

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts



Town Offices
Buckley Center 02322
(508) 588-0414
FAX (508) 559-0209

TOWN OF AVON

2022 OCT 24 A 10:04

TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022
6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk

Others Present: Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel
William A. Fitzgerald, DPW Director (via videoconference)
Brian Martin, Assistant DPW Director

Chairman Beckerman 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 Beckerman reminded the viewing audience that people who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by 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.

Mr. Suzor led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the September 15, 2022 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit Application of Eversource Gas Company to remove and replace the transition end cap on the plastic gas main with a proposed 4' x 6' road cut on Wales Avenue. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

New Appointments

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Therese Hickey to the position of Assistant Treasurer effective October 31, 2022. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ms. Hickey was in the audience and introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Hickey is a Certified Public Accountant and has been working in a private accounting firm for many years. The Board welcomed Ms. Hickey to the Town of Avon.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Sharon Simon to the position of Administrative Assistant supporting both the Town Clerk and the Board of Health effective October 11, 2022. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Simon attended the meeting via videoconference and introduced herself to the Board. She was looking forward to starting the position on Tuesday.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Eric Ficarra to the position of Highway Laborer for the Department of Public Works effective October 11, 2022. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Ficarra has worked as a Seasonal Laborer for the past four summers.

Appointment Extension

Mr. Martin informed the Board that there are some remaining projects he would like to wrap up before the winter such as some work in the fields and parks, as well as the Bodwell Street drainage project. Due to some upcoming vacations, Mr. Martin requested the Board extend Mr. Bates seasonal employment a bit longer as it was scheduled to conclude this week. Mr. Suzor made a motion to extend Mr. Bates seasonal employment by 30 days at which time it can be reviewed and discussed as to whether an additional extension will be needed. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Streetlighting for Central Street and Reservoir Street

Mr. Enos informed the Board that Joseph Cardinal of National Grid and Assistant DPW Director Brian Martin reviewed the street lighting on Central Street and Reservoir Street and came up with three locations where lighting could be added as some areas of those roads are very dark at night. The proposed lighting is as follows:

Pole #4 on Reservoir Street – 20-watt LED lighting proposed
Pole #8 on Reservoir Street – 20-watt LED lighting proposed
Pole #220 on Central Street – 20-watt LED lighting proposed.

Mr. Enos stated that if the Board approves, National Grid will install the lighting at no cost to the town and add the billing for usage to the town's existing streetlighting account. He displayed photographs of the proposed lighting areas for the Board to review.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the proposed additional three streetlights for Reservoir Street and Central Street. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Enos will inform Mr. Cardinal of the Board's decision.

Snowplowing Contracts

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he recommended awarding the snowplowing contract to T.L. Edwards. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that fuel costs and driver shortages contributed to an increase of the rates this year.

Equipment Description and Rates

Large loader (greater than 12' plow, over 42,000 lbs.) at the rate of \$250 per hour
Loader (12' plow minimum, less than 42,000 lbs.) at the rate of 225 per hour
Six Wheel, 4WD Plow Vehicle, GVW less than 25,000, 10' power angle plow) - \$150 per hour

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the snowplowing contract would be with the standard terms, conditions, and insurance, and would be approved and signed by Town Counsel and the Town Accountant.

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that the 2022-2023 MassDOT state bids have salt increasing from \$52.60 to \$66.30 and treated salt from \$87.50 to \$103.00.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve and award the snowplowing contract to T.L. Edwards and authorize Mr. Fitzgerald to get salt from the State List. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Water Infrastructure Project – ARPA Funding

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that he has compiled a list of AC pipe streets for consideration with ARPA funds for construction early next year. That would require a unit-based bid. The current road bid then could be used for the road reconstruction portion. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the CIP identifies 5,300 linear feet of AC pipe, most from the 1950's in the Glendower area of town. Just recently, one of the pipes burst on Oak Street.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that the town has received \$1.2 million in ARPA funds. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the cost for pipe replacement on Maple, Beech, Oak, and Cedar Streets would be \$1.24 million with a permanent patch, \$1.75 million with full depth reconstruction. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that May and Chestnut are two other streets with AC pipe that could be added to the project at approximate costs of \$328,000 with the permanent patch or \$463,000 with full depth reconstruction.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that Lambert Drive is another street with an AC line, but that replacement project would have to be coordinated with a future project involving Memorial Drive and East Main Street.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that using Chapter 90 funding for a portion of the road work repair is a possibility depending on how much is allotted and how much is used for other projects. The Complete Streets plan did identify the Glendower area as a good candidate for sidewalks.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that should the Board vote to approve the AC pipe replacement project, he and Mr. Fitzgerald could move forward with putting out the bids for this project. This would most likely be a project for the spring.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator and DPW Director to move forward with the AC pipe replacement project as described in Mr. Fitzgerald's memorandum to the Board and request quotes for future consideration. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Street Opening Permit Applications

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit Application from Eversource Gas Company to abandon stub at the gas main at 408 East Main Street with a proposed 4' x 6' road cut on Lambert Drive. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit Application from Eversource Gas Company to replace the riser for gas meters at 33 Bartlett Street. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Facility Repairs: Library

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he has consulted with the Assistant DPW Director and Building Inspector who have confirmed that both external exit stairs at the Avon Public Library need to be repaired. Mr. Enos stated that he has received quotes from two different contractors and the estimates are both approximately \$10,000 for each set of stairs. Mr. Enos stated since the repair is a necessity, the only question is where the funding will come for this repair. Mr. Enos stated that the options for funding include requesting a reserve fund transfer from the Finance Committee or to take the money from the capital plan. Mr. Enos stated since the town does not currently have a Capital Planning Committee the Board of Selectmen would act in its place. A capital project is also a project over \$25,000 although Mr. Enos stated that he could easily see this project adding to that amount when taking into consideration construction change orders. Mr. Suzor made a motion to use capital funds for the library stairs replacement project as it is a safety issue. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Katherine's Way Road Acceptance Documentation

Mr. Lalli provided the Board with documents pertaining to the town's acceptance of Katherine's Way as a public road including the operation and maintenance plan, the survey of the road, and the Quitclaim Deed. Mr. Lalli stated that the Planning Board has reviewed and approved of this proposal. Mr. Lalli requested the Board review these documents before the documents are filed with the Court.

Announcements

Chairman Beckerman announced that the Board of Health will be hosting a Flu Clinic on October 18, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Mary McDermott meeting room of Avon Town Hall. The flu clinic is open to all citizens ages 9 years or older. You do not have to be an Avon resident.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos stated that getting awarded the grant for improvements to DeMarco Park will really help move things forward with this project. Mr. Enos stated that the proposed plans and specs will be ready when the funding becomes available. He stated that DeMarco Park is an underutilized asset of the town.

Mr. Enos stated that the town received funding for two grants through the Community Compact Agreement. The first grant will assist with financial forecasting for the town. The second grant will help the Finance Department create an actual budget book which will be an important visual aid for the residents of the town. Mr. Enos requested permission from the Board to authorize him to sign the grant contract once it is received. Mr. Suzor made a motion to accept the Community Compact grants and allow the Town Administrator to sign the grant paperwork and move forward accordingly. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Enos acknowledged the resignation of Park & Recreation Director Jennifer Mayo and thanked her for hard work and dedication over the years.

Mr. Enos acknowledged the retirement of Public Safety Dispatcher James McIsaac effective October 15, 2022. Mr. Enos stated that he will ask the Board to acknowledge Mr. McIsaac's retirement at a future meeting.

Mr. Enos announced that the outdoor events for Oktoberfest will take place this weekend at DeMarco Park from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be food, games, and raffles.

Mr. Enos stated that the National Grid has raised its utility rates. Fortunately, the town still has a fixed rate due to its aggregation agreement through December 24, 2022.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he has received notice from the Town of Holbrook that demolition will start next week for the old building located at 55 High Street. Mr. Enos stated he is working with Chief Bukunt to coordinate traffic concerns for East High Street.

Mr. Enos stated that Deb Morin met with Chief Bukunt and his administrative staff regarding automating the Police Department's timesheets on Harpers. Mr. Enos stated that the meeting went well. However, there is still some training needed for factors such as shift swapping.

Mr. Enos reminded residents that the Special Town Election for the Selectman position will be on December 10, 2022. The deadline for candidates to obtain nomination papers is October 19, 2022.

Adjournment

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Suzor made a motion to adjourn the regular session and 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, Call Firefighters) or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. October 6, 2022 Meeting Agenda
2. September 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Street Opening Permit Application for Wales Avenue
4. Personnel Action Form for Assistant Treasurer
5. Personnel Action Form for Administrative Assistant
6. Personnel Action Form for DPW Highway Laborer
7. E-mail from Joseph Cardinal of National Grid regarding Streetlighting for Central Street and Reservoir Street
8. Memo from W. Fitzgerald re: snowplowing contracts and salt bid for 2022-2023
9. Memo from W. Fitzgerald re: Water Infrastructure Project
10. Street Opening Permit Application for 408 East Main Street
11. Street Opening Permit Application for 33 Bartlett Street

12. Quotes for Repairs for Library Stairs
13. Katherine's Way Road Acceptance Documents
14. Flu Clinic Flyer