

Town Hall Meeting Minutes  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY, April 12, 2016

Being the Second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:00 o'clock P.M. at the AVON TOWNSHIP CENTER, 433 E. Washington Street, Round Lake Park, Illinois for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said Town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

**1. Meeting called to order by Town Clerk, Jeanne Kearby at 7:00 p.m.**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Elect Moderator**

Motion was made by Chris Ditton and seconded by Kathy Oetker to appoint Travis Haley as Moderator.

All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion Carries by Acclamation.

**4. Moderator sworn in by Jeanne Kearby, Town Clerk**

**5. Approval of minutes of previous year's Town Meeting held on April 14, 2015**

Motion was made by Lisa Rusch and seconded by Chris Larson to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2015

All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion Carries by Acclamation.

A motion was made by Lisa DeLaMar and seconded by Paul Law to approve the Special Town Hall Meeting on August 24, 2015.

Moderator noted a change to note an objection. Clerk Kearby noted it was a friendly amendment and is noted as such.

All in favor say Aye. Opposed? Motion Carries by Acclamation.

**6. Clerk shall read Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement**

The Financial Reports no longer need to be read. All people present were given a copy of the Financial Report. Moderator Haley asked if there were any questions. There were none.

## **7. Moderator, Haley introduces Township Board**

Lisa Rusch – Supervisor  
Bob Kula – Highway Commissioner  
Chris Ditton – Assessor  
Jeanne Kearby – Clerk  
Bill McNeill – Senior Trustee  
Lisa DeLaMar – Trustee  
Cathy deGroh – Trustee  
Chris Larson - Trustee

## **8. Moderator to introduce speakers:**

Lisa Rusch—Supervisor

Supervisor Rusch presented a PowerPoint going over the municipalities a geographic area of Avon Township. She covered the functions of the Supervisor's Office, AN explanation was given of the current programs and services explaining general and emergency assistance. Also noted were the agencies the Township works with to get as much assistance for our residence as possible. Supervisor Rusch noted the social events such as Touch-a-Truck and Senior Services events. Finally, Supervisor Rusch noted the building improvements finished over the past year.

Jeanne Kearby – Clerk

Clerk Kearby went over the functions of her office. She displayed artifacts of how information was being collected and stored. Finally explaining functions such as FOIAs and Community Service and Volunteer programs.

Bob Kula —Highway Commissioner

Highway Commissioner Kula gave his report noting the building and improvement projects over the past year and the work with the budget to do the projects and planning for the next year's projects. He also discussed projects involving water drainage, storm sewers and contracting work handled to save money.

There was an extensive list of training and special certifications within the department to assure we can do as much work in house thus seeing a better use of tax dollars. He also noted the department efforts to use environmentally friendly material for ice, snow and pest control. This included the cost and savings of salt and efforts to increase reserves prior to winter to get the best price possible. He also noted beet juice applications in order to use less salt and better for the environment.

Finally Commissioner Kula noted the strategy within the department for strategic planning of projects and staggering those projects in order to build a reserve to complete the projects in the next fiscal year.

Chris Ditton —Assessor

Assessor Ditton went over the assessment process and the functions of the Assessor. He also discussed services of Homestead exemptions, Senior exemptions, Senior Freezes with income qualifier. He further explained the benefit breakdown for Veteran exemptions. He noted the County sets up two workshops to assist with those and Avon participates in those workshops. Assessor Ditton explained the function of reviewing sales data to determine assessed value and reviewing building permits as part of the work in the assessment process.

Questions were asked and answered on EAV impact on the community and Quadrennial.

**9. Motion to set next year's annual Town Meeting for 7:00 P.M. on April 11, 2017**

Motion was made by Bob Kula and seconded by Paul Law for the next Town Hall Meeting on April 11, 2017.

All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion Carries by Acclamation.

**10. Other business as necessary**

**11. Public participation**

Cathy Oetker asked about lawsuits, insurance fees and are any still pending? One is still pending and she will get the information to her. She also asked about the high insurance premiums and Supervisor Rusch noted the impact of the lawsuits.

Pat Duby inquired about salaries and when these needed to be set. Supervisor Rusch noted 180 days prior to the election. No discussion on this at this time.

Jeanne Kearby noted the breadth and the scope of the work of the Trustees. She broke down the commitment of the Trustees for time and noted the meager salary per meeting and how that translates to hourly rate. She did not include any of the work in the community or discussions between each item. She noted their work for transparency, financial accountability and their efforts to serve their community.

Chris Larson thanked the moderator.

Sarah Shandia asked about impact on the Township and the budget issues and consolidation or elimination of townships in Springfield. Supervisor Rusch noted the discussions at this point for elimination were not being considered.

Cathy Oetker thanked the Trustees for their continued support of the Food Pantry. We are serving 3000 per month and have made improvements for the site. Also noted were donations

Lisa Rusch noted how hard we are working on keeping as much as we can even though our budget issues.

**12. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Lisa Rusch and seconded by Patrick Duby to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion Carries by Acclamation.