

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012  
7:30 P.M.

Members present: Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman  
Steven P. Rose  
Robert F. Brady, Jr.

Others present: Michael McCue, Town Administrator  
Joseph Lalli, Town Counsel

Chairman Hegarty called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with all members present.

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, March 1, 2012 (Regular Session) as submitted. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There were no public comments during the Open Forum.

At 7:45 p.m. Mr. Anthony Becker of 112 West Spring Street appeared before the Board. Mr. Becker submitted a letter of interest to serve on the Conservation Commission. The Board thanked him for his interest in serving the Town. After some questioning by the Board, Mr. Rose made a motion to appoint Mr. Becker to the Conservation Commission for a three year term, term to expire: June 30, 2015. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A request for a parade permit was received from Ralph Cafarelle, Commander of the Avon V.F.W. Post #8892. The annual Memorial Day parade will commence at St. Michael's Church parking lot on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Rose made a motion to grant the Avon V.F.W., Post #8892 a permit to conduct the annual Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and to waive the permit fee. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A request from the Council on Aging was received to appoint Mr. Bernard Brown of 51 Pratt Street to the position of COA Van Driver. Mr. Brown has worked for the Council on Aging as a volunteer van driver since January of 2012. Mr. McCue added that Mr. Brown would be subject to a CORI and pre-employment physical.



Mr. Rose made a motion to appoint Bernard Brown to the position of COA Van Driver, Grade F-5, Step 1 at an hourly salary of \$11.29, contingent upon successful completion of the Town of Avon hiring policies. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A request for a one-day special alcohol permit was received from Avon Fish & Game Association for April 7, 2012.

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the one-day special alcohol permit request, valid from April 6 through April 9 for a club function. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried. Regular meetings for the month of April were set as follows:

April 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.  
April 19, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Workshop sessions for the Board of Selectmen were set as follows:

April 12, 2012 and April 26, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Rose, it was unanimously voted to approve all vouchers for the payment of bills as submitted.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. McCue stated he was happy to report that two Town of Avon fire vehicles were successfully sold at auction through Municibid; one truck, an F-350 sold for \$4600.00; the second vehicle—a 1973 International Fire Truck sold for \$1900.00.

Mr. McCue reported that software is available from the State (Nav-Teq) and it will be installed through our I/T contractor at no cost to the Town. This software would assist departments with GIS mapping.

Mr. McCue informed the Board a letter of interest was received from the Town of Holbrook regarding regional 911. The point of contact would be the Holbrook Police Chief. There would be no obligation on Avon's part to participate in the program.

Mr. McCue reported that he is again reaching out to National Grid for tree donations in celebration of Arbor Day. National Grid donated several trees last year that were placed adjacent to the Avon Middle/High School. The Board would again sign a Proclamation at their first April meeting in honor of Arbor Day.

Chairman Hegarty updated the Board on recent legislation regarding the Norfolk County Commissioners. They are asking the State legislature to increase the County's portion of filing fees to the Registry of Deeds. This would lower assessments paid by municipalities and would reduce State and County charges. There would be no increase to taxpayers. Chairman Hegarty stressed that we should all communicate with our legislators to support this very important legislation.

**Joseph A. Cardinal—National Grid’s Manager of Community and Customer Management**

Chairman Hegarty thanked Mr. Cardinal and National Grid for its support of tree donations in celebration of Arbor Day.

Chairman Hegarty explained the Board’s concern to Mr. Cardinal about the lack of progress regarding pole relocations on Pond Street in Avon. It is our understanding that the current delay revolves around scheduling a work crew. The Town is anxious to finish the work on Pond Street and in some instances safety issues are present. Mr. Cardinal reported that plans were received only a few months ago. Mr. McCue responded that this was not the case. It was his understand that everyone got a full set of plans at the pre-construction meeting. The project is now in its final stage and the Board is looking for a timetable for completion of the project. Mr. Rose questioned “what is a realistic schedule”?

