

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
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Members present:

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

Others present:

Francis T. Crimmins, Jr., Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator
Robert Spurr, Fire Chief
Charles Comeau, Library Trustees Chair

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TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF AVON

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

Aidan Burns, son of Call Firefighter Julie Burns led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, February 4, 2016 (Regular Session) as read.
Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, February 11, 2016 (Workshop Session) as read. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, February 4, 2016 (Executive Session) as read. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

7:45 p.m. – Presentation by Chief Robert Spurr to Pin Newest Members of the Avon Fire Department

Chief Spurr appeared before the Board to commence the Pinning Ceremony for six new Call Firefighters for the Town as well as the promotion of a 40 year veteran of the Avon Call Firefighter to Captain.

Call Firefighter Bethany Ramsey was pinned by her father.
Call Firefighter Julie Burns was pinned by her son Aidan.
Call Firefighter David Martineau, Jr. was pinned by his mother.
Call Firefighter Michael McNeil was pinned by his mother.
Call Firefighter Kevin Murphy was pinned by his brother Justin.
Call Firefighter Stephen Mallett was pinned by his wife.

Call Firefighter Robert Pillarella was promoted to Captain and pinned by his wife.

8:15 p.m. – Charles Comeau, Library Trustees Chairman

Charles Comeau approached the Board to discuss changes needed to the library building. Mr. Comeau informed the Board that the biggest complaint/problem that the library patrons have with the building is gaining access into the building. Mr. Comeau explained that while the entrance is on West Main Street, the parking lot is in the back closer to Bartlett Street. Mr. Comeau suggested that the library may need a rear entrance for patrons and possibly an elevator to make the building more handicap accessible. Mr. Comeau informed members of the viewing audience that the Library Trustees have drafted an article for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant regarding establishing a Study Committee to deliver recommendations for the housing of the library facility and operations. Mr. Comeau stated that the Avon Public Library has over 50,000 books that go in and out of the library on a yearly basis. In addition, the Avon Public Library is a member of the Old Colony Library Network, offers discounted museum passes, DVDs and various other activities posted on the Town's library website. Mr. Comeau opined the library is a necessary investment to keep the towns people educated. Mr. Rose suggested hiring an expert consultant to access the library's needs. Chairman Hegarty requested Mr. Comeau research the cost of an expert consultant and report back to the Board as soon as possible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget Update

Town Administrator Crimmins stated that the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 was submitted to the Finance Committee on February 1, 2016. Since that time, there has been a change to the Police Department's budget regarding the purchase of new police cruisers. Mr. Crimmins will draft an e-mail to Finance Committee Chair Eric Beckerman informing him of the change to the proposed budget.

Articles for Annual Town Meeting Update

Mr. Crimmins informed the Board that the deadline for Department Heads, Boards and Committees to submit articles for the Annual Town Meeting warrant was Thursday, February 11, 2016. Mr. Crimmins stated that the Board of Selectmen reviewed all proposed articles in a Workshop Session meeting on that same day. Mr. Crimmins presented each member of the Board with an updated draft of the warrant dated as of February 16, 2016. Mr. Crimmins informed the Board that the draft warrant needs a few revisions in terms of tweaking language and finalizing figures for exact dollar amounts. Once that is completed, the draft warrant will be sent to Town Counsel and Bond Counsel for their approval in order to finalize the warrant.

Update on Council on Aging

Mr. Crimmins informed the Board that the first round of interviews with candidates for the Council on Aging Director have been scheduled for next week with the Screening Committee. Mr. Crimmins stated that his office has run CORI background checks and requested driving records from the Registry of Motor Vehicles for potential candidates for the van driver position. Mr. Crimmins stated that Jack Picardi continues to do an excellent job giving the Council on Aging Center a face lift by painting the entire interior of the building. Mr. Crimmins stated that he has had the Plumbing Inspector Al Campbell inspect the building for some bathroom renovations. Finally, Mr. Crimmins thanked the entire staff of the Council on Aging for their extra effort to keep the COA functioning during this interim period.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund

Mr. Brady made a motion to transfer \$2,500 from the Reserve Fund to the Human Resources line item to cover the cost of new staff members requiring pre-employment physicals due to unforeseen staff members retiring or terminating their employment with the Town. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Gift Acceptance

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the gift donation in the amount of \$30.00 to the Council on Aging from Constance Vieira. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of Vouchers for the Payment of Bills

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the payment of bills. Mr. Hegarty seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Announcements

Chairman Hegarty announced the next meeting date for the Board of Selectmen as March 3, 2016.

Chairman Hegarty announced that Bulk Collection Day will be held on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Items are to be placed to the curb by 7:00 a.m.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator – Mr. Crimmins stated that his office has been busy with preparing proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017, articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, renewing the Town's insurance with MEGA and Human Resources issues given the amount of open positions within the Town.

DPW – The DPW has a new piece of equipment, a 2016 dump truck complete with a plow and sander. Mr. Fitzgerald purchased the truck from a company on the state vendor list and he was able to upgrade the truck with more horsepower and other additional features for the same price. The DPW has seen less complaints from residents regarding the plowing of their streets and sidewalks during the most recent winter storms.

Treasurer/Collector – Mr. Crimmins thanked Deb Morin for her assistance with the Town Accountant's tasks and workload while Shannon MacKenzie is on vacation this week. Second interviews for the part-time Assistant Town Accountant will take place when Ms. MacKenzie returns.

Assessors – Paul Sullivan is getting his department up to speed since his arrival last month. He also has been working with a liaison for the Department of Revenue this week.

Finance Committee – The Finance Committee has been busy with the budget season. They have been holding weekly meetings on Tuesday nights where they have been meeting with various Department Heads.

Town Clerk – The Town Clerk's office has been very busy as there are multiple elections this year. Many residents have come into the Clerk's office to register to vote. In addition, Patricia Bessette was here tonight to take pictures of the Pin Ceremony for the newly inducted firefighters to place on the website, which continues to increase in the number of hits.

Building Inspector – Bob Borden has been busy on a number of building inspections. Mr. Borden has also been of assistance with the Town Hall renovation project and tackling the two rooms on the end of the building.

Board of Health – The Board of Health's Trash and Recycling Collection and Disposal Contracts are ready for review by Town Counsel. In addition, Ms. Tradd is sponsoring a healthy eating class on Wednesdays for the month of February which has been very popular.

Town Counsel – Mr. Crimmins informed the Board that Mr. Lalli could not be at tonight's meeting but thanked him for all of his assistance reviewing the Town's contracts.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., Chairman Hegarty requested the Board make a motion to conclude the Regular Session. An Executive Session would begin at the conclusion of the Open Session for the purposes of Collective Bargaining with Union Bargaining Units for AFSCME and the Police Union, which could prove detrimental if discussed during the Open Session. Mr. Brady made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Brady voted aye.

Mr. Rose voted aye.

Mr. Hegarty voted aye.

The Board would reconvene in Open Session for the sole purpose of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator