

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011
7:30 P.M.
AVON TOWN HALL – MARY T. MCDERMOTT ROOM

Members present: Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman
 Wayne M. Phillips
 Steven P. Rose

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.

Chairman Hegarty announced the first order of business would be an Interdepartmental Meeting to discuss the FY 2012 budget.

Department heads and representatives from the Assessor's office, Library, Town Clerk's office, Town Accountant, Fire Chief, School Department, Finance Committee, Board of Health, etc. were in attendance.

Chairman Hegarty provided a handout to all present from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The article summarized the fact that "the state faces a fiscal 2012 shortfall of approximately \$2 billion dollars with no federal stimulus dollars and limited state reserves." Chairman Hegarty stated as far as revenue projections, local receipts would be down approximately \$30,000; a shortfall exists regarding interest payments coming into the Town.

Chairman Hegarty is projecting a 5% cut in local aid and Chapter 70 funds. Last year our total revenue was \$18,061,679 and this year, in order to meet the figures for level funding, The Town would need \$18,351,987; a shortfall of \$290,308. Cuts in local aid will affect service levels.

Chairman Hegarty opened up the floor to questions. Sammy Kamel, Chairman of the Finance Committee, asked about the Crowley School and whether there was the possibility of selling it? This would bring in additional revenue for Avon.

Chairman Hegarty responded that there are baseball fields down there; there is not a lot of land since some of the area belongs to the City of Brockton and not Avon. He also elaborated that there are drainage problems in the area because of the land, which results in septic issues.

Chairman Hegarty reported that an RFP was advertised regarding the possibility of a cell tower on that property. Bids were opened and a decision would be made at the January 27th meeting. Budgets for FY '12 are due in the Town Administrator's office on Friday, January 14th.

After some further discussion, Chairman Hegarty stated that within the next few weeks the Board would set up meetings with all departments regarding the FY '12 budget. Chairman Hegarty mentioned fixed costs such as gasoline, electricity, insurance, etc. which impacts all department budgets.

Mr. Rose stated that there is a very small chance for departments to increase any line items.

At 7:55 p.m. Chairman Hegarty thanked those in attendance and the interdepartmental meeting ended.

On a motion made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Phillips, it was unanimously voted to declare Scott Foresman reading materials at the Butler School as surplus and authorize disposal.

Public Announcements

Chairman Hegarty announced bulk pick-up this coming Saturday. Items must be easily accessible to the collectors and must be street side by 7:00 a.m.

Congressman Stephen Lynch will hold office hours on Thursday morning, January 27, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Mary McDermott Meeting Room at the Avon Town Hall.

Town Administrator's Report

As directed by Town Meeting, there are six (6) candidates going through the required physicals for Call Firefighters positions.

Regarding the Community Development Block Grant (Avon Housing Rehabilitation Program) which began approximately one year ago, we may need to re-advertise for applicants who may qualify for funds to make repairs to electrical, plumbing, heating systems, roofs and windows, and accessibility improvements in the Town of Avon. Many applicants did not qualify due to income guidelines and liens on their homes (10 years), or hesitated to accept a lien on their property. An advertisement will be placed in the newspaper in about a week or so.

Mr. McCue reported that he is looking into the Town of Avon as a "Tree City" by the Department of Conservation. This would provide a degree of pride for the community. In addition, it is an important factor for receiving extra credit on grant applications.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Phillips, it was unanimously voted to approve deficit spending by the Highway Department for snow and ice removal and equipment hire for FY '11. Chairman Hegarty stated the Finance Committee would be notified.

At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to recess until 8:30 p.m. and the Board would then reconvene in Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary