

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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TOWN OF AVON
2021 FEB -5 A 8:59
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
6:30 P.M.

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

Others Present: Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant (via videoconference)
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel (via videoconference)
Fire Chief Robert Spurr (via videoconference)
Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent (via videoconference)
Tracy Self, Designer Selection Committee Chair (via videoconference)
Donald Velozo, Architectural Consulting Group (via videoconference)
Ann Fogg, Library Director (via videoconference)
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director (via videoconference)
Jennifer Mayo, Park & Recreation Program Director (via videoconference)
Joseph Cardinal, National Grid (via videoconference)

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 watching local cable on Channel 9 or joining the Zoom link for the videoconference. Links to watch the recorded meeting will be available on the Avon Cable Access website www.avontv.org.

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members present. Chairman Rose was present in the Mary McDermott meeting room, while Mr. Beckerman and Mr. Suzor were present through the videoconference Zoom. 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.

Selectman Eric Beckerman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Rose requested a moment of silence for Joseph A. Faria, Veronica Dunay, Mary Lou Flanigan, Rosemary Sherman, and Gail Gorman. Mr. Faria was the father of Public Safety Dispatcher Chelsea Faria. Ms. Dunay was the mother of Administrative Assistant Nancy Boyd. Ms. Flanigan served as the Assistant Tax Collector for over thirty years before retiring in 2001. Ms. Sherman worked in the school cafeterias for many years and retired as the Butler School Cafeteria Manager. Ms. Gorman was a school bus driver for over twenty years and later volunteered her services at the Council on Aging.

Public Participation

None

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 6, 2021 (Workshop Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 7, 2021 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 11, 2021 (Workshop Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 16, 2021 (Workshop Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Updates & Update on Town Offices Opening Plan

Ms. Waldron informed the Board that Avon has had a total of 74 positive coronavirus cases over the past two weeks. Ms. Waldron stated that Governor Baker has rescinded the Stay-at-Home Advisory and as of Monday, January 25, 2021 restaurants will be able to stay open later than 9:30 p.m., however, the 25% capacity limits are still in effect. Ms. Waldron stated that "Mask Up Avon" lawn signs are now available to remind citizens that we are all in this together. Ms. Waldron requested any business owners who would like a lawn sign display to please contact her office. Signs have already been placed in the town square and outside of the Town Offices.

Chief Spurr informed the Board that COVID-19 vaccination clinics began last week. He was pleased to report that every first responder who requested a vaccine was provided with one. Chief Spurr stated that side effects included only minor reactions such as a sore arm. Chief Spurr stated that the second round of the vaccination shots have been scheduled. Chief Spurr stated that he has received some inquiries and wanted to let the public know that Gillette Stadium is also providing COVID-19 vaccines to first responders and medical personnel.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that due to the increasing number of positive cases he did not recommend opening the Town Offices to the public at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Designer Selection Committee Change Orders

Mr. Velozo presented the Board with Change Order No. 3 for the Fire Station Renovation Project. Mr. Velozo stated that the change order includes additional fees for the removal and replacement of fill compacted, a flooring upgrade, a vestibule revision, masonry wall demolition, and masonry wall rebuild. Mr. Velozo stated that the change order includes credits for the deletion of a project sign, door control wiring and retaining wall changes. Mr. Velozo stated that in summary, the total amount of Change Order No. 3 will be \$8,956.66. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Change Order No. 3. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Use of DeMarco Park for the Audubon Society

Ms. Fogg submitted a Park Permit Application for the Audubon Society. Ms. Fogg informed the Board that the Avon Public Library and the Park & Recreation Department are working collaboratively with the Audubon Society on four outdoor programs for families. Ms. Fogg stated that these programs will be held once a month for the next four months beginning on February 18, 2021. Ms. Fogg stated that the first program is an "Owl Prowl" in which participants will use the walking trail at DeMarco Park to search for owls or evidence of owls in the area. Ms. Fogg expressed her enthusiasm for this new program and hoped for its success. She stated that the program would be limited to twelve participants including the leader due to COVID-19 restrictions. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the DeMarco Park Permit Application for the Audubon Society's nature program in conjunction with the Avon Public Library and the Park & Recreation Department. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

