

**AVON TOWNSHIP MINUTES
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
433 E. Washington Street, Round Lake Park, IL 60073
March 9, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order 7:11 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Trustee McNeill will conduct the meeting in Supervisors need to participate electronically.

Trustee DeLaMar – present Trustee McNeill – present Trustee Larson – present
Trustee deGroh – present Supervisor Rusch – via electronic

Also in attendance Clerk Kearby, Operations Manager McArtin, Highway Commissioner Kula, Assessor Ditton and Attorney Dietz

It was moved by Trustee DeLaMar and seconded by Trustee Larson to move the budget discussion and possible action prior to Approval of Minutes as recommended by Attorney Dietz.

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

4. Public Participation on agenda items only. No public participation.

9. Budget Discussion and possible action

Assessor Ditton further discussed classes needed for continuing education not to receive the CIO. There was an additional request for attorney's fees. Assessor Ditton did not offer where in the budget he would cut in order to add the additional funding requests. Clerk Kearby and Trustee McNeill noted that we have to live within the budget. Trustee DeLaMar asked why we did not get this information on the Assessor's office months ago. Ditton said he did not receive any questions on the budget after he presented in December. Then the day of the meeting cut \$80,000. Supervisor Rusch noted that we received information in February that we were \$153,000 and Assessor Ditton as well as the Supervisor's budget needed to be reduced significantly. If we kept this spending up, we would be bankrupt in three years. Assessor Ditton sent a budget proposal in April to Supervisor Rusch that cut the Supervisor's budget items so they would have a balanced budget and still fund the Assessor's budget at the requested level.

Larson noted the Asset position document in the packet that showed with no increase in levy given our balance as of this date, by 2018 to have a reserve balance 419, 000, assuming no capital infrastructure improvement for the 2017 or 2018. Clerk Kearby noted that there is equal importance on the Supervisor's side of the budget and that continuing to address the needs of the assessor without adding items to the Supervisors side of the budget is reprehensible. These cuts are direct services to the people of Avon Township. Further deep cuts were needed for all expenditures to meet the goal of a balanced budget. Everyone took deep cuts to meet the needs as directed by the budget. Now we are going to go further in debt for the Assessor's office without giving equal access to the Supervisor's side to bring back some of the services cut in the proposed

budget. Dave McArtin noted that the reserved as stated by Trustee Larson is overstated because we will see no revenue until June and we will burn of \$150,000 during that time.

Further clarification was asked by Trustee McNeill. He was referred to in the documentation in the packet provided. He notes the number keep decreasing not increasing. Larson notes that the changes were allowed because of the Special events for this year. Trustee McNeill notes so we are giving it all to the Assessor's office not for the Town's side. Trustee DeLaMar would like to see alternative staffing models. Assessor Ditton would like to see the same number of employees of five full time employees like Vernon or Warren. Trustee McNeill notes that we are not arguing the need; we are arguing that we do not have the budget. You cannot compare our budget allocation with the allocations of Vernon or Warren. We are only taking in \$500,000 and you want \$400,000 of it. Those other Townships are taking in over a million, a million and a half.

Trustee Larson suggested a levy increase. Trustee McNeill stated when that happens, I will approve it. Good luck with that it will not pass. Trustee DeLaMar noted the need for alternative staffing proposals noted was that the staff work only 36 hours and are salaried. That is unrealistic in today's employment. They should be working 40 hours. Trustee deGroh and Trustee DeLaMar noted that most salaried employees work 50-60 hours a week. Assessor Ditton said if Supervisor Rusch changes her office hours, then his employees would work more hours. Trustee McNeill and Trustee DeLaMar noted the Assessor sets his own hours and if you are behind you need to work more hours. Trustee DeLaMar reiterated that she would like to see alternative staffing models. Trustee McNeill noted that Assessor Ditton was asking for \$61,000 more than the budget you and Trustee Larson worked on. Trustee Larson agreed with the increase in numbers. Trustee Larson said he understood to some degree the special needs of the office for this year. You need to understand the revenue restraints on our budget. He asked that if this was a one year budget proposal or a multi-year. Assessor said he believed it was the right side but he was willing to discuss this further one on one.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve the February 9, 2015 General Meeting minutes by Trustee deGroh and seconded by Trustee Larson.

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

Motion was made to approve the Special Meeting on March 2, 2015 by Trustee deGroh and seconded by Trustee Larson.

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

Motion was made by Trustee Larson and seconded by Trustee deGroh to accept the March 2 Committee of the Whole meeting as amended to reflect the March 2nd date and Supervisor Rusch's comment on the discussion on the budget.

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

6. Reports:

a. Supervisor Rusch's report was given by Dave McArtin. He noted the painting in the building and that the traffic in the office is picking back up as noted in the report. He also noted that Robin did give some suggestions for the paint accent color. Looks excellent. Send in your BIOs and reply on attendance of Topic Day.

b. Highway Commissioner Kula noting he attended Lake County Housing Community Development meeting. County approved the revision and scope of STUB and they did approve with no reduction in the grant. He is going to build up the budget for improvements by not doing a project one year then do a project the following year because this is the only way to afford improvement projects. Supervisor Rusch commends Commissioner Kula for working within his budget.

c. Assessor Ditton noted the report in Trustee packet. He noted Senior Freezes are out and if you know of anyone please let them know. Clerk Kearby asked if it could be put it on the website. Lisa will get it on if you give it to her. She will also add it to the Reader Board. Trustee McNeill noted that he heard from a resident that the questions he asked were answered quickly and that showed the Township in a good light. Trustee Larson stated he appreciated Assessor Ditton coming to the meeting and answering our questions.

d. Clerk Kearby noted the regular reports in the packet. FOIA request was filled by the County on information regarding property. The Town Hall meeting agenda requests were posted and sent to all papers and municipal offices as well as libraries. She reminded the Trustees that the Economic Interest Statements are on line. Also noted was information on the upcoming elections from Lake County Clerk. The Clerk asked the Trustees to consider the Lake County Community Trust event, On the Table being hosted by the Township. The discussion this year is on Philanthropy, which is the spirit of good will toward all people especially when expressed in active and generous efforts to help others. It is the crux of what we do at the Township. What we do and what we can do better. It will reach all agencies and even neighborhoods.

e. Trustees (committee reports) – As necessary Trustee deGroh has had discussion with many constituents that the services the Township Office are near to their hearts. They want a balanced approach to the budget so services are not sacrificed.

7. Discussion and Approval of 2015 Town Hall Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Trustee Larson and seconded by Trustee deGroh to approve the proposed agenda for the Annual Town Hall Meeting.

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

8. Bill Payment

a. Prepaid Bills

Trustee deGroh asked about the Fire Department Radios. Dave McArtin said it was the box that sends the signal if there was anything wrong. Also the cleaning department had two different amounts. Dave McArtin noted that was because we were cleaning the Assessor's office again.

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

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

b. Outstanding Bills

Supervisor Rusch noted that the Painter has a bill in there because the Community Room was not in the original bill. He did do the hall floors for free.

Motion was made by Trustee Larson and seconded by Trustee DeLaMar to approve the Outstanding Bills.

Trustee deGroh – aye
Trustee Larson – aye

Trustee DeLaMar – aye
Supervisor Rusch – aye

Trustee McNeill – aye
Motion Carried

10. Executive Session: *Closed session for the purpose of discussing Litigation and Employee,*

Without objection we will do Old and New Business as well as public participation and then move to go into Executive Session.

11. Possible Response to Litigation and Employee - discussion and action

12. Old Business - No old business

13. New Business

Dave McArtin stated the Hearing is coming up and we should set a Special Meeting to discuss the budget. We will set a Special Meeting for March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

14. Public Participation – No public participations

15. Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Larson and seconded by Trustee deGroh to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and employee.

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

16. Adjournment

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.