

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk
Shannon M. Coffey, Associate

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts



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TOWN OF AVON

2023 JAN 27 A 8:58

TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk (via videoconference)
Shannon M. Coffey, Associate

Others Present: Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel
Fire Chief Robert Spurr
Ben Chapman, Park & Recreation Chair
Jennifer Thompson, Capital Strategic Solutions (via videoconference)
Tim Goddard, Capital Strategic Solutions (via videoconference)

Executive Session

Chairman Beckerman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with all members present. Mr. Suzor made a motion to enter into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Interim Town Administrator) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the town's bargaining or litigating position. The Board will reconvene in open session at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Suzor made a motion to reconvene in open session. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman 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. Enos led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

APPOINTMENTS

6:35 p.m. – Pinning Ceremony of New Firefighter

Chief Spurr was pleased to announce to the Board that Dawson Beddia is the newest member of the full-time firefighters. Mr. Beddia began his employment with the town of December 1, 2022. Mr. Beddia was pinned by his girlfriend Catherine.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the December 15, 2022 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for Housing Rehabilitation Services

Mr. Enos informed the Board that a few years ago, the town participated in Grant Administration and Housing Rehabilitation Services for lower income residents in need of assistance. Mr. Enos stated that there is still some funding left in this account. Therefore, Mr. Enos contacted agencies for assistance in this matter with one vendor response from Capital Strategic Solutions. Jennifer Thompson and Timothy Goddard from Capital Strategic Solutions introduced themselves to the Board. Ms. Thompson stated that since the town has approximately \$200,000 in its program income account, Capital Strategic Solutions proposed the rehabilitation of five (5) units of housing. This proposal is based on the assumption that the average rehabilitation project costs \$34,000 for a cost of approximately \$170,000 for construction and the remaining \$30,000 will be designated for program administration. Ms. Thompson stated that the total fee for Capital Strategic Solutions will be \$30,000. The fees are comprised of the fee for the Housing Rehabilitation Specialist services at \$2,960 per unit and the Program Manager services at \$3,040 per unit. The general administration and program fee will be \$1,000. Ms. Thompson stated that the Housing Specialist would work closely with the town's Building Commissioner to ensure all construction projects are in compliance. Finally, Capital Strategic Solutions would advertise and promote this program to local residents. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the proposal from Capital Strategic Solutions for housing rehabilitation services. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion carried.

Preliminary FY 24 Budget Discussions

Mr. Enos reviewed his Fiscal Year 2024 PowerPoint presentation with the Board. Mr. Enos displayed the amounts in each Stabilization account. He noted that due to the stock market, some accounts have decreased such as the MBTE, General Stabilization, and OPEB account. He discussed local receipts with the Board. The Fiscal Year 2023 initial estimate was \$2,783,000 while the recap was actually \$2,880,000. Therefore, he stated the initial estimate for local receipts for FY 24 will be \$2,990,000.

When reviewing the levy limit, Mr. Enos stated that part of the FY 23 levy limit was reduced further due to the increase of local receipts. The FY 24 target levy limit will be \$21,658,042. Mr. Enos advised the Board that the FY 24 state aid figures will be delayed due to new administration in the Governor's office. There is the potential for state aid to be much higher due to the changing population in the town. Finally, Mr. Enos stated that the Board needs to consider rising inflation costs, staffing increases proposed by the Fire Department and DPW, and the fixed costs that continue to rise such as health and property insurance. The first Budget Workshop meeting will take place on January 14, 2023.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Closing/Discussion

Mr. Enos reviewed the ten articles prepared on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 28, 2023. Article One pertains to the funding of the recently settled AFSCME union contract. Mr. Enos stated that Articles Two and Three are placeholders in the event that the Avon Police Relief Association finalizes negotiations and settles their union contract prior to the Special Town Meeting date. Article Two would fund the settlement of that contract, while Article Three pertains to withdrawing from Civil Service. Article Four pertains to the removal of asbestos concrete water pipes and the reconstruction of the roads in the vicinity of Oak, Maple, Beech, and Cedar Streets using ARPA funds. In addition, Rock Street and Gill Street would be renovated as well in conjunction with the MassWorks project. Article Five is for the purchase and installation of electronic signage on the corner of West Main Street and Harrison Boulevard. Article Six is sponsored by the Park & Recreation Commission for the installation of a basketball court on Fagan Drive and for the reconstruction of the Bartlett Street courts for one tennis ball court and two pickleball courts. Mr. Chapman informed the Selectmen that the Commission is meeting with the a vendor for this project at their meeting of January 17, 2023 to review the plans and obtain quotes and estimates for the project. Article Seven pertains to developing a lead service line inventory which is now federally mandated for water divisions post-Flint Michigan. Article Eight pertains to the zoning of DeMarco Park as a dedicated park and recreation area for purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 3 in conjunction with the state grant for the renovation and improvements to DeMarco Park. Article Nine will seek an act to change the name of the Board of Selectmen to "Select Board". Finally, Article Ten is for the payment of prior year bills.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant of January 28, 2023 with ten articles. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion passed.

Appointment to Conservation Commission

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Paul Garcia to the Conservation Commission, term to expire June 30, 2025. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion carried.

Disposition of Surplus Property

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the disposition of the 2013 Ford Taurus with 119,739 miles from the Police Department and for Chief Bukunt to work with Town Administrator Enos for the sale of this vehicle on Municibid. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the disposition of a small, low, round white table and a large, round table at the Avon Public Library. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion carried.

Interim Town Administrator Contract

Mr. Enos reminded the Board that he has submitted his letter of resignation. He has reached out to James Purcell to provide his services as an Interim Town Administrator during the transition period. Mr. Purcell will work approximately 20-25 hours per week for 18-20 weeks while a search for a new Town Administrator is being conducted. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Employment Contract for James Purcell as Interim Town Administrator. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion passed.

Extension of Seasonal Employee

Mr. Suzor made a motion to extend the seasonal employment of DPW Laborer Steven Bates through February 28, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. The motion carried. The motion carried.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos stated that Council on Aging Director has distributed five-gallon buckets filled with treated sand for senior homeowners of the town. The Norfolk County Sheriff's office and Home Depot donated the buckets, and the sand was donated and distributed by the Department of Public Works. Mr. Enos stated that the next project Ms. Carthas is working on is installing working smoke detectors in the homes of seniors.

Mr. Enos stated that the first Budget Workshop meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Mary McDermott meeting room.

As it was his last Selectmen's meeting, Mr. Enos thanked all employees for their hard work and dedication to the town, especially during difficult times such as the pandemic. Each Board member wished Mr. Enos luck in his future endeavors and thanked him for all of his hard work and service during his time in Avon.


Town Counsel's Report

None

Adjournment

At 8:00 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. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. 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. January 5, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. December 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Proposal from Capital Strategic Solutions
4. Special Town Meeting Warrant
5. FY 24 Budget Presentation
6. Disposition of Surplus Property Forms (Police Department & Library)
7. Interim Town Administrator Contract
8. Personnel Action Form for DPW Seasonal Laborer