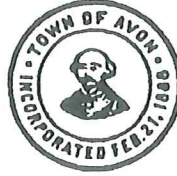


BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Steven P. Rose, Chairman
Eric S. Beckerman, Clerk
Jason L. Suzor, Associate

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020
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)
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director (via videoconference)
Tracy Self, Chair, Designer Selection Committee (via videoconference)
Warren Bruce Lane, Chair, Board of Assessors (via videoconference)
Cynthia Bernasconi, Board of Assessors (via videoconference)
Jonathon Madore, Board of Assessors (via videoconference)
Paul Sullivan, Principal Assessor (via videoconference)
Robert Costa, B.C. Tents (via videoconference)
Brian Delano, Weiss Sheet Metal (via videoconference)
Howard Davis, Datel Communications (via videoconference)
Marc Roy, Roy Elevators (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.

Mr. Brian Delano of Weiss Sheet Metal led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Tax Classification Hearing

Mr. Sullivan and the Board of Assessors appeared before the Board to commence the Tax Classification Hearing for Fiscal Year 2021. Mr. Sullivan introduced himself as Principal Assessor and read a brief presentation.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the purpose of the Tax Classification Hearing was for the Board of Selectmen to determine the allocation of the local tax burden to be borne by the four classes of real property for Fiscal Year 2021. Mr. Sullivan stated that the Selectmen must adopt a residential factor which is used to determine the percentage of the tax levy to apply to each class of real and personal property. After this is completed, the Board of Assessors applies these percentages to the individual property classes. Mr. Sullivan stated that the total taxable value for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$931,455,740. He stated that the total valuation from Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2021 increased by 1.07%. Mr. Sullivan stated that it was worth noting that residential values are rising, and the increase is from new construction, minor data changes and market demand for housing. Mr. Sullivan stated that commercial values increased over the prior year. Mr. Sullivan stated that industrial values increased slightly, affected by sales, new construction, and renovations. Also, noteworthy, was that personal property values decreased slightly due to limited growth in utility values and wireless telephone inventory values.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the increase in value, mainly from the state mandated revaluation of all properties, and new growth in each of the various classes, helps the FY2021 tax rate for all classes of property. With additional value, especially within the residential, commercial, and industrial classes, this provides a natural shift that helps ease the tax burden. Mr. Sullivan stated that regarding the taxable levy for Fiscal Year 2021, the total amount to be raised is \$29,589,077. Mr. Sullivan stated that state law permits the Town to adopt a residential factor less than one, which would have the effect of increasing the commercial, industrial, and personal property tax rates and decreasing the residential tax rate. Mr. Sullivan stated that the Town of Avon has traditionally chosen a factor less than one.

Mr. Sullivan stated that for Fiscal Year 2021, the Board of Assessors is recommending a factor of 1.37%. By choosing this factor, the tax rate for each class decreases by \$1.30 for residential and \$1.35 for commercial and industrial. Mr. Sullivan stated that there is no open space discount as the Town has no land that has been classified as such. Mr. Sullivan stated that since the Town has very few multi-family income-producing properties and virtually no second (seasonal) homes, the Board of Assessors does not recommend adopting the Residential Exemption for Fiscal Year 2020.

Chairman Rose opened the hearing for discussion. Mr. Davis of Datel Communications stated that there is no decrease of taxes as the assessment values of commercial properties have increased nearly 20%, thereby increasing taxes. Mr. Delano of Weiss Sheet Metal informed the Board that due to the COVID-19 pandemic his company has lost over \$300,000 in profit as sales are down nearly \$1 million dollars. Mr. Costa of B.C. Tents shared Mr. Delano's sentiments that businesses in the Avon Industrial Park are hurting and have been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Costa stated that the event company Freeman is shutting down their operations on Freeman Street as a direct result the impact of COVID-19. Mr. Roy of Roy Elevators humbly requested that the Board consider a factor of 1.35% as opposed to the Board of Assessors recommendation of 1.37%. Mr. Costa agreed with Mr. Roy's suggestion and requested the Board strongly consider that factor.

With no further questions from the audience, the Board took a vote on the Tax Classification for Fiscal Year 2021. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to set the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021 at a factor of 1.35%. 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 follow the recommendation of the Board of Assessors and not adopt a Residential Exemption for Fiscal Year 2020. 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 recommendation of the Board of Assessors and adopt a Small Commercial Exemption of up to 10% to qualifying commercial (Class 3) properties. 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.

With those votes, the Tax Classification Hearing for Fiscal Year 2021 concluded.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of November 19, 2020 (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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Updates & Update on Town Offices Opening Plan

Ms. Waldron informed the Board that Avon has had 13 positive cases in the past two weeks. Ms. Waldron stated that based on the state's new guidelines, Avon is still considered a green community, but cautioned all residents that they should not let their guard down and to continue to social distance and wear masks. Chief Spurr stated that in total, Avon has had 135 positive cases. Ms. Waldron stated that there is free COVID-19 testing available in Randolph at the Intergenerational Community Center but encouraged residents to call ahead as there has been an increase in the wait time. Ms. Waldron informed the Board and members of the viewing audience that there will be a free drive-thru flu clinic on December 6, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the JFK School in Holbrook. Mr. Enos informed the Board that based on the rising case numbers, he did not recommend reopening town offices to the public at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Special Town Meeting

Mr. Enos informed the Board that there were several potential articles that could warrant a Special Town Meeting in January including past due bills, retroactive payment for a police officer, funds to replenish the Septic Loan Program, transferring funds to library expenses to avoid waiver applications or a reduction in state aid, capital projects, and a transfer of funds from the stabilization account for the Fire Station Renovation Project to account for change orders. Chairman Rose requested the Board consider holding off scheduling a Town Meeting until there is further clarification from the Town Accountant as to funding for the shortages. Ms. Self stated that by delaying Town Meeting, it could potentially delay the project and the Designer Selection Committee would like to keep things moving along on schedule. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to table the discussion on the Special Town Meeting until the Board's

meeting of January 7, 2020. 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.

Reappointment of Constables

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to reappoint David Asiaf, David DiCenso, Adam Loomis, and Harold March as Constables, term to expire December 31, 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.

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS FOR 2021

Liquor Licenses

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the liquor license renewals for the following "All Alcohol – Restaurants": Shooters, Inc., and Generations. 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 liquor license renewals for following "Beer & Wine – Package Stores": A-1 Market, Avon Food Mart, and Wine-Com. 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 liquor license renewals for the following "All Alcohol – Package Stores": Big Jim's Liquors and Costco Liquors. 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.

Common Victualler's Licenses

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the following Common Victualler's license renewals: Costco, Avon House of Pizza, D'Angelos, Dunkin Donuts (600 Page Street), Dunkin Donuts (20 Memorial Drive), Shooters, Wal-Mart, Dunkin Donuts (5 Stockwell Drive), Dunkin Donuts (30 Memorial Drive), Mainha Restaurant, A-1 Market, Generations, Tambo's Kitchen, and the Avon VFW. 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.

Class I, II & III Licenses

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the following Class I license renewals: Ballard Mack Sales and Service, Inc., and New England Truck Solutions. 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 following Class II license renewals: George's Garage, Avon Auto Center, Brittanic Motors, Robert Sneider, C.N. Wood Co., Inc. and Avon Gas & Service, Inc. 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 following Class III license renewals: George's Garage. 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.

Entertainment Licenses

Mr. Beckerman made the motion to approve the entertainment license renewals of Shooters, Inc. for three pool tables, two automatic amusement devices which includes one juke box and one Public Entertainment license. 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 Public Entertainment license renewal for Generations, Inc. 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.

Appointment

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to appoint Council on Aging Director Christine Quinn to the Old Colony Area Agency on Aging and Elderly Services. 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.

Personnel Action Form

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form of Lynne McKenney for a rate increase from \$16.00 to \$16.40 effective December 9, 2020. 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.

Gift Acceptance Forms

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the gift acceptance form to the Council on Aging from Robert Conner in the amount of \$200 to be used for any senior activity at the discretion of the Director. 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.

Temporary Sign Permits

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Temporary Sign Permit for CC-Teknologies for one 8' x 2' vinyl banner and two 8' x 4' banners to be displayed on the building and on the grass in front of the building at 19 Memorial Drive advertising a sale from December 4, 2020 through February 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 Temporary Sign Permit for WB Donuts LLC d/b/a Dunkin Donuts at 20 Memorial Drive for a 10' x 3' banner promoting free coffee for a year and delight giveaway from December 4, 2020 through December 13, 2020. 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.

90 West High Street – Request for an Extension to Winter Moratorium

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that he received a request for an extension to the winter moratorium for 90 West High Street. The owner is seeking to repave his driveway to install a handicap ramp for a family member who is disabled and cannot climb the stairs to enter the house. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that when speaking to the Eversource representative, she mentioned that the gas line is currently exposed and

considers it a safety issue as well. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that should the Board approve the extension, Eversource can work on this project as quickly as this coming Saturday. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that DPW would work with the gas company regarding the terms and conditions. Mr. Suzor made a motion to grant the extension to the winter moratorium for 90 West High Street. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Correspondence

Chairman Rose announced that the Board has received correspondence from Comcast that fees will be increasing for Broadcast TV and the Regional Sports Network effective December 20, 2020.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos thanked Council on Aging Cook Cindy Seely for cooking the delicious Thanksgiving luncheon for the Town of Avon staff which was held in conjunction with the Employee Appreciation Awards where employees such as Peter Marinelli were honored for their years of service to the Town. Mr. Marinelli is celebrating his 30th year of working for the Town.

Mr. Enos stated that he has received a request from a company interested in opening a medical marijuana facility on Stockwell Drive. Mr. Enos has requested to meet with representatives from the company, Town Counsel, Special Town Counsel, and a member of the Board first prior to this matter coming before the Board formally. The Board approved the Town Administrator's request.

Town Counsel's Report

Mr. Lalli informed the Board that he is working on finalizing contracts in relation to the 40B Joanna Hills Estate Project. Mr. Lalli is also currently working on a Host Community Agreement.

Adjournment

At 8:45 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) 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. December 3, 2020 Meeting Agenda
2. November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes
3. Tax Rate Classification for Fiscal Year 2021 Presentation
4. Memo from Town Administrator to Board dated 12/02/20 regarding potential articles for Special Town Meeting
5. Letters from Constables requesting reappointment
6. 2021 License Renewals for Liquor Licenses, Common Victualler, Class I, II, III, and Entertainment Licenses
7. Letter from COA Director Christine Quinn requesting appointment to OCPC Area Agency on Aging and Elder Services
8. Personnel Action Form for Recording Secretary
9. Gift Acceptance Form for Council on Aging
10. Temporary Sign Permit Applications for CC-Teknologies & Dunkin Donuts
11. Street Opening Permit – Request for Extension to Moratorium for 90 West High Street
12. Comcast correspondence dated 11/18/20 regarding price changes