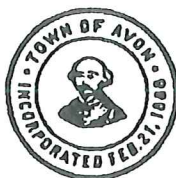


BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk
Shannon M. Coffey, Associate

James P. Purcell
INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts



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TOWN OF AVON
2023 MAR -6 A 9:45
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023
6:30 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
Scott Hulen, IT Director
Deb Morin, Treasurer/Collector
William A. Fitzgerald, DPW Director
Patricia Bessette, Town Clerk
Warren Bruce Lane, Board of Assessors Chairman

Finance Committee: Derek Staffier, Chairman
Dan Norian, Member
James Norian, Member
Suzette Waters, Member
Jarrett Beeley, Member
Richard Jordan, Member

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. Hulen led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

6:35 p.m. – IT Budget Workshop

Mr. Hulien appeared before the Board to discuss the IT budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Mr. Hulien stated that all expense line items have been level funded. Mr. Hulien stated that there is a \$5,000 increase in the salary line item for the IT technician. Mr. Hulien stated that the employee has been working for approximately a year and a half with no increase. Chairman Beckerman requested an explanation as to how Mr. Hulien arrived at that figure. Mr. Hulien stated that the School Superintendent determined the amount and requested the proposed increase. Mr. Purcell will speak to Ms. Godino for further details.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the February 2, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the February 4, 2023 (Workshop Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Vision Software Upgrade for Board of Assessors

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that the software used by the Assessors needs an upgrade. Mr. Purcell stated that he has spoken to David Golden who informed him that if the Board signs the upgrade contract by March 31, 2023, the upgrade cost will only cost \$5,000 as opposed to \$10,000 if not signed by the deadline. Ms. Coffey asked about the Cloud Hosting Fee in the amount of \$2,500. Mr. Lane informed Ms. Coffey that the Cloud Hosting Fee is an annual fee which would be charged with or without the upgrade. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Vision Software Upgrade contract and authorize Chairman Beckerman to sign. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Norfolk County Retirement Systems COLA Adjustment

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that he has received a request from the Norfolk County Retirement System for an additional 2% cost of living adjustment for retirees, from 3% to 5% for eligible retirees, retroactive to July 1, 2022. This additional COLA has been granted to retirees of the State and Teachers Retirement System already. Mr. Purcell stated that this is not a permanent change in the COLA percentage, it is only for Fiscal Year 2023. Mr. Purcell stated that the COLA increase would not impact the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriation. Mr. Purcell stated that the Retirement Board has voted to grant the approval. The next step in this process is for the Chief Executive Officers of each town to approve the increase by June 30, 2023. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the additional 2% retiree cost of living adjustment for the Norfolk County Retirement System. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Discussion

Mr. Purcell stated that he will have the first draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for review at the March 2, 2023 meeting of the Board. Mr. Purcell stated that the Collective Bargaining Agreements that were recently settled for Police and AFSCME have been adjusted in the salary lines of the proposed

Project 351 Request for Spring Service Host Site

Ms. Faro read an e-mail from Kate Austrino, an 8th grade student at the Avon Middle-High School and the Project 351 Ambassador for Avon. Project 351 will be hosting a Spring Service Project to donate clothes to Cradles to Crayons. Ms. Austrino requested to use the Town Hall as a drop off location for the clothing bin from March 20, 2023 through March 24, 2023. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the request of Project 351 to use the Town Hall lobby as a host site for the Spring Service Project. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pool Table License

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Pool Table license of David Benvissuto d/b/a Ben's Pour House. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. Chairman Beckerman asked if the license had been paid yet. Ms. Faro stated that Mr. Benvissuto will pay for the license once it is finalized and ready for pick up. The motion passed.

Professional Service Agreement – UMass Amherst

Mr. Fitzgerald requested approval from the Board for a \$25,000 contract for the first phase of a grant funded by "Smart Redevelopment" for the Avon Industrial Park. This would be followed by a \$15,000 amendment. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the grant would be with the UMass Amherst Center for Resilient Metro-Regions and would need to be completed by June 30, 2023. The study would review the zoning and other development regulations that would need to be changed if the Avon Industrial Park receives a sewer connection. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that Town Counsel has reviewed the standard contract and has no objections contingent on the contract insurance being approved by the Town's insurer. Mr. Suzor made a motion to authorize Chairman Beckerman to execute a \$25,000 contract with the UMass Amherst Center for Resilient Metro-Regions to undertake the EOEEA funded by Avon Smart Industrial Park Redevelopment Project, as well as a \$15,000 amendment, if and when presented by the Department of Public Works. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcements

Mr. Suzor announced that Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC is presently clearing/cutting trees and brush within the right of way limits located on Route 24 and Central Street.

Chairman Beckerman announced the March meetings of the Board as March 2, 2023 and March 16, 2023.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that he has received notice from the Department of Housing and Community Development that they have approved \$326,362.50 for the Community Development Block Grant.

Town Counsel's Report

None

Adjournment

At 7:25 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 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. February 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. February 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. Proposed FY24 IT Budget
5. Vision Software Upgrade Contract
6. Letter from Norfolk County Retirement System re: 2% COLA Adjustment for Retirees
7. Gift Acceptance Form for Council on Aging
8. Request from K. Mooney to be appointed to Board of Registrars
9. Personnel Action Forms (Children's Library Assistant & Assessors Administrative Assistant)
10. Memo from Town Clerk re: Police Designation for Polling Location for Annual Town Election
11. Pool Table License for Ben's Pour House
12. Professional Service Agreement – UMass Amherst
13. Notice from Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC