

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
2022 MAY -6 A 11:09
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
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

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.

Matthew Doucet led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reorganization of the Board

Mr. Suzor made a motion to reappoint Mr. Rose as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to reappoint Mr. Beckerman as Clerk of the Board. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Participation

William Buckley appeared before the Board and introduced himself as the Assistant County Director at Norfolk County. Mr. Buckley stated that he was visiting all local Select Boards to promote regional services and how Norfolk County can be of assistance. Mr. Buckley stated that the Town of Avon has benefited from the grant for a regionalized health care nurse. Mr. Buckley's office is also helping with ARPA grants. Mr. Buckley encouraged the Board to contact his office should they have any questions or concerns.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the April 7, 2022 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget & Annual Town Meeting Warrant Presentation for Fiscal Year 2023

Mr. Enos presented the Fiscal 2023 Budget and Warrant Information PowerPoint presentation to the Board in anticipation of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting on May 3, 2022. Mr. Enos provided the Board updated figures and amounts of the Stabilization Accounts as of April 21, 2022. He also informed the Board of the year-to-date amounts and Fiscal Year 2023 estimates on local receipts. He then provided an overall budget review including state aid figures, the latest cherry sheet, the levy limit, revenues, expenses, expenses by department, and historical budget increases. Mr. Enos then reviewed each article on the Warrant and welcomed questions by the Board and members of the viewing audience.

Mr. Enos requested the Board consider reducing the Town Meeting quorum as he was concerned due to last year's low attendance rate. Mr. Suzor suggested lowering the number to 40 participants. Chairman Rose was concerned about continuing to lower the quorum on a multi-million-dollar operating budget for the town. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to lower the Town Meeting quorum to 40 registered voters for 2022. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Gift Acceptance Forms

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the gift donation in the amount of \$6,000 by the Howard Trust Foundation to the Council on Aging for any program that benefits the seniors with the restriction that the funds cannot be used for salaries or capital expenditures. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the gift donation in the amount of \$5,000 by the Tufts Health Plan Foundation Funding – Healthy for Life Program for any program that benefits the seniors with approval from Lauren Bartell of the Old Colony Young Men' Christian. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion of Street Opening Permit Application Process

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he has been working with the DPW Director Mr. Fitzgerald to revise the Street Opening Permit Applications to include language that stipulates that the contractor will sign and return the application upon completion for tracking purposes. In addition, the supplement to the application has been revised to specify that permits for roads subject to the five-year moratorium will only be allowed for emergency utility or other mandated repairs. Other revised language added notes that the contractor must contact the DPW prior to the start of the project. Also, new permits may not be issued if the contractor has too many outstanding permits or is non-compliant with previous permits. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the revised Street Opening Permit Application. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Discussion of Pay Rates for Seasonal Employees

Mr. Enos informed the Board that departments would like to post for their seasonal positions. He reminded the Board that last year, using the Personnel Bylaws chart, seasonal positions were reclassified to higher levels on the "G" chart and new staff was hired at a Step 3, while returning staff were hired at Steps 4 or higher depending on their years of experience. Mr. Enos stated that while most non-union employees were reclassified in January according to the pay and compensation study, seasonal staff was not specifically placed on any pay scale. Mr. Enos recommended that Counselors be placed on Grade 1 of the revised pay scale between Steps 1 and 2 based on their experience. Mr. Enos recommended that the Lead Counselor be placed on a Grade 2 and the Playground Supervisor be placed on a Grade 3. Mr. Enos recommended that Seasonal DPW Laborers also be placed on the Grade 3 scale. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the placement of the seasonal employees on the revised pay scale chart as recommended by the Town Administrator. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Surplus Materials

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the disposition of six, rectangular folding tables at the Council on Aging. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Memorial Day Parade

Mr. Doucet appeared before the Board to discuss the 2022 Memorial Day Parade. He informed the Board that due to many neighboring towns reinstating their parades after Covid-19, he requested that the date and time of the parade be changed to Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Doucet stated that by changing the date, many of the vendors that were previously booked on the Sunday will have availability for the Saturday date. Mr. Doucet informed the Board he was working closely with the veterans from the VFW and Ms. Faro to plan this year's parade. The parade will commence at St. Michael's Church on North Main Street through Route 28 and will conclude at the VFW. He stated there will be a cookout at the VFW following the conclusion of the parade that all participants and spectators will be invited to attend. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the date change of the Memorial Day Parade to Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcements

Mr. Enos announced that National Grid has provided 30-day notification of upcoming sideline vegetation management activities within the town. The sideline work will be conducted between 30 days of April 7, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

Chairman Rose announced that the May meetings of the Board will be May 5, 2022 and May 19, 2022.

Mr. Beckerman read a letter from Lynch's Towing Service requesting to be placed on the tow list for police-related matters. Ms. Faro will forward the letter to Chief Bukunt for his review and consideration.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he is looking to clean up the West Wing and discard any unused office furniture.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that Chief Bukunt has requested an increase in the private detail cruiser rate from \$10 per hour to \$20 per hour due to the increase in costs associated with vehicle maintenance, parts,

and fuel. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the request of Chief Bukunt to increase the private detail cruiser rate to \$20 per hour. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Enos presented the Board with a Personnel Action Form for new Police Officer Stephen Stenstrom which as an oversight was not previously presented formally to the Board. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form and appoint Stephen Stenstrom as a Police Officer with the Avon Police Department. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Enos presented the Board with a few options from the locksmith regarding locks and keys for Town Offices for security reasons. The options included swapping out locks, replacing keys, and making master keys. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to replace locks and purchase the exterior keys which cannot be replicated easily at the local hardware store for higher security and safety in the building. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he recently received another proposal for a 40B Project to be located off of Page Street. The state has already requested a walk-through of this property. He requested permission to hire special counsel for this project. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Town Administrator's request and hire special counsel for the 40B Project. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Enos stated that he will start requesting line-item transfers at the May 5, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Enos stated that he has received calls from concerned residents regarding speeding on Page Street and trucks not adhering to the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion route. He has reached out to Chief Bukunt regarding this matter.

Mr. Enos informed the Board he received a complaint from a resident on Joanna Road regarding the developer for the Joanna Estates 40B project. Mr. Enos informed the Board he will contact the developer and the ZBA regarding this matter. He also informed the resident to contact the developer directly.

Adjournment

At 8:10 p.m., Mr. Beckerman made 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); to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (PFAS) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's litigating position; and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (AFSCME, Police, Fire, Call Firefighters) or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. April 21, 2022 Meeting Agenda
2. April 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. FY 23 Budget Presentation and Warrant Information Session PowerPoint
4. Gift Acceptance Forms for the Council on Aging
5. Revised Street Opening Permit Application
6. Memo from Town Administrator to Board dated 04/20/22 re: pay scale and compensation study for seasonal staff
7. Surplus Request Form
8. National Grid Notification of Upcoming Sideline Vegetation Management Activities
9. Letter from Chief Bukunt to G. Enos re: private detail cruiser rate
10. Personnel Action Form for Stephen Stenstrom
11. Memo from Town Administrator to Board dated 04/21/22 re: proposal from locksmith doors at Town Offices