

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

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts



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TOWN OF AVON

2022 DEC -2 A 8:28

TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022
6:00 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
Police Chief Jeffrey Bukunt
Deputy Chief Christopher Bartolotta
Jane Carthas, Council on Aging Director
Patty Sullivan, Massachusetts Council on Aging

Chairman Beckerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 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.

Chief Bukunt led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

APPOINTMENTS

6:00 p.m. – Pinning Ceremony of New Deputy Police Chief

Chief Bukunt introduced Christopher Bartolotta as the new Deputy Police Chief. Mr. Bartolotta has had an extensive career in law enforcement for the State of Connecticut prior to joining the Avon Police Department. Chairman Beckerman performed the swearing-in ceremony for Deputy Chief Bartolotta. He was pinned by his son Owen. Deputy Chief Bartolotta thanked the Board for this opportunity and looks forward to working in this community.

At 6:10 p.m., Chairman Beckerman announced that there will be a brief recess until 6:30 p.m. for photographs. The regular session of the meeting will resume at 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – Presentation of Certificate to Avon as a Dementia Friendly Community

Patty Sullivan from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging appeared before the Board. Ms. Sullivan stated that Dementia Friendly Massachusetts is an initiative of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging and a member of Dementia Friendly America. The goal is to increase the number of municipalities around the state that commit to supporting those living with dementia, their families, and care partners. By signing a pledge, they will promote inclusivity and humanity by acknowledging the human dignity of individuals living with dementia, by providing supportive programming, welcoming environments, and opportunities to learn about dementia. Ms. Sullivan stated that this initiative began in 2016 and has been funded by the state for six years. She stated that the greatest risk factor for dementia is age. The goal of a dementia friendly community is to raise awareness, educate people, and make sure that the person suffering from the disease is supported, as well as their caretakers. Ms. Sullivan stated that the first step in becoming a dementia friendly community is to gain the support of the first responders such as the Police and Fire Department, as well as the Council on Aging. Ms. Sullivan stated that the Town of Avon has done so and has signed the pledge for a dementia friendly community. Ms. Sullivan was pleased to award the Council on Aging Director Jane Carthas with a Certificate of Recognition that Avon has joined many other cities and towns in the state of Massachusetts as a Dementia Friendly Community. The Board thanked Ms. Sullivan for presenting this award to the Town of Avon.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the November 3, 2022 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Senior Tax Work-Off Program

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he tasked Council on Aging Director Jane Carthas to begin the initiative for the Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program. He presented the description to the Board as an overview of what the program would look like. The goal of the program is to assist seniors with a credit towards their residential property tax bills, increase the involvement of seniors in municipal government, and acknowledge and affirm the skills of Avon's senior citizens. He stated that he will still need to consult the Assessors regarding abatement information and the Treasurer/Collector for forms such as W-2 and W-9. Mr. Enos requested that the Board determine eligibility requirements. Ms. Carthas informed the Board that there are ten neighboring towns that participate in a Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program. She stated that the seniors must work for a full year to be eligible for tax credit. The Council on Aging would be in charge of all seniors working for the Tax Work-Off Program. Ms. Carthas stated there would be a strict residency requirement where the senior working must be a property owner. Seniors would work to receive an abatement on their tax bill. This is not a cash program. Since this is a pilot program, Mr. Enos recommended starting off with a small number of seniors to begin the program. Ms. Carthas recommended a maximum of ten seniors for the first year. After a brief discussion, Mr. Suzor made a motion to set the requirements for the Senior Tax Work-Off Program to a maximum of 10 seniors, 65 years of age or older, to work for \$10.00 per hour for a maximum abatement total of \$1,000 from their property tax bills. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disposition of Surplus Property

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the disposition of two televisions and one office chair as surplus property as all three items are broken and damaged. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gift Donation Form

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift donation of T&K Asphalt Services, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000 for the Council on Aging's Thanksgiving luncheon. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Holiday Schedule for Town Offices on November 25, 2022

Mr. Suzor made a motion to close Town Offices, the Council on Aging, and the Avon Public Library to the public on Friday, November 25, 2022, the day after Thanksgiving. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements

Chairman Beckerman announced that the Annual Holiday Festival will take place on December 3, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at DeMarco Park. Activities will include a train ride, horse and wagon ride, an ice sculpture, carolers, and pictures with Santa.

Chairman Beckerman announced that the December meetings of the Board will be December 1, 2022 and December 15, 2022.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos thanked the Town Clerk Patricia Bessette and her team of election workers for their hard work during the State Election on November 8, 2022.

Mr. Enos stated that the dimensions are being sized now for the cement pad which will be placed underneath the new pavilion to be opened in the spring as part of the DeMarco Park improvement project.

Town Counsel's Report

None

Adjournment

At 7:12 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. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shanna M. Faro".

Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. November 17, 2022 Meeting Agenda
2. November 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Senior Tax Write Off Program
4. Surplus Disposition Form