

**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 NOV -1 A 10:43

TOWN CLERK

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Steven P. Rose, Chairman  
Eric S. Beckerman, Clerk  
Jason L. Suzor, Associate

**Others Present:** Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator  
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant  
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel  
Fire Chief Robert Spurr  
Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent  
William A. Fitzgerald, DPW Director

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members present. He announced that this meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted via a hybrid method. The public may attend the Selectmen meetings in-person or may continue to participate via remote Zoom access. Until further notice, in-person attendees, who are not vaccinated, will be recommended to wear a mask. Chairman Rose reminded the viewing audience that people 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](http://www.avontv.org).

Town Counsel Joseph Lalli led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Participation**

None

**Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 14, 2021 (Workshop Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 23, 2021 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 27, 2021 (Workshop Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 30, 2021 (Workshop Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 Updates**

Ms. Waldron informed the Board that the number of positive cases in town has been steadily decreasing over the past three weeks. According to this week's statistics, there are sixteen positive cases. Ms. Waldron stated that 73% of Avon residents have received their first vaccine, while 65% are fully vaccinated. Ms. Waldron stated that the cumulative total for the town is 598 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Chief Spurr stated that he was concerned with the numbers rising during the peak holiday season. He urged all citizens to get vaccinated. Ms. Waldron agreed with Chief Spurr and encouraged the use of masks, social distancing, and vaccines. Chief Spurr stated that the Avon Walmart and the Intergenerational Center in Randolph have the COVID-19 vaccine available, as well as the Pfizer booster shots for those individuals eligible. Ms. Waldron stated that citizens can get tested for COVID-19 in Randolph at no charge.

### **Update on Town Opening Plan**

Mr. Enos requested that the Board continue to allow hybrid meetings in which participants can either attend in person or via teleconference due to the ongoing pandemic. The Board agreed with Mr. Enos' recommendation for the availability of hybrid meetings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Fiscal Year 2022 Water Rates**

Mr. Fitzgerald appeared before the Board to discuss the water rates. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that pursuant to previous discussions with the Board, the proposed rates are intended to continue to reduce the taxpayer subsidy of water system costs, as well as meet the state requirements that water rates recover water costs, over a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that with these proposed rates, the average bill is estimated to increase about \$20.00.

<b>Tier</b>	<b>FY21</b>	<b>Proposed FY22</b>
Base Charge	\$80	\$90
Tier 1 – 0-1,400 ccf	\$0.75 per ccf	\$1.00 per ccf
Tier 2 – 1,401-4,000 ccf	\$3.10 per ccf above 1,400	\$4.00 per ccf above 1,400
Tier 3 – 4,0001 to 8,000 ccf	\$4.10 per ccf above 4,000	\$5.00 per ccf above 4,000
Tier 4 – 8,0001 ccf and above	\$5.95 per ccf above 8,000	\$6.50 per ccf above 8,000

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the water rates for Fiscal Year 2022 as recommended by the DPW Director. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs (HMA)**

Mr. Fitzgerald requested permission from the Board to apply for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs (HMA) specifically for (1) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC); and (2) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that



FEMA has millions of dollars in funding available for these programs. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to allow the DPW Director apply for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Fiscal Year 2022 Water Management Act**

Mr. Fitzgerald requested permission from the Board to apply for this grant to fund the meter reading software and hardware upgrades. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to allow the DPW Director to apply for the Fiscal Year 2022 Water Management Act. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Interconnect Design Contract**

Pursuant to Mr. Fitzgerald's request, the Board tabled the discussion on the Interconnect Design Contract.

#### **Temporary Sign Permit Applications**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Temporary Sign Permit for CC-Teknologies Inc. for five 18" x 24" yard signs advertising "Now Hiring" from October 8, 2021 through December 23, 2021. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Temporary Sign Permit for CC-Teknologies Inc. for two 2' x 10' vinyl banners to be displayed on the front of the first floor of the building and on the property fence from October 8, 2021 through December 23, 2021. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **2020 TNC Rides – Municipal Disbursement**

Mr. Enos informed the Board that the Department of Utilities has completed its disbursement of the 2020 per-ride assessment funds. The amount of these funds was calculated based upon the number of Transportation Network Company (TNC) rides, such as Uber and Lyft, that originated within the town in 2020. Mr. Enos stated that the Town of Avon's disbursement was \$2,381.30. Mr. Enos stated that these funds are special revenue and must be appropriated to towards transportation infrastructure and reported accordingly. Mr. Enos stated that due to the small amount of funding received, the money be allocated towards future infrastructure projects. The Board agreed with Mr. Enos' recommendation.

#### **Paving Contract Extension**

Mr. Fitzgerald recommended that the Board exercise the first of the two one-year extensions to the 2020 paving bid with T.L. Edwards. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the recommendation of the DPW Director. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Status Update of Street Opening Permits**

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Assistant DPW Director Brian Martin has reviewed all the Street Opening Permits for 2021 by Eversource. He has reviewed his findings with Ms. Faro. Ms. Faro informed the Board that the permit for 3 Shawn Drive has expired and Eversource will not be seeking a new permit until the spring of 2022. She stated that Wales Avenue and Rear Wales Avenue have scheduled dates for completion. Ms. Faro stated that the permit applications for 13 Foster Street and 275 Central Street were just received and the DPW will recommend that the Board deny these permits due to the streets being newly paved and under the five-year moratorium. Finally, Ms. Faro stated that work done on 2021

permits by Eversource has been satisfactory and has met the required trench rehabilitation standards as outlined by the Department of Public Works. Chairman Rose thanked Ms. Faro for the update and requested that she draft a spreadsheet for a status update on 2020 Street Opening Permits.

### **Gift Acceptance Forms**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the gift donation from the Avon Firefighters Relief Association to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$200 to sponsor lunch at the Senior Center. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Enos was pleased to report that the town was awarded \$288,000 from the MassWorks Infrastructure Program to support the Central Street/Reservoir Street Safety/Pedestrian/Bike Improvements project. Mr. Enos stated that this grant along with the Shared Streets grant will allow the town to put the shared path from Avon up to the Brockton line. He commended Mr. Fitzgerald on his hard work and effort which rewarded the town with such a large amount of funding for this project.

Mr. Enos stated that the consultants from MRI returned to town this week to interview dispatchers on their role in the public safety process. Mr. Enos stated that MRI will start preparing the draft report on the Fire Department.

Mr. Enos stated that a meeting was held this week on the DeMarco Park improvement project for public input. Mr. Enos reminded the Board that the town has been working with a landscape architect on potential improvements to the front area of DeMarco Park. This includes looking at parking, events, accessibility, and walking paths. Mr. Enos stated that different layouts were reviewed at the meeting and hoped to have a version for the Board to review at the next meeting. Mr. Enos stated that the architect is still looking for the best available path for emergencies.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he is applying for two grants from the Community Compact Agreement. The first grant is an IT grant to assist with things such as electronic payments, online permitting, and digitalizing records. The second grant would deal with best practices for financial forecasting. Mr. Enos stated that he will apply for both grants at the same time.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he has received a preliminary plan from the architects on the Town Hall Feasibility Study. The draft plan was based on the request by the Board to renovate within the existing square footage of the building. Chairman Rose requested the Board review the preliminary plan and provide feedback prior to a revised plan is drafted.

Mr. Enos stated that the Avon Firefighters Relief Association donated \$5,090 to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute by selling pink t-shirts for breast cancer awareness.

Mr. Enos stated that we are approaching budget season. He stated that this year the budget will be uploaded to Zobrio which is the town's financial software, as opposed to ClearGov, which was used last year. Mr. Enos stated that once finalized, the department heads will be trained on the database.

Mr. Enos stated that last weekend was a busy weekend in town with Oktoberfest at DeMarco Park on Saturday, October 2, 2021 and the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House at the Fire Station on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Both events were well attended.

## Adjournment

At 7:27p.m., Mr. Beckerman made a motion to adjourn the regular session and to convene in Executive Session to review and approve executive session meeting minutes to comply with 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, and Call Firefighters) or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position; and to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (COA 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.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. October 7, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. September 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. September 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. September 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes
5. September 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes
6. Memo from DPW Director to Board proposing Fiscal Year 2022 Water Rates
7. Temporary Sign Permit Application
8. 2020 TNC Rides – Municipal Disbursement Chart
9. Excel Spreadsheet of 2021 Street Opening Permits Status
10. Gift Acceptance Form for Council on Aging