

**Avon Township Board of Trustees
Monthly Board Meeting
Avon Township Community Room**

July 11, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

We held a moment of silence for former Assessor Bryce Carus, who passed away on July 7.

Roll Call:

Trustee DeLaMar – Absent Trustee deGroh – Present Trustee McNeill – Present Trustee Larson – Present

Also in attendance: Attorney Jerry Dietz, Assessor Chris Ditton

Public Participation: None

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Rusch submitted her reports as per attached.

Trustee deGroh asked if last years figures can be submitted along with this years when submitting the report of persons who visit the office. Supervisor Rusch said, yes, she would be happy to do so.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor Ditton submitted his report as per attached.

Trustee de Groh asked if there were any trends? Assessor Ditton stated that The County said to leave the equalized values alone, and make it a flat rate for everyone – which will be somewhere between 7 – 10% increase in Assessment values.

Assessor Ditton also stated that they will learn the publication date on Wednesday at the Assessors Meeting. He also stated that Senior and Disabled Freezes are never denied.

Highway Commissioner's Report: As per attached.

Salary Discussion:

Trustee McNeill gave an impassioned speech stating that salaries should be as such so that Good People run for the position.

Trustee Larson stated that there should be pay-cuts, he's not sure what they should be at this moment. He also stated that we should possibly follow the model that villages use when paying their Mayors and board. He also stated that this is the only board that he is on that he does get paid.

Trustee deGroh agreed with Trustee McNeill that we should go after good people, but she also agreed with Trustee Larson that there should be cuts to the salaries across the board. She requested a committee meeting. She also requested that Supervisor Rusch contact the villages and ask what their boards are paid and how it is modeled.

All agreed upon a Committee Meeting set for July 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Online Newsletter:

Supervisor Rusch stated that the online newsletter was encouraged by others who follow the township's Facebook page – stating that the items listed could also be put in newsletter form. Supervisor Rusch also stated that she attended a mini-course with other supervisor's to see how to put together a newsletter. So far the newsletter has garnered positive feedback. At only \$20 a month, the online newsletter is much more affordable than a hardcopy. There is also an additional fee that can be paid so that the newsletter can be translated (it's a click of a button for the reader). A survey can be added to the newsletter as well.

Supervisor Rusch did state that she and Assessor Ditton have been working on an article for the Assessor's office to submit. She also stated that she did ask Highway Commissioner Kula if he would like to submit anything. At the time, he said it would be a good place to list road projects, but as of yet, he has not submitted anything.

The board was pleased that the newsletter has come to fruition.

Bill Payment:

Trustee deGroh made a motion to approve the **Prepaid Bills** as pursuant to the bill payment policy. Trustee Larson seconded the motion.

Trustee DeLaMar – Absent Trustee deGroh – AYE Trustee McNeill – AYE
Trustee Larson – AYE

Motion carried to approve the **Prepaid Bills**.

Trustee deGroh made a motion to approve the **Outstanding Bills** as pursuant to the bill payment policy. Trustee Larson seconded the motion.

Supervisor Rusch stated that she was being reimbursed for a faucet, because she did not have the township credit card on her person at the time of purchase.

Trustee DeLaMar – Absent Trustee deGroh – AYE Trustee McNeill – AYE
Trustee Larson – AYE

Motion carried to approve the **Outstanding Bills**.

Old Business:

Supervisor Rusch gave the board instructions on how to access their email from their phone or device. She also stated that if they wanted to access from their computers, then they should type in mail.avontownship.us and login that way.

Several board members forgot their passwords, and Supervisor Rusch stated that she would be happy to assist anyone with that information.

New Business:

Trustee Larson stated that the ATYB allowed Grant Township to lease the fields. Under the contract, all interested parties should have been notified. According to Trustee Larson, parking on Hainesville Road as well as in the surrounding neighborhood was chaotic. It was suggested that the board invite ATYB President Clay Crutcher to a meeting to discuss the terms of the contract.

Avon Township owns land on Shorewood Rd, and received a notice and order to pay for not properly maintaining the property. Attorney Dietz would like us to find the Deed so we can see how we want to proceed with the property, since we will not be able to afford to maintain the property.

We received a notification to lease land for a cell tower. Attorney Dietz suggested that we call and find out the parameters that Verizon is willing to go before we bring it before the electors.

Public Participation:

Sarah Shadnia suggested that we contact her at Senator Melinda Bush's office if we are interested in adding a survey to our Constant Contact newsletter instead of paying \$50. She knows of several companies that are compatible with Constant Contact.

Pat Duby of Round Lake had several comments and a few questions.

1. He would like us to check to see if the Shorewood land is considered Wetlands before proceeding with selling or giving the property over to anyone.
2. He thanked Trustee McNeill for his passionate speech about townships. He also stated that he has been at many of the meetings.
3. He asked if we considered lowering salaries if the board would consider giving back our portion of the difference of salary for the remaining term.
 - a. Trustee Larson stated that he gave the entire portion of his salary back to the community
4. Mr. Duby asked Why Assessor Ditton talked about 'the 3 year period'
 - a. Assessor Ditton stated that Every year the state prepares a 3 year sales ratio using the 3 years prior to the Assessor's date. In a quad year, you get the same thing but properties are be reassessed and you get a factor of 1, so they stay the same. In a non-quad year, you still have a sales ratio that takes the 3 previous years (in this case 2013, 2014 and 2015) and uses that to take assessments and gives you a percentage of an increase or decrease.

Adam Della Peruta of Grayslake asked what the township does for outliers? He went on to ask about a property on Rte 83 that he knows pays less than what an adjacent equal property pays.

Assessor Ditton requested pin numbers and said he wouldn't know the data related without looking into it further.

Adjournment:

Trustee deGroh made a motion to adjourn.

Trustee McNeill seconded the motion.

On a voice vote, all Ayes, motion passed to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lisa Rusch
Avon Township Supervisor