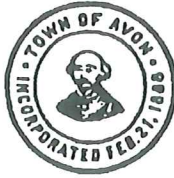


BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Steven P. Rose, Chairman
Eric S. Beckerman, Clerk
Jason L. Suzor, Associate

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts

Town Offices
Buckley Center 02322
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TOWN OF AVON
2021 APR 16 A 10:17
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 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)
Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent (via videoconference)
Patricia Bessette, Town Clerk (via videoconference)
Senator Walter Timilty
Fire Chief Robert Spurr
Firefighter Justin Powers

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.

Senator Timilty led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Recognition Ceremony of New Firefighter Justin Powers

Chief Spurr was pleased to announce that Justin Powers is a recent graduate of the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Chief Spurr stated that Mr. Powers is also a member of the National Guard and a paramedic student. Senator Timilty issued Mr. Powers a Citation from the State House and congratulated him on his accomplishments.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 4, 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Waldron informed the Board that there has been a slight increase over the past two weeks in the number of positive coronavirus cases in Avon from 19 to 24. Ms. Waldron stated that this should be a reminder that the virus is still active, and people should remain vigilant. Ms. Waldron stated that Governor Baker has extended the vaccine rollout to eligible citizens. Ms. Waldron stated that as of April 5, 2021, vaccinations will be available to people aged 55 or older and/or people with one certain medical condition. Ms. Waldron stated that as of April 19, 2021, vaccinations will be available to anyone aged 16 or older. Ms. Waldron was pleased to report that over 500 citizens were vaccinated at the Randolph clinic this week. Chief Spurr agreed with Ms. Waldron that the vaccination clinics in Randolph have been very successful. Chief Spurr stated that he and Ms. Waldron are working with Mr. Enos regarding the Town Offices Reopening Plan.

Update on Town Opening Plan

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he, Chief Spurr, and Ms. Waldron met this week to review the options for opening Town buildings to the public.

Civic Center/Recreation – Mr. Enos stated that based on occupancy parameters, it is recommended that a total of 12 people be allowed into the Civic Center at one time, including staff members. Mr. Enos stated that this would allow some programs to resume inside with limitations. All cleaning and health protocols should be used prior and after any event. Mr. Enos informed the Board that he is working with the Park & Recreation Commission to provide a safe, outdoor Summer Program within the state guidelines and more details to follow as they develop at future meetings of the Board.

Avon Public Library – Mr. Enos informed the Board that the library is currently open by appointment only. Mr. Enos recommended opening the library to normal hours without an appointment using safety protocols such as mask wearing, social distancing, cleaning, and keeping a sign-in log. Mr. Enos stated that the maximum number of people in the library would be 20 people at one time, including patrons and employees. The upper section would remain closed to the public as it contains the staff's workspace. Story time has been requested indoors when the weather is inclement. The location would be in the children's section and would allow up to four families in social distanced, taped off areas. Computer usage would be limited to two people at a time. Barriers would be set up between computers and stations sanitized after usage. Mr. Enos stated that the Library Director is requesting seven seats at three tables with proper distance between seats as well as plexiglass dividers. Mr. Enos recommended a maximum of six chairs with only two tables.

Town Hall – Mr. Enos informed the Board that a standing que has been devised for Town Hall customers. This includes floor markings for social distancing while waiting for available staff to assist. There would be 2-3 spots for waiting and one spot for someone at a walk-up window. Mr. Enos stated that during the initial roll out, he did not recommend customers access to offices beyond the front hall computer monitor, which would mean that patrons wishing to visit with the DPW, Board of Health, or Selectmen would go to an accessible window and request to someone to come out to assist them. Mr. Enos stated that this would control the number of people going through Town Hall. Mr. Enos stated that this with set-up, the maximum number of customers in Town Hall during one-time would be seven, not including employees. Appointments and the outside Drop Box would still be encouraged as well.

Meetings – Mr. Enos recommended that public meetings continue to remain remote due to social distancing protocols.

Council on Aging – Mr. Enos recommended starting up smaller, in-person programs such as tap dancing, Sit & Fit, and chair yoga. Mr. Enos stated that the dining room area has a maximum capacity of 25 people in that section including staff. Mr. Enos did not recommend commencing large food operations right now. Other programs such as coffee hours with smaller gatherings could be amendable with proper distancing and protocols.

Town Hall Parking Lot – Mr. Enos proposed purchasing a large tent for the back area of the parking lot using CARES funding. This would allow for greater flexibility for activities for the Council on Aging, Park & Recreation, and library. Mr. Enos proposed a tent large enough to sit 30-35 people comfortably. Additional requirements would include jersey barriers and an onsite temporary storage container to secure tables and chairs at night. The Board was concerned with the parking situation once the tent is in place. Chairman Rose requested to continue the discussion about a tent for the Town Hall parking lot at a further meeting. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the outline for the Town Buildings Opening Plan with restrictions on the tent. 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.

Handbook for Elected and Appointed Officials

Mr. Enos stated that Ms. Bessette has drafted a Handbook for Elected and Appointed Officials to distribute as new people come aboard Boards and Committees. Mr. Beckerman stated that he reviewed the handbook previously and requested some revisions to Ms. Bessette to which she replied that she did make the corrections. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the revised Handbook for Elected and Appointed Officials. 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.

Snow & Ice Deficit

Mr. Enos informed the Board that the Snow & Ice Deficit amount had remain unchanged since the last meeting of the Board.

Review Town Meeting Warrants

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he had made several edits based on the discussion of the Workshop Meeting of March 16, 2021 to review the draft Warrants. After reviewing the forty-one (41) Warrant articles, Mr. Enos proposed combining similar like articles to speed up the voting process or reduce the number of articles. Mr. Enos also proposed only one Town Meeting Warrant (as opposed to a Special Meeting and an Annual Meeting) with capital items placed at the end of the Warrant. Mr. Enos proposed no lottery system to save time and by placing the capital needs at the back, it will allow for the

conclusion of the meeting until another night should time run out in an organized manner for continuation on the following evening. Mr. Enos requested guidance from the Board. He also requested an additional Workshop Meeting of the Board to review a second draft of the Warrant. Chairman Rose also requested that a placeholder article be placed in the draft Warrant for a bylaw change needed from the Planning Board. Mr. Beckerman made a motion for Mr. Enos to continue editing and revising the draft Warrant based on his recommendation to the Board. 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements

After a brief discussion due to scheduling conflicts, Chairman Rose announced that the April meetings of the Board will be April 15, 2021 and April 29, 2021.

Ms. Bessette announced that she has heard from the State that Early Voting by mail will be extended until June 2021 which means that it will be applicable for the Annual Town Election of April 13, 2021.

Mr. Beckerman informed the Board that he has apprised of a Public Hearing before the Town of Holbrook Planning Board regarding a Special Permit for Oldcastle APG Northeast located at 46 Spring Street in Holbrook requesting to operate their business 24 hours a day from Monday through Saturday. Mr. Beckerman stated that the Public Hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and he will plan to be in attendance. Mr. Beckerman made a motion for the Town Administrator draft a letter to the Holbrook Planning Board, Health Agent, and Board of Selectmen in opposition to this request as this business borders a residential neighborhood in the Town of Avon and will be a disruption to residents of that area. 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.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he has received three quotes for Catch Basin Cleaning for the Department of Public Works. Mr. Enos stated that the lowest bidder was RJ Gabriel Construction Co. in Bridgewater. Mr. Enos requested the Board award the bid to this company pending the contract and insurance documents. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to award the Catch Basin Cleaning bid to RJ Gabriel Construction Co. 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 informed the Board that an RFQ has been advertised for a Town Offices Assessment and Feasibility Study. Mr. Enos stated that a site visit has been scheduled for prospective bidders on March 23, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. The bid opening will be April 7, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Adjournment

At 7:50 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. 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. March 18, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. Town Building Opening Plan Memorandum
4. Handbook for Appointed and Elected Officials
5. Memorandum regarding Town Meeting Warrants
6. Catch Basin Cleaning Quotes