helund who is plowing that road to determine what is taking place. Pictures and video have been submitted documenting this issue.

**Sheriff's Department Report:** A deputy appeared to provide the periodic reports/updates from the Sheriff. He reported that there were 45 calls for service in December and most (16) were related to traffic. In January there were 56 calls and half were for traffic. He said that there was nothing out of the ordinary occurred in the Township. He said that if a resident has a complaint regarding illegal burning, to immediately contact the Sheriff so that they can investigate. The deputy invited questions/comments – there were none – and also suggested that items could be forwarded to him through Supervisor Klocker.

**Planning Commission (PC) Report** – Blonigen announced that there was no PC meeting in February because there was not a quorum. However, there were two requests that needed to be addressed:

1. **Edwards variance** – There was a request by Douglas J. Edwards, 17953 Upper Spunk Lake Road, Avon (MN), PID 03.01525.0000, for a variance to construct a garage closer to the center-of-the-road than is currently permitted. Rassier moved to set a public hearing on March 25, 2026 at 7:15 PM to consider a request by Douglas J. Edwards, 17953 Upper Spunk Lake Road, Avon (MN), PID 03.01525.0000, for a variance from Section 9.9.9.A(3) of Avon Township Ordinance #6 to construct a garage 13 feet closer to the COR than is currently permitted by Ordinance #6, 9.9.9A(3). Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Frie variance** – Ms. Cindy Frie (34139 Lower Spunk Lane; PID 03.01227.0007) has requested a variance to construct an addition to her garage that would be about 24 feet closer to the road right-of-way than currently permitted. Blonigen said that he had examined the property and said this would be a controversial request because the addition would be so close to the road that a larger vehicle parked on the pad would hang a few inches into the road. Rassier moved to set a public hearing on March 25, 2026 at 7:30 PM to consider a variance to allow construction of a garage addition 23 feet closer to the road than is currently permitted by

Ordinance #6, 9.9.9A(3). Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Frie zoomed into the meeting and said would consider changing the access to the garage (approach from north) to avoid this problem. To provide time for Ms. Frie to reconsider her plans and confirm the actual variance distance requested, Rassier moved to rescind the motion for a public hearing for Ms. Frie. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Frie stated that she agreed to a postponement of the hearing until the April 2026 PC meeting. She also said that she would consider paying for a site visit. She will have her contractor stake out the location of the addition; Blonigen said he would come and measure it once it was staked.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer provided the Cash Control statement from February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026 (*appended below*) and read the Treasurer’s report. Rassier moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.

Martini reported that the CD’s came due. They were rolled over and the interest was put in General Revenue. There is a discrepancy between the end balances of Road & Bridge and General Revenue in December and the beginning balances in January. Martini will look into this and return to the April meeting. She thought that there was a coding issue.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk to split the monthly stipend during the Clerk’s leave of absence. Motion by Rassier to approve as per directions from Saupe. Second by Blonigen. Approved.

End of year report presented as a revision, with totals included on the same page. Martini will scan and send to Saupe to add to the Audit board report.

**For the Period :** 2/1/2026 To 2/28/2026

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Total Disbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
General Fund	\$277,388.04	\$11,790.39	\$5,385.40	\$283,793.03
Road and Bridge	\$300,063.04	\$50,932.85	\$5,863.68	\$345,132.21
Demolition Escrow - Maciejewski	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Novel Solar Decommissioning Escro	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Novel Vegetation Plan Escro	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Road Damage Deposit	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Fire Fund	\$38,410.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,410.23
General Capital Projects	\$17,520.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,520.64
ARPA Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$636,381.95</b>	<b>\$62,723.24</b>	<b>\$11,249.08</b>	<b>\$687,856.11</b>

**Claims, Receipts & Payroll:** The claims (4995-5011) totaled \$7,395.13. The disbursements (**Appendix 1**) and receipts (**Appendix 2**) registers are appended. The approved payroll was \$2,670.95. Blonigen moved to accept the Claims, Receipts and Payroll. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Check 11639 was voided. The propane tank was filled. A credit was received from *The Store* for selling the wrong fuel. Martini provided a list of outstanding checks as requested.

**Town Hall Report:** Blonigen is considering gifting to the Township two programable thermostats. The Clerk will draft a resolution to accept the gifts.

**Road Report:** Two people are interested in the plow truck but the auction did not meet reserve, which was \$8K. Motion by Rassier to offer the truck to Will Huston, the highest bidder, and then open it to others if he doesn’t want it. Second by Blonigen. Both in favor. Motion carried. Rubbish has been removed from road ditches on St.

Anna Drive among others. Blonigen reported a compliment about plowing. Mr. LeRoy Gondringer suggested that the Town has been sending out plows more often this year which has contributed the good roads. No action was taken on scheduling another road inspection.

**Business:**

1. **Fire Board** – No one from the Town attended the most recent Fire Board meeting. Discussion took place concerning the \$45,000 increase in the billed amount for the next year. Blonigen stated that there have been fewer than the 40% calls for which we are being billed. This discrepancy was not explainable. Klocker was called for input on the reason for this increase. He said that expenses in 2025 were high because they finished the fire department and the extra funding had not been bonded. Therefore, the extra amount was attributed to the amount needed to complete the New Fire Hall. This should not reoccur. Klocker believed it would be prudent to raise the levy by \$45k for the next two levy years. Klocker will do preliminary research on road costs for next year with Stantec. The initial evidence suggests prices may be down by 10%.
2. **Audit Board Minutes** – Blonigen moved to adopt the Audit Board Minutes with a General Revenue Levy of \$89,950, Road & Bridge levy of \$420,950, Fire fund levy of \$209,000, Capitol Reserve levy of \$5,000, for a total levy of \$724,900. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried. The fire fund levy was increased to account for the increase in the fire department invoice.
3. **Audit Board Report** – The Supervisors reviewed/edited the Audit Board report to include the new levy amounts. Blonigen moved to approve the Audit Board Report with the revised levy amounts. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
4. **Annual Meeting Agenda** – The Supervisors discussed the draft of the agenda. Blonigen moved to approve the agenda. Rassier second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Rassier said that he wouldn't be attending the Annual Meeting, but would be at the Board of Canvass meeting.
5. **Adoption of Emergency Election Plan** – Fr. Gregory ok'd the use of the St. Anna Church basement. Rassier moved to approve the updated Emergency Election Plan. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
6. **MAT Short Course** – Rassier moved to authorize participation in the MAT Spring Short Course by Town board members. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried.
7. **Lion's Club** – The Lion's Club requested to use the corner near the empty lot on 1<sup>st</sup> street on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> for an event (pollinator action). There was a discussion about the location, whether the event would be on private property, and parking. The Supervisors request more information.
8. **Election Update** – Martini reported that we are ready for the upcoming Township election.
9. **Calls for the Township** – The Clerk receives most of the calls from residents regarding issues in the Township. There is a concern that some calls are not forwarded soon enough to the appropriate Supervisor. One option suggested was for the Clerk to include in his voice mail message a note to contact Supervisor Klocker in the event of a road issue.
10. **Over Weight Trucks** – Klocker reported receiving a request from a delivery truck to run heavy during road restrictions. The Supervisors agreed that we would not give permission and that the driver is on their own.

11. **PC Performance Reviews** – The terms of Loreli Yurczyk and Steve Saupe have ended. Both are willing to serve another term. Town policy is to review continuing members at the March meeting, at the discretion of the Supervisors.

Yurczyk Review – The Supervisors noted that she attends meetings and is on time. Blonigen said she always acts in a respectful manner toward other members. Rassier said that there have been complaints from the public. He said that she had screamed at members of the public. Yurczyk denied it. Blonigen said he has never seen Lori being rude or dismissive to anyone in the public. Blonigen said that she has showed no conflict of interest and has not acted in a self-serving manner. She is familiar with pertinent Town and County rules. Blonigen said she and LeRoy are the two most knowledgeable individuals in the Town. Blonigen said she should be reappointed. Rassier said that she should not be reappointed.

Saupe Review – Blonigen said he is respectful, on time, attends meetings, participates fully, has shown no conflicts of interest, is familiar with Town and County policies, and has done a good job for the Town. Rassier agreed.

12. **Orderly Annexation Agreement** – Blonigen signed the agreement for the Township.

**Other Business:** *none*

**Reports:** *none*

**Announcements:**

- a) **Signs** (incl. 911) – none
  - b) **Construction Site Permits** – none
  - c) **Special Assessment Searches** – none
  - d) **Feedlot permits** – Morgel Farm (36882 COUNTY ROAD 155 AVON MN 56310)
  - e) **County Hearings/Meeting** – none
  - f) **Fire Department** (January 2026 calls) – **City:** Medical 6, Fire/Other 3; **Town:** Medical 10; Fire/Other 0; **Collegeville:** Medical 1, Fire/Other 0; **St. Wendel:** Medical 0, Fire/Other 0; **I-94,** 0.
  - g) A question received whether a cabin scheduled to be replaced at 33485 Poverty Point Drive has gotten a CSP. There is nothing on record yet.
  - h) There was a complaint regarding burning smelly materials on Upper Spunk Lake Road. It was suggested to call the Sheriff's department.
3. **Old Business** – Culvert mapping project & County app; 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue project with St. Wendel; Case to display old documents; Window treatments for Town Hall; Exterior sign for the Hall; Hiring HR / payroll company; Salt shed overhang/awning; Employee *Handbook* including earned sick time etc.; Pipeline Agreement; brush cutter rental for 2025; Records to historical society
4. **Signatures** (*as necessary*)
5. **Announcement of next meeting:** April 1 (*no foolin'*), 2026 at 7:00 PM
6. **Other Upcoming Meetings/Events**
- a. Township Day at the Capitol – March 2, 2026
  - b. Town Hall open to accept absentee ballots – March 7, 2026; 10 AM – 12 PM
  - c. Public Accuracy Test – March 7, 2026; 10:15 AM
  - d. Town Hall open to accept absentee ballots – March 9, 2026; 1-5 PM

- e. Township election (2-8 PM) & Annual Meeting (8:15 PM) – March 10, 2026
- f. Township Organization/Qualification meeting – March 18, 7:00 PM
- g. MAT Spring Short Course – March 24, 2026 (St. Cloud)
- h. LBAE Meeting – April 13; 6:00 PM

**Adjournment.** Rassier moved to adjourn the meeting at about 8:45 PM. Blonigen second. Both in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk  
Marion Gondringer, Acting Clerk

**date:** March 7, 2026

**Supervisor Signatures:**

date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Blonigen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Klocker

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Rassier

# Appendix 1. Disbursement Register

Avon Township

Disbursements Register

3/7/2026

Fund Name: All Funds

Date Range: 02/01/2026 To 02/28/2026

Date	Vendor	Check #	Description	Void	Account Name	F-A-O-P	Total
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11614	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 260.73
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11614</b>					<b>\$ 260.73</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11615	February 4 Payperiod	N	Treasurer	100-41510-103-	\$ 68.93
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11615</b>					<b>\$ 68.93</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11616	February 4 Payperiod	N	Clerk	100-41425-103-	\$ 350.17
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11616</b>					<b>\$ 350.17</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11618	February 4 Payperiod	N	Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-103-	\$ 749.06
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11618</b>					<b>\$ 749.06</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11619	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 28.93
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11619</b>					<b>\$ 28.93</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11620	February 4 Payperiod	N	Treasurer	100-41510-103-	\$ 425.85
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11620</b>					<b>\$ 425.85</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11621	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 65.18
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11621</b>					<b>\$ 65.18</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11622	February 4 Payperiod	N	Clerk	100-41425-103-	\$ 425.85
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11622</b>					<b>\$ 425.85</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11623	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 137.86
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11623</b>					<b>\$ 137.86</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11624	February 4 Payperiod	N	Council/Town Board	100-41110-103-	\$ 68.93
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11624</b>					<b>\$ 68.93</b>
02/04/2026	Payroll Period Ending 01/31/2026	11625	February 4 Payperiod	N	Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-103-	\$ 1,518.55
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11625</b>					<b>\$ 1,518.55</b>
02/04/2026	KELLY MARTINI	11626	toner, 1099's	N	Treasurer	100-41510-203-	\$ 133.88
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>11626</b>					<b>\$ 133.88</b>
02/04/2026	Dillon Hedlund	11627	Mud flap, Filters,Parts, Diesel Fuel	N	Road and Bridge Equipment	201-43126-212-	\$ 249.63
		11627				201-43126-221-	\$ 332.09

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Fund Name: All Funds

Date Range: 02/01/2026 To 02/28/2026

Date	Vendor	Check #	Description	Void	Account Name	F-A-O-P	Total
		WD020420262			Treasurer	100-41510-121-	\$ 9.72
		WD020420262				100-41510-122-	\$ 41.54
		WD020420262			Other General Government	201-41901-121-	\$ 3.04
		WD020420262				201-41901-122-	\$ 13.02
		WD020420262			Ice and Snow Removal	201-43125-121-	\$ 149.46
		WD020420262				201-43125-122-	\$ 639.06
		WD020420262				201-43125-171-	\$ 154.54
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>WD020420262</b>					<b>\$ 1,187.90</b>
02/04/2026	XCEL ENERGY	WD020420263	electric bill	N	General Government Buildings and Plant	100-41940-380-	\$ 525.54
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>WD020420263</b>					<b>\$ 525.54</b>
02/04/2026	Albany Mutual Telephone	WD020420264	Internet	N	Clerk	100-41425-325-	\$ 59.51
	<b>Total For Check</b>	<b>WD020420264</b>					<b>\$ 59.51</b>
<b>Total For Selected Checks</b>							<b>\$ 11,249.08</b>

## Appendix 2. Receipts Register

Avon Township		Receipts Register					3/7/2026	
Fund Name: All Funds								
Date Range: 02/01/2026 To 02/28/2026								
Date	Remitter	Receipt #	Description	Deposit ID	Void	Account Name	F-A-P	Total
02/04/2026	Morgan Lumley	2021	911 sign - 37880	(02/04/2026) -	N	911 SIGN	201-34310-	\$ 150.00
								<u>\$ 150.00</u>
02/11/2026	MN State	2022	Fine Violations	(02/11/2026) -	N	Township share of fine violations in county	100-35105-	\$ 226.65
								<u>\$ 226.65</u>
02/12/2026	Midcontinent	2023	cable fee	(02/12/2026) -	N	Royalties	100-36220-	\$ 218.46
								<u>\$ 218.46</u>
02/23/2026	Magnifi	2024	CD Interest	(02/23/2026) -	N	Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 10,966.99
								<u>\$ 10,966.99</u>
02/26/2026	Stearns County	2025	Gas Tax	(02/26/2026) -	N	Municipal State Aid for Streets - Maintenance (Gas Tax, Road Allotment)	201-33418-	\$ 50,782.85
								<u>\$ 50,782.85</u>
02/28/2026	American Heritage	2026	MMR Interest	(02/28/2026) -	N	Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 352.46
								<u>\$ 352.46</u>
02/28/2026	Magnifi	2027	MMR Interest	(02/28/2026) -	N	Interest Earning	100-36210-	\$ 25.83
								<u>\$ 25.83</u>
<b>Total for Selected Receipts</b>								<u><u>\$ 62,723.24</u></u>