



Town of Avon  
65 East Main Street  
Avon, Massachusetts 02322

TOWN OF AVON

2018 JUN 28 A 10:57

TOWN CLERK

AVON FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – MAY 7, 2018

Members Attending: Jarrett Beeley, Mike Wilson, Gary Martin, Dan Norian, Phil Fowler and Kathleen Sheehan

Other Attendees: Interim Town Administrator – Mr. James Purcell, Board of Selectmen – Mr. Rick Beckermen, Fire Chief – Robert Spurr

Jarrett Beeley opened the meeting at 7:32 P.M. welcoming everyone

Old Business: Review of March 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Phil Fowler motioned to accept the minutes as read, Mike Wilson seconded, all approved.

Review of March 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Gary Martin motioned to accept the minutes as read, Mike Wilson seconded, all approved.

Review of April 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Gary Martin motioned to accept the minutes as read, Dan Norian seconded, all approved.

Review of April 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Phil Fowler motioned to accept the minutes as read, Gary Martin seconded, all approved.

New Business:

Budget - Mr. Purcell requested to discuss articles in 5/1/18 Town Warrant

Article 15, Article 21, and Article 23 – these are still projects that needs to be completed however still in the planning phases – Pond St. water tank is an immediate need and \$600k will only cover half of the estimated cost. Discussed withdrawing Articles 15, 21, and 23 and using funds to cover entire cost of water tank repair/replacement. DPW's engineering contracts can be used to draw up the specs for the water tank.

Discussed both Town Hall and Butler Elementary School parking lot. Mr. Costa commented that he believes that the Butler parking lot project can be completed for less than the amount that is currently in the Butler Parking Lot Stabilization Fund.

Town Hall also needs septic system repaired/replaced. Discussed tying Town Hall septic to AMHS septic.

Park and Recreation Revolving Fund – Mr. Purcell asked Town Accountant to find template regarding spending protocol to use as a base for creating a template. Requests would need to be co-signed by both BOS and Park and Rec.

Town Administrator Salary – Mr. Purcell requested that they amount remains as requested. There are three finalists that have been selected and if we reduce the salary, we may lose good candidates. Currently, the Town of Avon has significant issues that the new Administrator will need to address. The new candidate will have his/her work cut out for him. Mr. Beckerman agreed. The Finance Committee wants to ensure that the quality of the services provided by new Administrator will be equivalent to Administrator's salary.

Finance Committee confirmed that there were no additional items that needed to be discussed with Mr. Purcell and Mr. Purcell was excused from the meeting.

#### Fire Department Requested Salary Increase

Fire Chief Spurr present to provide additional information regarding his request to increase the Fire Department's budgeted annual salary by approximately \$250k.

Per Chief Spurr, the increase is being requested because he would like to add one additional fire fighter per shift. There are currently only two per shift and Chief Spurr stated that the Call Program is ineffective. Chief Spurr stated that the call fire fighters are not showing up when called. He recognizes that many of the current call fire fighters work outside of Avon and that they Call Program is not fully staffed. Chief Spurr confirmed that there are currently 8 openings in the Call Program. 14 out of 22 positions are currently filled.

Chief Spurr stated that he believes that the Call Program should be reduced and restructured – Chief Spurr recommends that it be reduced to 10-14 firefighters instead of 22. Chief Spurr confirmed that he does not have the data regarding during what times the call fire fighters are typically unable to respond to calls and that he has not engaged in recent recruiting efforts for the Call Program.

Mike Wilson inquired about the status of the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) Grant that Chief Spurr will use help fund the salaries of 4 additional FT fire fighters. Chief Spurr stated that this is the first year that Avon has been eligible to apply for the grant and that towns do not typically get the grant the first year that they apply for it. As result, he does not believe that Avon will obtain the grant this year and he will find out the status of the application in August/September of 2018. If the application is approved, the town has 180 days to hire the additional 4 firefighters.

Finance Committee voted (3 in favor and 2 opposed with Chairman withholding his vote to avoid possibility of a tie) to recommend the Fire Department's requested budget as proposed.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Monday, 5/14/18 at 7 PM

With no additional items to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Wilson', written in a cursive style.

6/26/18