Mr. Cardinal asked the Board “who was it that received the plans at the October 2010 meeting with National Grid”? No one in attendance at the meeting seemed to know. Mr. Cardinal reported that there is about 7 week’s worth of work for National Grid. National Grid will get together with Tibbett’s Engineering. Mr. Cardinal reported that work should start the first or second week in April with a two (2) man crew. National Grid will coordinate with Comcast and Verizon. Mr. Cardinal reported there is only one (1) pole in the roadway and there are no wire transfers needed to the best of his knowledge.

The Board thanked Mr. Cardinal for meeting with them this evening.

At 8:10 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to call for a brief recess until 8:30 p.m. at which time the Finance Committee was scheduled to meet with the Board. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to reconvene the meeting in Open Session. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Finance Committee members Eric Beckerman, Sean Bastis, Lou Balboni, Jarrett Beeley and Kipp Sturge appeared before the Board.

Chairman Hegarty handed out to all members the FY ’13 recommended budget and best estimates for FY ’13 total revenue by the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Hegarty explained the figures as follows:

Tax Revenue:	\$17,020,893
Local Receipts	\$ 1,689,500
State Aid	\$ 1,220,518
Total	<hr/> \$19,939,911

The recommended Operating Budget for FY' 13 is \$18,856,303.

Chairman Hegarty went over the figures for the Overlay, State and County charges and the total amount of funding needed for Town Meeting articles – totaling \$395,037. Chairman Hegarty reported that this is the first time in about 6-7 years that we are able to address all articles on the ATM warrant. There are several reasons for this: (1) change in the healthcare plan – All unions voted in favor of changing to the Blue Cross Value Plan as of July 1, 2012; co-pays would change and there is a net savings to the Town of \$140,000. In addition, the Town would have had an increase (at least 8%) in premiums under the old health insurance plan; combined this is a total savings in healthcare premiums of \$265,000. There is a savings of \$112,000 for the Blue Hills assessment.

Chairman Hegarty noted that there are several new line items in the budget for 2013. Under the Board of Selectmen, a Newsletter item was added for \$4800. This quarterly newsletter would be similar to the newsletter issued by the Council on Aging. It would inform residents of recent happenings and offer reminders on meetings, issues of importance, etc. There is an increase in the Snow and Ice expense. OPEB is another new item under Pensions where the Board is requesting \$78,000 to be placed in an account for the purpose of funding benefits due retirees.

Chairman Hegarty also stated we have manpower to maintain the fields and it is not recommended by the Board to hire outside contractors for Park and Rec.

Chairman Hegarty discussed all articles listed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as follows:

- Articles 1-4 are housekeeping articles
- Article 5- Offset Account
- Article 6-payment of a prior year's bill
- Article 7-Buyback – collective bargaining
- Article 8 – revolving – repays
- Article 9 – estimate to demolish Crowley school
- Article 10 – 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Article 11 – Revolving Fund – Comcast – PEG access
- Article 12 – Appointment of Town Treasurer/Collector – Collector Treasurer/Assessors
- Article 13 – the item is for Executive Session
- Article 14 – dilapidated structure By-Law – mechanism to fund
- Article 15-18 – Ambulance fund transfers
- Article 19 – Pumper truck – Borrowing subject to the provisions of Prop. 2 ½
- Article 20 – changes in classification – Personnel Board
- Article 21 – Board of Assessors – building from 7/1 through 12/31/
- Article 22 – Board of Assessors – re-certification – 2014 State mandated
- Article 23 – Water Commissioners – Cross Connection
- Article 24 – Reduce authorization (liability)
- Article 25 – Reduce 1,080,000 (liability)
- Article 26 – Flood maps
- Article 27 – Rezoning
- Article 28 – Purchase new server at Town Hall

## Article 29 – Stabilization Account

At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to enter Executive Session with the Finance Committee to discuss collective bargaining issues. Mr. Brady seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Rose voted aye

Mr. Brady voted aye

Chairman Hegarty voted aye

Finance Committee Chair Eric Beckerman informed the Board that this was not a posted meeting by the Finance Committee and therefore no votes could be taken.

The Board would reconvene in Open Session.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:45 p.m.

Mr. Brady reported that he attended a St. Patrick's Day lunch event at the Council on Aging and many residents attended. Senator Joyce was also in attendance.

With all business completed, Mr. Rose made a motion at 9:55 p.m. to adjourn. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein  
Secretary