National Grid Street Light Discussion

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he has invited Mr. Cardinal from National Grid to the meeting to discuss the possibility of the town converting to LED streetlights. Mr. Cardinal informed the Board that Avon has 661 streetlights throughout the town. Mr. Cardinal stated that should the town wish to convert to LED lighting, it would be of no cost to the town. National Grid would maintain ownership of the streetlights and would continue the maintenance and repair of them. Mr. Cardinal stated that the town would receive an incentive based upon the kilowatts saved. The current cost incentive is .025 cents per kwh saved. Mr. Cardinal estimated that the town would save approximately \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year by switching to LED lighting. Mr. Cardinal stated that the \$17,000 estimate is based upon a higher wattage LED should the town select that option. The \$20,000 estimate is based upon a lower wattage LED. To determine which wattage the town should select, Mr. Cardinal suggested a demonstration for Mr. Enos and the Board to review. Mr. Cardinal suggested demos in both high traffic areas such as a busy intersection as well as a quieter, residential area. Mr. Suzor stated that he was a proponent of the Town of Avon switching to LED street lighting. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to authorize Mr. Enos to work with Mr. Cardinal and National Grid to move forward with the testing and demonstration phase of LED lower and higher wattages to get started with the conversion project. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Water Management Act – Contract Amendment for Phase Two

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that Phase Two of the Water Management Act is ready for commencement. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that upon execution of the contract amendment, Tata & Howard would perform the second phase of the study to address the emergency and long-term water supply needs for the Town. This phase of the project will focus on interconnection evaluation options. Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that there is still \$54,000 available in a grant to fund this contract. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve Amendment #1 of the Tata & Howard, Inc. contract for the second phase of the Water Management Act. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Enos reviewed the articles listed on the Special Town Meeting Warrant with the Board. Mr. Enos proposed the date of the Special Town Meeting to be Saturday, February 20, 2021. He stated that he has conferred with all parties as to their availability on that date. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant with the articles as read. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Enos stated that the second item to be addressed pertaining to the Special Town Meeting was limiting the quorum as the coronavirus pandemic is still ongoing. The Board agreed that it was necessary to reduce the quorum minimum. The final approval for the quorum reduction must be approved by the Town Moderator. As an initial step, Mr. Beckerman made a motion to post and advertise to the public the quorum reduction as required with further steps in the process to be taken thereto according to the rules. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Discussion

Mr. Enos informed the Board that Governor Baker spoke today at the Massachusetts Municipal Association with some promising news regarding state aid. Mr. Enos stated that he is still reviewing the figures for new growth and local receipts for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Mr. Enos stated that he is still waiting for health insurance increase estimates. Mr. Enos requested the Board consider a 2% increase for the electrical, gas and plumbing inspectors to be consistent with non-union increases in the FY 22 budget. Chairman Rose reminded all that the next budget workshop meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. remotely.

Personnel Action Forms

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form of Children's Library Assistant Diane Peterson from a Grade F8, Step 2 to a Grade F8, Step 3 at the rate of \$15.52 per hour effective January 28, 2021. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form of Council on Aging Van Driver Anthony Famaloro from a Grade F7, Step 5 to a Grade F7, Step 6 at the rate of \$15.42 per hour effective January 2, 2021. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Announcements

Chairman Rose announced that the February meetings of the Board will be February 4, 2021 and February 18, 2021.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos reminded members of the viewing audience that "Mask Up Avon" lawn signs are available and have already been placed in several locations throughout the town. Mr. Enos stated that pursuant to the town's flag policy, the flags at town-owned buildings will be lowered to half staff tomorrow in memory of those former employees who have recently passed away. Finally, Mr. Enos stated that the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Stoughton has been contacted to remind their truck drivers of the truck exclusion routes throughout the Town of Avon including the streets of Pond and Page.

Adjournment

At 7:45 p.m., Chairman Rose requested the Board make a motion to adjourn the Regular Session and to convene in Executive Session for the review and approval of executive session minutes to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements – and more specifically the Open Meeting Law, G.L. Chapter 30A, Sections 22(f) and (g) and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (AFSCME, Police, Fire) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. The Board will reconvene in open session for the sole purpose of adjournment. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session and to convene in Executive Session. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. January 21, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. January 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. January 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes
5. January 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes
6. Designer Selection Committee Change Order No. 3
7. DeMarco Park Permit Application for Audubon Society
8. Tata & Howard Contract Amendment No. 1
9. Special Town Meeting Warrant
10. Personnel Action Forms for Children's Library Assistant & Council on Aging Van Driver