

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman
Steven P. Rose, Clerk
Robert F. Brady, Jr., Associate

Town of Avon Massachusetts

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Michael McCue, Town Administrator



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013 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.

Town Administrator McCue led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, November 7, 2013 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, November 7, 2013 (Executive Session) as submitted. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday, October 29, 2013 (Open Session) as submitted. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

7:30 p.m. —Tax Classification Hearing for the Town of Avon

Assessors Chairman Warren B. Lane, Cynthia Bernasconi and Assistant Assessor David Wood appeared before the Board.

Chairman Hegarty read the Public Hearing Notice for the Tax Classification hearing. Chairman Hegarty explained the purpose of the hearing is for the adoption of percentages of local tax levy to be borne by each class of real property—residential, open space, commercial and industrial, and personal property for fiscal year 2014.

Assistant Assessor David Wood presented the Board with information and data relevant to making such a determination of percentages and the fiscal effect of available alternatives.

Mr. Wood explained the Board of Selectmen last year voted to use a residential factor of .65.

Mr. Bob Costa, President of AIPA, (Avon Industrial Park Association) expressed his concern with the raising of industrial/commercial taxes for businesses in the Industrial Park. He would like to find out what options businesses have going forward.

Chairman Hegarty explained two years ago the Board used the maximum split. Chairman Hegarty reported that there will be tax increases no matter what the split is. This is due to improvements made with the Town's infrastructure; especially improvements in the Avon Water System. There has been no maintenance program in the Town regarding the water system. The next large capital project will be a public safety building.

Chairman Hegarty also explained the single biggest cost to the Town—and that is education costs.

Mr. Lane recommended using a residential factor of .65 to ease the burden on residential property owners. This would make a larger hit for commercial/industrial property owners.

Mr. Brady expressed his concern that increases would be tough for Avon residents.

Mr. Rose expressed his disappointment in forecasting from the Board of Assessors.

Chairman Hegarty suggested using a two point split for a residential factor of .675. Mr. Brady agreed. Town Administrator McCue agreed.

Mr. Brady made a motion to use the .675 factor. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Rose opposed (2-1).

Mr. Rose expressed his concern with making sure how to do better forecasting going forward before budget time.

On a motion made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Rose, it was unanimously voted to grant a small business exemption of 10%.

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Brady made a motion to adjourn the tax classification hearing. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

AWARD BID FOR ROCK SALT

Mr. Brady made a motion to award the contract to International Salt at a price of \$49.65 per ton. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

AWARD BID FOR WASHED, COARSE SAND

On a motion made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Rose, it was unanimously voted to award the bid for washed coarse sand to T.L. Edwards, Inc. at a price of \$14.98 per ton.

TECTON ARCHITECTS, INC. PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUED SERVICES FOR THE AVON PUBLIC SAFETY STUDY

Chairman Hegarty explained a proposal has been submitted to provide continued consulting services for the proposed new Public Safety Facility. Tecton will review with selected members of the Public Safety Building Committee the program developed during the initial study and will work to identify opportunities to reduce the overall program. There will be an alternative design at a lower cost.

Mr. Rose questioned whether there are any funds left for continued services? Mr. McCue responded "yes."

The Board agreed to move forward with a letter of agreement from Tecton Architects for performing program validation services as outlined in their proposal of September 23, 2013. The fee is \$2800.00. Tecton Architects understand that at this time the scope of services to be provided is limited to the program validation but that further services may be authorized at a later date, dependent on availability of funding.

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve using the continued services of Tecton Architects, Inc. with a program validation fee of \$2800.00. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Hegarty announced on Saturday and Sunday, December 7th and 8th the 125th Committee's Holiday Festival Celebration continues. Saturday's program begins at 5:30 p.m. with carolers, a carousel and a mini Ferris wheel. Santa arrives at 6:00 p.m. Pictures with Santa will take place at the DeMarco Park gazebo. Sunday's program begins at 10:00 a.m. with a craft fair at St. Michael's Hall. At 3:00 p.m. a children's concert will be held at DeMarco Park's gazebo. At 6:00 p.m. a stroll to Avon Baptist Church for Candle lighting sing along.

Mr. Rose made a motion to grant a temporary sign permit request for Jordan's Furniture, advertising the "Enchanted Village/Boston Rocks" from December 1, 2013 through February 1, 2014. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting dates for the month of December were announced as follows:

Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Hegarty announced the Avon Town Hall will be closed to the public on Friday, November 29th.

Chairman Hegarty reported the compost site will be closing on Sunday, December 1st for the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Saturday, November 30th at 1:00 p.m. the Avon Public Library will feature a book signing by author Paul Tedesco. "Postcard History of Norfolk County, Massachusetts" is a hardcover book highlighting the 28 towns and cities within the county through vintage postcards and town seals. Light refreshments will be served. Books will be available for sale after the program.

A resignation letter was received from V. Jean Kopke resigning her elected position of Town Clerk effective with the election to be held on April 8, 2014. There will be one year remaining to the three year term. The position will be open for nominees to take out papers to run for a one year term. The office will again be on the ballot in 2015 for a three year term.

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept Ms. Kopke's letter of resignation as Town Clerk effective with the election of April 8, 2014. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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 reported the remediation of the Crowley School is moving along on Fagan Drive. Abatement is needed for demolition of the entire structure.

Mr. McCue informed the Board that the demolition bid for the Crowley School is completed and would appear in the Central Register next week. It is Mr. McCue's hope that the process moves along quickly and the Town can line up a contractor for the demolition project before the bad weather sets in.

Mr. McCue discussed stronger language to be inserted into a contract to protect the Town in regards to a cell tower on the Crowley School property. He is working on proposing language to protect a reoccurrence of what happened in the past with non-activity.

Mr. McCue announced Chairman Hegarty signed a FEMA reimbursement contract in the amount of \$42,000. The funds will be arriving shortly.

Mr. McCue met with the Town Accountant and Assistant Assessor today to discuss revenues. Revenues are on track. Mr. McCue will keep the Board up to date and would welcome comments from the Board.

Chairman Hegarty stated that beginning December 1st the budget process will begin.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Hegarty wished all residents a Happy Thanksgiving holiday!

At 8:55 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, so declared by the Chair. Mr. Brady seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Rose voted aye.

Mr. Brady voted aye.

Chairman Hegarty voted aye.

The Board would not reconvene in Open Session.

Mr. Brady commented that the COA luncheon today was a great success. He would like to see more seniors attending COA programs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary