

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
(508) 588-0414
FAX (508) 559-0209

TOWN OF AVON
2021 NOV -5 A 8:41
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 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
Brian Martin, Assistant DPW Director (via videoconference)
Captain Dan Wauhob
Senator Walter Timilty
Dan Hart, Call Firefighter (via videoconference)

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.

Fire Chief Spurr led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Pinning Ceremony for New Fire Captain

Chief Spurr was pleased to announce that Firefighter Dan Wauhob has been promoted to the position of Captain after many years of dedicated service to the town. Captain Wauhob was pinned by his wife. Senator Timilty issued Captain Wauhob a Citation from the State House in recognition of his newly appointed position with the Avon Fire Department.

Proclamation for Avon Firefighters Relief Association

Chairman Rose issued a Proclamation from the Board to the Avon Firefighters Relief Association for raising \$5,090 to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute by selling pink t-shirts for breast cancer awareness. Dan Hart accepted the award on behalf of the Avon Firefighters Relief Association. He thanked everyone for their support in this endeavor.

Chairman Rose recognized October 28, 2021 as National First Responders Appreciation Day. He thanked the town's first responders for their hard work especially over the past few days with the storm that knocked down trees and caused power outages.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of October 7, 2021 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of October 12, 2021 (Workshop Session) as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of October 14, 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 COVID-19 cases in Avon continue to decrease from 19 to 12 cases in the past week. Ms. Waldron stated that vaccination rates are slowly rising with 74% of residents having received their first dose, while 67% of residents are fully vaccinated. Ms. Waldron stated that the Randolph Intergenerational Community Center in Randolph is still both a testing and vaccination site for citizens. The Pfizer booster vaccine is also available in Randolph. Walmart is now offering the Moderna vaccine as well.

Storm Update

Chief Spurr informed the Board that the recent storm this week contained winds in some parts of Southeastern Massachusetts of over 100 mph, with 60 mph winds blowing through Avon. Chief Spurr stated that many trees had fallen and approximately 83% of Avon lost power which caused many streetlights to be out as well. Chief Spurr stated that as of this evening, only 14% of Avon residents are still without power. Avon Town Hall held a warming and charging center today in the Mary McDermott room with about a dozen people who stopped by for some relief. Chief Spurr stated that the Fire Department responded to three carbon monoxide incidents today for dangerous levels, however, there were no injuries as all parties were alerted by a carbon monoxide detector. Ms. Waldron informed residents that the compost site will be open on Friday, October 29, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to accommodate residents cleaning up from the past storm.

NEW BUSINESS

Walmart – Request for Special Holiday Hours for Extended Black Friday Event

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he has received a request from the Walmart Store Manager Bert Cabral to open the store early for business on November 5, 2021, November 12, 2021, and November 26, 2021 at 5:00 a.m. for holiday shopping for their customers. Mr. Enos stated that Mr. Cabral and Police Chief Bukunt have agreed to two officers for police detail on November 5th and November 12th, and four officers for police detail on November 26th, the day after Thanksgiving. Mr. Cabral states in his letter that proper capacity protocol will be followed as customer traffic dictates. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve Walmart's request for special holiday hours for the extended Black Friday event. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Council on Aging Director Employment Agreement

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve and execute the Employment Agreement for Jane Carthas as Council on Aging Director. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Appointment of Fall Counselors

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the appointment of Jean-Carly Mesalon as a Fall Counselor for the Park & Recreation Commission at a Grade G10, Step 4, at the rate of \$13.66 per hour upon the satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the appointment of Charlie Dean as a Fall Counselor for the Park & Recreation Commission at a Grade G10, Step 3, at the rate of \$13.54 per hour upon the satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Debt Exclusion Vote

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve Treasurer/Collector Deb Morin's Debt Exclusion Report in the amount of \$67,871.36 to the Board of Assessors, upon approval from the Board of Selectmen, as required by the Department of Revenue. Pursuant to MGL 59 Section 21C(n), this law allows the Board of Selectmen to vote exempt water debt without a Proposition 2 ½ election. The Town of Avon's MWPAT Loans include DW1-17, CW0016A, and West Spring Street. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Status of Street Opening Permits

Mr. Martin informed the Board that he has reviewed all street opening permits submitted in 2020. He informed the Board that all street opening permit applications submitted in the Brentwood area were completed prior to the topcoat being placed on the street except for one emergency gas leak. Mr. Martin stated that the street opening permit for 150 Main Street at the Fire Station was done in conjunction with the renovation project. Mr. Martin stated that overall, all rehabilitated trenches from 2020 permits are in good standing.

Status of Street Opening Permit

Mr. Martin informed the Board he has received a Street Opening Permit Application from Eversource for 380 West Main Street to install new gas service. Mr. Martin stated that while this permit was originally dismissed as West Main Street is still under the five-year moratorium, the representative from Eversource has informed him that the gas main is in the front yard of the resident's property and not in the street. The Eversource supervisor has stated that no excavation in the street would be required. Mr. Martin stated that he would oversee the project. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit Application from Eversource for 380 West Main Street for a 4' x 6' off road tie in cut and trench on private property to install new gas service with the stipulation that the project is supervised by the Assistant DPW Director. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Request for Surplus Form

Mr. Martin requested the Board surplus an old, metal, roll-up garage door from Quonset Hut when it collapsed. Mr. Martin stated that there is now a new aluminum door on the hut. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to declare the metal, roll-up garage door as surplus. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Norfolk County ARPA Grant Official Designees

Mr. Enos informed the Board that pursuant to the terms of the Norfolk County ARPA Grant, the Board must vote on two points of contact as official designees. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to appoint Town Accountant Erin Barry as the "Creator" and Town Administrator Gregory Enos as the "Certifier" of the Norfolk County ARPA Grant. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements

Chairman Rose announced that the hours for Trick or Treating on October 31, 2021 will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the evening.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to close Town Offices and the Avon Public Library to the public on November 26, 2021, the day after Thanksgiving, as only a skeleton crew will be working in the buildings. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Rose announced that the November meetings of the Board will be November 4, 2021 and November 18, 2021. The Tax Classification Hearing will take place at the November 4th meeting of the Board.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos informed the Board that Town Hall was available today for a warming and charging center after the recent storm. He stated that Council on Aging staff set up a command center at the warming center and made calls to seniors affected by the storm. The Council on Aging Director was also working with the Avon Housing Authority to coordinate a warming and charging center at their community room as well for today and tomorrow.

Mr. Enos stated that road construction has commenced on the Central Street project and many residents were unaware until their road was detoured. Mr. Enos will request the Assistant DPW Director Brian Martin to provide weekly updates as to the status of construction and update the website accordingly.

Adjournment

At 7:25 p.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 (Fire Chief). 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 28, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. Proclamation for Avon Firefighters Relief Association
3. October 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. October 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes
5. October 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes
6. Letter from Walmart manager requesting extended holiday hours
7. Council on Aging Director Employment Agreement
8. Memo regarding debt exclusion vote
9. 2020 Street Opening Permit spreadsheet
10. Street Opening Permit for 380 West Main Street
11. Surplus Form from DPW
12. E-mail from Town Accountant regarding ARPA grant designees