

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, MARCH 20, 2014 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 7:35 p.m. with all members present.

Jodee Frias, Project 351 Ambassador for Avon, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hegarty spoke a little about Project 351. The project was started by Governor Patrick where an 8th grade student is selected by his or her school for their exemplary ethic of service and demonstration of Project 351 values. One Ambassador is selected for each Town in Massachusetts. Project 351 celebrates the ethic of service, youth leadership and the diversity of our Commonwealth.

Chairman Hegarty asked Jodee to speak a little about the project she is involved in.

Jodee explained with Project 351 she has met incredible people, including Governor Deval Patrick, and has currently gathered a team of 30 students from Avon Middle/High School to work on a spring greening fundraiser to benefit Crayons to Cradles. A picture was taken by Mr. McCue with Jodee and the Board of Selectmen.

The Board thanked Jodee for her contributions to the Town of Avon.

Catherine Maloney, Comcast's Senior Manager of Government and Community Relations appeared before the Board. Chairman Hegarty asked for an update on transferring wires from poles in the Town.

Ms. Maloney responded that there are 22 poles left to transfer.

The Board questioned when that would be completed.

Ms. Maloney referred to her updated list and stated as of February 13, 2014 22 poles were left. Packard and Porter Streets still need to be done.

Mr. Rose expressed his concern that old double poles are going back for years and nothing has been done. He would like to see a schedule when these poles will be transferred. By the Board's next scheduled meeting, Mr. Rose would like Ms. Maloney to communicate with Mr. McCue and let him know when the work is completed by Comcast.

Mr. Brady mentioned a problem with the signal coming out of Avon's studio. Ms. Maloney informed the Board that she would be meeting with Gary Erickson of ACAM next week to address the issue. Ms. Maloney also stated that loud buzzing has been reported.

Ms. Maloney departed at 7:50 p.m. The Board thanked her for her information.

Chairman Hegarty announced that on Monday evening, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. a Special Town Meeting would be held at Avon Middle/High School. There are 7 articles on the Warrant.

Chairman Hegarty reported residents are asking the reason why so many articles are requesting transfers from free cash. Chairman Hegarty explained the situation as follows:

- (1) We had an unusual year in license fees due to Restaurant Depot opening and the Wal-Mart project, which was unexpected.
- (2) Greater than \$400,000 was captured from FY '12 in back taxes which created a large sum, plus overlay (Assessors)
- (3) 2013 was a better year in excise tax collections due to the purchasing of new cars
- (4) Water rate increases
- (5) Staff reductions

The Board is recommending that the Town uses some of that money from free cash to fund the articles.

Article 1

\$30,000 from free cash to create a Regional School Planning Committee. The Town can speak with Holbrook or any other Town. This is a study to hire a consultant staff.

Article 2

\$300,000 from free cash—OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) which will total 3.5 million dollars by 2025. The OPEB account covers unfunded retiree health and life insurance benefits.

Article 3

\$300,000 from free cash to be placed in the Public Safety Building Stabilization Account

Article 4

\$100,000 from free cash to the Public Safety Building Study Committee. This would allow the committee to work with an architect.

Article 5

\$236,013 from free cash to repay the remaining Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) taken out for the Butler School Roofing Project.

Article 6

\$95,000 from free cash to fund Phase Two of a study of onsite wastewater treatment for the Avon Industrial and Commercial Parks.

Article 7

\$25,000 from free cash to fund a study of Avon Fire Department staffing levels, scheduling and call response of both full time and call personnel

DISCUSSION OF HARRISON BLVD.

Police Chief Warren Phillips and Fire Chief Bob Spurr appeared before the Board.

Chairman Hegarty reported a serious crash occurred on Harrison Blvd. over the weekend. There were two fatalities and one person is in serious condition in the hospital. Chairman Hegarty stated the roadway is beyond a serious situation. We have to push the state to tend to this road.

Chief Phillips reported there were 65 accidents last year on Harrison Blvd.

Chief Spurr calculated from January 1, 2000 to the present, accidents occurred mainly between West Main Street and Pond Street. That stretch of road has no Jersey barrier or guardrail to stop drivers from crossing the double yellow line.

A discussion ensued with suggestions that MASS DOT must act immediately to place Jersey Barriers or guardrails along Harrison Blvd. Chairman Hegarty suggested asking the state to put up speed traps/rumble strips.

The Board agreed that a letter must be prepared from the Board of Selectmen. The letter would be addressed to MASS HIGHWAY with copies to Senator Joyce, Representative Galvin and OCPC. The Town must DEMAND that the state takes some action on this road before another fatality occurs.

Mr. Brady suggested bringing Brockton officials into this since Harrison Blvd. is a cut through for Brockton residents to Route 24. The Board agreed.

Mr. McCue was directed to draft a letter to MASS HIGHWAY to go out by the middle of April.

APPROVAL OF POLITICAL SIGNS

Patricia Bessette, candidate for Town Clerk, is seeking permission to put ten (10) lawn signs on private property to advertise her campaign. She was granted permission by the property owners.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve placing ten (10) lawn signs on private property. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SIGNING OF ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WARRANT—TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

Mr. Brady made a motion to sign the Annual Town Election Warrant of Tuesday, April 8, 2014. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

April 2014 meetings were announced as follows:

Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve all vouchers for the payment of bills as submitted. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

REQUEST FOR GIFT ACCEPTANCE

The Council on Aging is requesting acceptance of a donation from Thomas Kenneally, Jr., in the amount of \$150.00, to be used for COA activities and purchases.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the \$150.00 donation to the Council on Aging to be used for COA activities and purchases. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. McCue reported that there were no responses to the RFP regarding installation of a cell tower at the former Crowley School site. He has extended the deadline for the RFP for two (2) more weeks.

Mr. McCue has posted on Municibid an old fire truck belonging to the Town. Mr. McCue is hopeful that the Town will be successful in obtaining bids for disposal of the fire truck.

A spring newsletter will be inserted into next week's "Moneysaver" for Avon residents. The newsletter from the fall was well received. The newsletters contain dates for upcoming meetings, important phone numbers, Town website information as well as an upcoming events schedule.

Last year National Grid donated trees and labor to the Town for Arbor Day. This year on April 26th Arbor Day will be held. Mr. McCue has contacted Green Legacy Hiroshima. This is an organization that spreads seeds worldwide from Hiroshima. Small saplings will be donated to the Town and placed in an arboretum where they will be cared for until they can be planted.

At 8:40 p.m., with all business completed, Mr. Brady made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary