

**AVON TOWNSHIP MINUTES
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
433 E. Washington Street, Round Lake Park, IL 60073
April 12, 2016
7:00 P.M. (immediately following Annual Town Hall Meeting)**

1. Call Meeting to Order at 8:20 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Trustee DeLaMar – present	Trustee McNeill - present	Trustee Larson – present
Trustee deGroh – present	Supervisor Rusch – present	<u>Quorum Met</u>

Also in attendance is Clerk Kearby, Highway Commissioner Kula, Assessor Ditton and Attorney Dietz.

4. Public Participation on agenda items only - None

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Trustee Larson and seconded by Trustee McNeill to approve the Minutes for the March 14 General Meeting.

Trustee deGroh – aye	Trustee DeLaMar – abstain	Trustee McNeill – aye
Trustee Larson – aye	Supervisor Rusch – aye	<u>Motion Carries</u>

Motion was made by Trustee Larson and seconded by Trustee McNeill to approve the Minutes for the March 14 Budget Hearing.

Trustee deGroh – aye	Trustee DeLaMar – abstain	Trustee McNeill – aye
Trustee Larson – aye	Supervisor Rusch – aye	<u>Motion Carries</u>

6. Reports:

a. Supervisor Rusch highlights items on her written report. She noted meetings she had attended, the increase of the Diaper Drive and, Topics Day. Information was provided to the Board on the Ride program showing the Board the future of the program and the money needed for sustainability in the future. Also included were her usual documentation.

b. Highway Commissioner Kula also highlighted projects currently being worked on. He also informed the Board on repairs being made on the equipment, Pipeline Safety program he attended and his usual reports to the Board.

c. Assessor Ditton reported his office is working on entering the 163 property sales for January and February. They are attending two workshops for seniors to help them complete their Senior Freeze applications. They had 124 individuals come into the office needing help with Senior Freezes or Disabled Person/Veterans exemptions.

d. Clerk Kearby noted her written reports for Volunteers and FOIAs. She also presented a breakdown of per meeting cost of the Trustee's continued commitment to Township. The breakdown was \$87.08 per meeting. This did not include their prep time, reviewing bills, clarification discussions or seeking information on items on the agenda, meetings attended

outside of the posted and called meetings, Township events, TOI events or the time reading and responding to emails.

e. Trustees (committee reports) – Trustee McNeill noted information from the Farm Bureau meeting in Springfield attending a breakout session for. It was noted that Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than any other form of government and there are 140 thousand miles of road in Illinois and more than half are maintained by the Townships.

7. Discussion regarding Budget Extension from the County

Supervisor Rusch noted the email regarding the loss of \$77,000 in revenue. Assessor Ditton explained how the exemption amounts were not factored into the estimated values used to determine revenues.

Trustee Larson noted that he reviewed the budget and he noted not having a lawyer on retainer, capital outlay, conferences/per diem, data processing, capital development projects. In all we can save about \$18,000. Clerk Kearby asked Assessor Ditton if he was looking at what he can save because this loss of revenue affects both sides. Assessor Ditton noted he already cut bar bones and it was noted that the Town side has as well. Trustee McNeill not insurance costs as a big expenditure. Supervisor Rusch noted to borrow the money for the insurance premium and pay it off in the next fiscal year.

Supervisor Rusch also noted that when you take your personal vehicle out for Township business, your vehicle is not covered by your insurance. She suggested we may have to cover the deductible for an individual’s insurance. Cautions were raised that it would need to be carefully configured and maybe a need for a sign in/sign out structure.

We will revisit this. Trustee DeLaMar noted to make a note so we do not forget to address this issue at another meeting.

8. Discussion and action on Possible Meeting Change for June

Motion was made by Trustee DeLaMar and seconded by Trustee deGroh to move the June 13th meeting to June 6, 2016.

All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries by acclamation.

9. Bill Payment

A motion was made by Trustee Larson and seconded by Trustee deGroh to approve the prepaid bills.

Trustee deGroh – aye
Trustee Larson – aye

Trustee DeLaMar – aye
Supervisor Rusch – aye

Trustee McNeill – aye
Motion Carries

A motion was made by Trustee deGroh and seconded by Trustee Larson to approve the Outstanding Bills.

Trustee DeLaMar – aye
Trustee deGroh – aye

Trustee McNeill – aye
Supervisor Rusch – aye

Trustee Larson – aye
Motion Carries

10. Old Business - none

11. New Business - none

12. Public Participation

Jeanne Duaray noted concerns over the automobile insurance issue. Township officials should carry their own insurance and is a ridiculous expense.

Patrick Duby commented that different offices have different travel obligations and there are a lot of details that need to be considered. I am also worried that you would pass off a loan for the insurance premium through a loan and passing that problem down the road for the next year. Have you considered furlough days or other avenues such as grant opportunities? Supervisor Rusch noted that we hope is our insurance goes down as reported by the Insurance Company. Trustee Larson noted that we have cut everything down and we will not benefit from closing the office for a day. We are trying to bridge the gap through conservative spending in our current budget.

Travis Haley noted there was no problem with using individual's cars in the past and the Township should not accrue an expense for insurance at this time. He also noted that the Township officials blame the predecessor for the financial problems and that you have had three years to work with and change the finances. To make the suggestion that it is the predecessor's fault for budget mishaps or with website being down, this is on your watch.

Jeanne Kearby replied the facts are, the previous board set the levy and significantly cut the available revenues to the Township. This does not mean the board hasn't tried to balance the budget by significantly cutting services, grants and expenditure to be transparent and live within the budget set by people that no longer sit on this board. These are the facts.

Supervisor Rusch noted that when the website went down, she contacted our domain registries and they have been sending numerous emails to the past supervisor. We were unaware because the address used was private and not through the Township email. Once we found out it was rectified.

Travis Haley noted with the previous board's intentions and vote, this board could have avoided the budget issues by raising the rate in 2013 as was the intention of the last board.

Jeanne Kearby responded that there is no evidence that the Board told anyone or left any information regarding their intention to raise the rates after the election. Trustee McNeill asked was there anything in any of the minutes. She responded, no there was not. This is just another spin to detract from the facts. At no time was there any evidence that the current board had any control over the levy set by the previous board.

Travis Haley accused Jeanne Kearby of attacking him. She stated that she was stating the facts. He said usually elected officials do this in writing. Point of policy was raised by Trustee Larson that it was the Board's prerogative to respond to a member of the public's questions. Supervisor Rusch said to continue.

Jeanne Kearby addressed the Board and stated, when I leave my seat to go to the audience, I am speaking as a citizen and resident of this Township.

Kathy Oetker noted that the Township is not the only person losing revenue due to the lower EAV. The Library lost \$112, 000 this year. We are in big trouble in this community, the fire department, schools and police are losing money.

Sarah Shadnia asked if we are charging for use of the facilities. Supervisor Rusch noted that this is a public building and it is one of the few services that can be accessed by the general public.

Trustee Larson noted that many public facilities are not allowing night meetings. This is really the last place for the general public to hold a meeting at no cost.

13. Executive Session *for the purposes of discussing litigation.*
An Executive Session was not called.

14. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee McNeill and seconded by Trustee deGroh to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 pm.

All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries by acclamation.

Avon Township is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting of facilities, are asked to call the Township office prior to the meeting.