

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

Francis T. Crimmins, Jr.
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015
7:30 p.m.

TOWN OF AVON
2015 MAY 22 AM 11:27
TOWN CLERK

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

Others present: Francis T. Crimmins, Jr., Town Administrator
Joseph Lalli, Town Counsel
David Martineau, Police Chief

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

Mimi Rothstein, Selectmen's Secretary, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, April 16, 2015 (Regular Session) as read. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There was no Unfinished Business to come before the Board.

7:35 p.m.—Police Chief David Martineau

Police Chief David Martineau appeared before the Board to address the issue of hiring a Patrolman. He is requesting two (2) additional Patrolmen and would like to know how the Board would like to proceed; whether do we go with Civil Service or go the lateral transfer route.

Chairman Hegarty responded that it would be feasible to make an accelerated attempt at a lateral transfer and use the MMA newsletter/newspaper and/or the Police Union's bulletin board to advertise the position. With a lateral transfer, the Patrolman would already be trained. If the Board wishes the Civil Service route, then candidates have to go through the Academy and we are looking at a year's time or greater for this to play out.

Police Chief Martineau asked Town Administrator Crimmins for some assistance in posting the position on the MMA/newspaper. He would advertise one (1) position.

Relative to the Deputy Chief's position, Police Chief Martineau could make a recommendation to the Board and asked if the Board wished to go through an interview process. Chairman Hegarty responded that we can set a date and do interviews in one night. Town Administrator Crimmins has the three (3) resumes of the interested parties.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to schedule interviews on Thursday, May 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m.; 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. This would give the Board enough time to review the resumes.

Police Chief Martineau thanked Town Counsel Lalli for his assistance and expertise in a recent Stoughton Court case which ended in favor of the Town of Avon.

Selectman Rose asked Police Chief Martineau about Pilot Programs and studies being conducted on the effects of body-worn cameras and police use of force. Police Chief Martineau responded that there is a lot to be ironed out regarding body-worn cameras, especially legal concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Hegarty announced the Avon Memorial Day Parade would be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015 beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of St. Michael's Church. The parade route will precede straight down East Main Street and end at the Avon VFW. Michael Stanley is the go-to man for the VFW.

Chairman Hegarty suggested having an Open Forum on Thursday evening, June 4th at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned to Tuesday evening, June 9th and the Board would like to be available to answer any questions residents may have, including information on Article #8, for the planning, designing and constructing of a new Public Safety Building to be located at the Crowley School property. Borrowing for this project would be subject to a debt exclusion question.

Chairman Hegarty wanted to make Police Chief Martineau aware of an EAP Program that is available for all employees to speak with someone regarding difficult issues. He mentioned a very difficult scene at the horrendous accident that occurred in Avon last Monday. He asked Police Chief Martineau to remind members of his department that help is available.

At 8:00 p.m. Police Chief Martineau left the meeting.

A request for a temporary sign permit was received from Jordan's Furniture at 100 Stockwell Drive to display three (3) banners advertising a Red Sox promotion.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the temporary sign permit for Jordan's Furniture to display three (3) banners advertising a Red Sox promotion from May 6th through July 1, 2015. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A request was received from the Frank M. Noyes V.F.W. Post #8892 for approval of a Memorial Day Parade Permit for Sunday, May 24, 2015 with a fee waiver for the permit.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the VFW Memorial Day Parade permit with the fee waived for Sunday, May 24, 2015. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Hegarty announced the Annual Town Meeting was opened last night, May 5, 2015, and immediately adjourned until Tuesday evening, June 9th. On Thursday evening, June 4th, an Open Forum would be held to discuss the articles of the warrant.

A donation was received from William and June Smith to the Board of Selectmen's Discretionary Fund, in the amount of \$100.00, sent in memory of Ralph and George DeLano's parents (Weiss Sheet Metal, Inc.), for the Board's acceptance.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the donation as read. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

COLUMBIA GAS OF MASSACHUSETTS

A request was received for a road opening permit to install new gas service at 408 Central Street. Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the curb cut for gas installation at 408 Central Street. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A request was received to excavate to do maintenance repair and corrosion control at East Main Street at Fletcher Street.

Mr. Brady made a motion to refer the request to Mass. Highway for approval since East Main Street is a state road and permission to excavate must be granted by Mass. Highway. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A request for a road opening permit was received to install 17# anode to do maintenance repair at 263 East Main Street.

