

PUBLIC NOTICE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Town of Avon in the County of Lake and the State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on:

TUESDAY, April 8, 2014

Being the Third 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 AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order by Town Clerk – Jeanne Kearby at 7:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Elect Moderator

It was moved by Lisa Rusch and seconded by Kathy Oetker to elect Anne Richmond
All in favor say Aye. Opposed? Motion carries by acclamation.

4. Moderator sworn in by Town Clerk, Jeanne Kearby

Ann is sworn in by Clerk Kearby and the Oath is signed.

5. Approval of minutes of previous year's Town Meeting held on April 16, 2013

It is moved by Chris Larson and seconded by Lisa Rusch to accept the minutes.
Discussion? Seeing none.

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

6. Clerk shall read Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement

Bill McNeill makes a motion to wave the reading of the Financial Statements and seconded by Cathy deGroh.
Any Discussion? Seeing none.

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

7. Moderator to introduce Township Board

Anne Richmond introduced each member of the Board. The Assessor is absent.

8. Moderator to introduce speakers:

Chris Ditton—Assessor report is read by Supervisor Rusch. Assessor Ditton will be preparing for the Quadrennial Year. In addition there will be two workshops for Senior Freezes offered in Avon Township.

Bob Kula —Highway Commissioner reports that the North Circle Drive Project was finished which came in under budget. The annual clean-up was also completed and we are recycling more items. These are separated in the yard. We did get some money from the recycling. We did our first electronics collection. We will be helping Hainesville coming up. We are also helping Caroline North to get rid of invasive plants to improve the water shed.

Then there is the winter. We responded to 55 winter related events. We spent a lot of time on the road this year. We did save a little salt by managing our salt use by analyzing the weather for the best application. We are starting on a new construction project this year in Long Lake. We are leveling some steep areas, pavement and curbs.

We did receive an \$85,000 grant to remove Blackthorn.

Lisa Rusch —Supervisor reported that we have been working together as a team finding our niches and working on them. We are partnering with Mother Trust and the Northwest Demo Project which is a PACE route for seniors. Another is Safe Place in North Chicago and Waukegan to help abused women. We have also partnered with Village School and have been contributing to their school store and there Reading Carnival. We have also started delivering Meals on Wheels. We have met with District 116 Social Workers. We are also partnering with the Avon Community Food Pantry.

We have also acquired more resources for emergency and general assistance by attending informational meetings... We attend meetings at the Department on Aging, Mortgage Foreclosure Information, Homeless Summit and the Lake County Forum on Homeless.

We also attend the Senior Expo and hosted the Case Worker Meeting. We also opened up our offices as a warming center and offered food and games. We have also attended General Assistance Meetings and Training.

We have been working on distributing a newsletter but we have discovered on how expensive they are. We have a Face book Page and a Reader Board. We are also developing a flier.

Question was asked about the website not being accessible or easily searchable. Supervisor Rusch is working o improving. Cathy deGroh noted how hard we have been working to restructure the budget and make it as transparent as possible for the public. Trustee deGroh also mentioned what a privilege it has been and that we are working together with a common goal of good government. Trustee Larson mirrored her sentiment as well as Trustee DeLaMar. All of our viewpoints give the best possible action. Trustee McNeill also noted as senior member what a privilege it has been to work with this board. Trustee DeLaMar thanked Jeanne Kearby for organization. Clerk Kearby noted her favorite meeting is the Town Hall meeting because it is the epitome of democracy and thanked everyone for coming.

9. Motion to set next year's annual Town Meeting for 7:00 P.M. on April 14, 2015

A motion was made by Cathy deGroh and seconded by Lisa DeLaMar to see the next Town Hall Meeting for April 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion? Seeing none

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

10. Other business as necessary

Moderator is taking items ten and eleven together.

Cathy Oetker, a couple of bills in the State House one cutting the Highway Commission HB5644 and House Bill 5311 to freeze the levies for Township. How would that affect you? At a COW there was a discussion about the Assessor's office. How does the Assessor Office duplicate the County Office? Why does the Assessor not attend meetings or leave early. Does he not feel he is accountable to the Township Trustees? Supervisor Rusch said she cannot answer why he does not attend meetings and the best way to get this information to ask him. There are many Township officials that have opposed the bills regarding the Highway Department you have mentioned and our understanding is that those have no chance of passing. It has not been able to get out of committee. Dave McArtin was asked to do an analysis of how much money the average taxpayer in this area would save and the number was \$1.49. This is not much for the individual but may have an impact on our budget.

David Quinn asked does the Assessor have a reporting agent. He does not have a boss except for the voters. Clerk Kearby did clarify that the Trustees do allocate money for his office through the Town Fund so they are the fiscal responsibility.

A question was asked how this year's budget compares to last year's budget. The moderator referred this item to Trustee Larson. Trustee Larson noted there was significant differences approximately \$200,000 less in expenditures. We have had to tighten our budgets and we have cleaned up the reporting to make the funds more transparent. We have taken a tax levy reduction of 28%. Compared to our neighbors this is less than half of their levies.

A question was asked about pension contribution. It was noted that TRS is available for elected as well as employed members of the Township.

The moderator, Anne Richmond, threw out a topic. There are many that would like to see the Township disappear. How do you keep the Township relevant for changing times and increasing budgets, Supervisor noted our partnerships so we can get our name out there so people know what we do. We need to tell people what we do and how we can help. Trustee DeLaMar noted we are a great landing pad and that unlike a lot of our support is faith based and the Township is not. Township is a homegrown, know your neighbors and help your neighbors. Clerk Kearby noted that we keep looking at our communities and look for new ways to help our neighbors. So each of us keep watch for ways to get involved and support new issues as they arise. She also noted that we need to keep in mind the position that these services are the responsibility of a centralized State agency. Think about it. Under the State, Avon Township is a blip a miniscule piece. But, keeping these services all with us to act with our neighbors as only we can by knowing our neighbors is more efficient and can react faster than the State.

Commissioner Kula also noted the spirit of helping each other is important in this community. An example is how Round Lake has equipment we could not afford but they help us when we need it. We have working relationships and help each other across village boundaries. Trustee McNeill also noted that where else can the people say let's go down and talk to the Township. When could you do that with a State official or State office?

Moderator Anne Richmond noted that at a past COW meeting the Assessor said he couldn't take less or operate with less. What would the Board like to say about how they are making their budgets work, working with less money? Trustee Larson noted the work we are doing with our computer systems to make our work more efficient, partnering with other organizations such as the Food Pantry or the Avon Baseball to help them be more efficient by working with them. It is this team that works to save every cent. We do some work tapping into the strengths and talents of each of us as individuals. We look for every way to cut but still contribute where we could. Supervisor Rusch noted we were terribly disappointed that we could not support the staff member. Cathy Oetker thanked the Board for what they could do and even though you could not support the person, allowing us to use the building is a big help. Clerk Kearby noted that our best hope is we cut now and that our property values go up and we will be able to serve more people in the future.

Cathy noted that we had done work on developing an extensive survey and the reality came in the cost of this would be unattainable. Lisa came up with the idea of a flier which was much cheaper but explained the breadth and depth of the services.

11. Public participation

12. Adjournment 8:00 p.m.

Bill McNeill made a motion to adjourn and Bob Kula seconded.

All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries.