

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

James P. Purcell
INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts



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TOWN OF AVON

2023 FEB 17 A 9:33

TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023
6:00 P.M.

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

Others Present: James P. Purcell, Interim Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel

Executive Session

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.

Ms. Coffey led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the January 26, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the January 28, 2023 (Workshop Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Follow-up Discussion on Special Town Meeting Warrant

Chairman Beckerman informed the viewing audience that Article 9 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant regarding changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to "Select Board" will require more work before the name can be changed officially. He stated that the article did pass, however, the next step in this process is for the article to be approved by the legislature. Mr. Purcell informed the Board that the town did its due diligence before drafting the article and checked with both the Attorney General's Office and Representative William Galvin's office and it was approved as to form. Mr. Purcell stated that if the legislature is in a formal recess, it could take some time before the article is approved.

Appointment of Recording Secretary

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Brenda Ennis to the Recording Secretary position at a Grade 5, Step 2. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gift Acceptance Forms

Ms. Coffey made a motion to approve the gift donation to the Avon Public Library in the amount of \$3,106 from the John Sweeney Trustees to be used at the library's discretion for materials and services to benefit the patrons. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Coffey made a motion to approve the gift donation to the Avon Public Library in the amount of \$98.26 from the Friends of the Avon Public Library for the purchase of materials for the library. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Resignation on the Planning Board

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that the Town Clerk received a resignation letter from Charles P. Comeau, Jr. from the Planning Board. His term was due to expire in April 2027. Mr. Purcell stated that pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 10, the Board of Selectmen can vote to place this vacancy on the Annual Town Election ballot with at least 15 days' notice prior to the date in which nomination papers are due to the Registrars of Voters. Mr. Purcell stated that the due date for nomination papers for the Annual Town Election is February 21, 2023. Should the Board vote to approve this request, nomination papers would be available on February 3, 2023. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the placing the Planning Board vacancy on the Annual Town Election ballot. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resignation on the Board of Health

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that the Town Clerk received a resignation letter from Peter C. Marinelli from the Board of Health effective April 10, 2023. His term was due to expire in April 2024. Mr. Purcell stated that pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Section 10, the Board of Selectmen can vote to place this vacancy on the Annual Town Election ballot with at least 15 days' notice prior to the date in which nomination papers are due to the Registrars of Voters. Mr. Purcell stated that the due date for nomination papers for the Annual Town Election is February 21, 2023. Should the Board vote to approve this request, nomination papers would be available on February 3, 2023. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the placing the Board of Health vacancy on the Annual Town Election ballot. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor thanked both Charles P. Comeau, Jr. and Peter Marinelli for their service on Boards and Committees for the Town of Avon over the years.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that the transition period continues for him as Interim Town Administrator. He has now met with each individual Board member. He will continue to meet and introduce himself to the Department Heads next week.

Mr. Purcell stated that he received a request from the Norfolk County Retirement System for an additional 2% retiree cost of living adjustment. This will be an action item on the Board's next meeting agenda. Two-thirds of the towns within the Norfolk County Retirement System must vote to approve the additional 2% COLA increase before the Retirement Board can provide this benefit to its retirees that were retired before July 1, 2021. Mr. Purcell informed the Board that this would not affect the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation.

Town Counsel's Report

Mr. Lalli informed the Board that he is currently working with the DPW Director on several contracts.

Adjournment

At 6:53 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. February 2, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. January 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. January 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. Personnel Action Form for Recording Secretary
5. Resignation of Charles P. Comeau, Jr. on Planning Board
6. Resignation of Peter C. Marinelli on Board of Health
7. Letter from Norfolk County Retirement System re: additional 2% retiree cost of living adjustment