Mr. Brady made a motion to refer the request to Mass. Highway for permission since the requested location is a state road. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A request for permission to excavate to do maintenance repair and corrosion control at 30-32 Doherty Avenue was received by Columbia Gas of Mass.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the road opening permit at 30-32 Doherty Avenue. Mr. Rose seconded the motion with discussion and questioned whether Doherty Avenue is a private way. After further inspection, this portion of Doherty Avenue is not a private way and Mr. Rose had no issue. The vote was unanimous.

A request for permission to excavate for gas maintenance repair for a Class 2 leak was received at 55 Bodwell Street.

After some discussion, Mr. Rose made a motion to refer the road opening permit request back to the DPW Superintendent for further clarification since the request was not approved by the DPW Superintendent. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MASSWORKS GRANT APPROVAL

Town Administrator Crimmins reported that the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) and State Representative William Galvin have assisted him with information relative to a MassWorks Grant. The Town will apply and submit a grant proposal, due in September, 2015.

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. Crimmins presented the Board with a letter received on April 17th from Columbia Gas. The letter was a press release stating that "a base-rate change was filed with the Department of Public Utilities. The requested increase is necessary due to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts' intensive multi-year transformative actions to continuously improve its standards and practices to provide natural gas service to customers in a safe, reliable and cost-effective basis. These improvements result in increased operations and maintenance expense."

If approved by the DPU, the impact on the total bill for a typical residential customer would be \$8.50 per month, beginning March 1, 2016. Chairman Hegarty asked Town Administrator Crimmins to draft a letter to Columbia Gas stating the Board's displeasure with the proposed increase to residents and businesses in the Town of Avon.

Article 25 of the May, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant relates to a reduction of property tax obligation of Veterans in exchange for volunteer services. The Board of Selectmen would have to vote on the proposed agreement, which is now in draft form. The agreement was forwarded to Dale Kurtz, Acting Regional Veterans Officer, for his comments.

Police Department—there are openings for Patrolmen.

Fire Department—Chief Spurr is at a conference in Portland, Maine.

Mr. Crimmins reported he and Selectman Brady attended a Metro South event at Massasoit regarding a water and sewer infra-structure seminar.

Department of Public Works—Mr. Fitzgerald reported street sweeping has begun. He is dealing with residents that had property damage as a result of the repeated winter storms. Mr. Crimmins informed the Board that water bills have been sent out and are due on June 1st.

Board of Health—Avon's Town Wide clean-up day was very successful! Volunteers returned to Town Hall for a celebration cookout. Thank you to Tara Tradd for organizing and running the

entire event! Thank you to Patricia Bessette, Town Clerk, for posting pictures of the event on Avon's website www.avon-ma.gov.

Town Clerk—provided an update of the Annual Town Election results on Avon's website.

Treasurer/Collector—Treasurer's Cash Reconciliation Report for April showing the cash balance is each of the Town's bank accounts and the Tax Collectors reconciliation with the Town Accountant. This report gives an idea of what amount remains to be collected in each year for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle commitments.

Town Accountant—the auditors are wrapping up the year. An updated list of Town employees is being worked on.

Board of Assessors—adjustments on values.

Finance Committee—the Fin Com is very supportive of Article #3 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant of May 5, 2015.

There is a link of the Avon website for the Memorial Day Parade to be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Crimmins reported payments can now be made by credit card/debit card in the Town Clerk's office. Residents can now order vital records online. Town Clerk Bessette informed Mr. Crimmins that 200 reminders have been sent out for residents to register their dogs or they would be subject to a fine if dogs are not registered by May 31st.

Mr. Crimmins stated signage is needed in the halls. A bulletin board/case is needed to post meetings in the lobby area that can be viewed 24/7.

Council on Aging—on Fridays the COA café offers free coffee and pastries for social time between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Library—our sympathy is extended to Karen Johnson on the loss of her father.

Legal—Mr. Crimmins announced an Executive Session would be held at the May 21st BOS Meeting to discuss collective bargaining updates.

Attorney Lalli reported on April 17, 2015 the Town had a hearing on the suspension of a license to carry firearms at Stoughton District Court. On April 30, 2015 a decision was reached in favor of the Town of Avon.

Selectman Brady reported he attended a Metro South Chamber event regarding legislation for a casino in Brockton, our neighboring community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, May 9th is a Food Drive for Letter Carriers.

Saturday, May 16th is Bulk Collection Day. Items must be placed curbside by 7:00 a.m.
No hazardous material is allowed.

With all business completed, Mr. Brady made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam Rothstein". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Miriam" and last name "Rothstein" clearly legible.

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary