

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Steven P. Rose, Chairman
Eric S. Beckerman, Clerk
Jason L. Suzor, Associate

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts

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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**

Members present: Steven P. Rose, Chairman (via teleconference)
Eric S. Beckerman, Clerk (via teleconference)
Jason L. Suzor, Associate (via teleconference)

Others present: Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator (via teleconference)
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant (via teleconference)
Erin Barry, Town Accountant (via teleconference)
Fire Chief Robert Spurr (via teleconference)
Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent (via teleconference)
Gerald Picardi, Board of Health Chair (via teleconference)
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director (via teleconference)
Brian Martin, Assistant DPW Director (via teleconference)

Finance Committee: Daniel Norian, Chair (via teleconference)
James Norian, Member (via teleconference)
Richard Jordan, Member (via teleconference)
Shannon Coffey, Member (via teleconference)
Derek Staffier, Member (via teleconference)
Judith Leggett, Member (via teleconference)

Chairman Rose announced that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. Chairman Rose reminded the viewing audience that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by joining the Zoom link for the videoconference in session.

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Each Board member acknowledged their presence at the meeting by responding in the affirmative during the roll call. In addition, all anticipated speakers acknowledged their presence by responding in the affirmative when Chairman Rose called their names.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

As a preliminary matter, Mr. Enos reviewed the revenue numbers, levy limit, new growth figures, local receipts, state revenue, property taxes and motor vehicle tax figures with the Board.

Fire Department Budget

Chief Spurr discussed his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022 with the Board. Chief Spurr stated that he has primarily level funded his budget. He stated that there is an increase in the AFSCME union salary line item for a contractual step increase for the administrative assistant. Chief Spurr stated that the only expense item increase was the energy/utilities line item which includes items such as natural gas and electricity as it is difficult to project the cost of these expenses once the renovation project is complete. The Fire Station will be a much larger space once the renovation is complete. Chief Spurr stated that he has estimated an expense of approximately \$8,400 for this line item based upon the cost of utilities for the new Police Station. With the Board satisfied with Chief Spurr's proposed budget, he departed from the meeting.

Board of Health Budget

Ms. Waldron discussed her proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022 with the Board. Ms. Waldron stated that last year, the Board of Health's budget was decreased by 10%, and they are seeking to reinstate the 10% loss from Fiscal Year 2021. Ms. Waldron stated that she has increased her purchase services line item as she would like to purchase computer software for housing inspections. Ms. Waldron stated that this program is like the program she currently uses to assist her with food inspections by generating reports and licenses and thereby saving her valuable time in her busy schedule. Ms. Waldron stated that she has decreased the non-energy utility line item in her budget as this applies to her cellular phone in which she receives funding from Norfolk County for health communication items. Ms. Waldron stated that she has also decreased coalition expenses from the proposed budget. Ms. Waldron stated that the public health nurse line item has been level funded. Ms. Waldron stated that the trash/rubbish disposal line item has increased. The reason for this is that the current contract with Waste Management is expiring in June. Ms. Waldron stated that she received a one-year extension proposal to the contract and the rates have increased significantly. Ms. Waldron stated that prevailing wage has increased by \$9.00. The Board requested Ms. Waldron review alternate waste disposal services prior to signing a contract extension with Waste Management. With no further questions from the Board, Ms. Waldron departed from the meeting.

Department of Public Works Budget

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022 with the Board. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there is a slight salary decrease due to the number of working days in the year for FY 22. Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that last year, the DPW budget was decreased by \$65,000 once COVID-19 hit. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he has managed to keep his proposed budget level-funded from last year's decrease. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there are new state mandates regarding items such as stormwater management which he will be required to comply with so there are slight increases in a few line items. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that COVID-19 also delayed matters such as catch basin cleaning and street sweeping. Those tasks will need to be performed in FY 22. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the energy/utilities line item has decreased due to credits from the Town of Abington net-metering credit agreement. With the Board satisfied with Mr. Fitzgerald's budget proposal, he departed from the meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Enos stated that the next Budget Workshop will be scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Enos informed the Board that he may invite a few smaller departments to the Board's meeting of Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. He will keep both the Finance Committee and Board apprised of these meetings.

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Beckerman made a motion to adjourn the Workshop Session. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna M. Faro

Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator