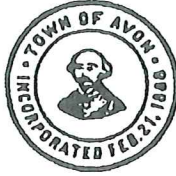


**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman  
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk  
Shannon M. Coffey, Associate

James P. Purcell  
**INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

# Town of Avon Massachusetts



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TOWN OF AVON  
2023 MAR 17 A 8:35  
TOWN CLERK

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 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  
Deb Morin, Treasurer/Collector  
William A. Fitzgerald, DPW Director (via videoconference)

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](http://www.avontv.org).

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

## **Public Participation**

None

## **Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the February 16, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Purcell reviewed the status of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget including the amount in the stabilization accounts, year-to-date local receipts and an estimate for FY 24, the levy limit, and state aid figures, for a total estimated revenue amount. He presented an updated Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Chairman Beckerman read each department's total budget amount and requested each Board member to pass on the item if there was still some discussion needed before approving the amount requested. The Board opted to pass on the following departments: Town Planner, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Avon Public Schools, and Blue Hills Regional Vocational School. Ms. Coffey originally passed on the Board of Health and Pensions budgets, however, her questions were answered during the meeting and she was satisfied with the response. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve all proposed department budgets with the exception of Town Planner, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Avon Public Schools, and Blue Hills Regional Vocational School and to forward to the Finance Committee upon completion of the total Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Purcell shared with the Board the draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Purcell informed the Board that he is still working on one article that will need to be inserted in the Warrant. Mr. Purcell stated that Article 20 was a request for a new police cruiser, however, that has been removed. Mr. Purcell stated that he was concerned that there would not be funding for Articles 21, 22, and 23. Chairman Beckerman requested that Mr. Purcell leave those Articles in the draft Warrant for now. Mr. Purcell informed the Board that he will request the Board approve and close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant at their meeting of March 16, 2023. He will have all managers review the draft Warrant at the Department Head Meeting of March 6, 2023.

### **Request to Surplus Equipment at Avon Public Library**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the request to surplus one cubicle desk at the Avon Public Library. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Personnel Action Forms**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form of Human Resources Coordinator Shanna Faro for an annual stipend for certification as a Human Resources Professional. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Dylan Benoit to the Assistant Library Director position for a Grade OAL 6, Step 1 effective March 20, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Personnel Action Form to extend the Seasonal DPW Laborer position of Steven Bates from March 3, 2023 until April 28, 2023. Mr. Suzor expressed concern that this is the third extension for this individual and he does not have the necessary qualifications for this position. Mr. Suzor stated that he does not support this Personnel Action Form and his vote would be a denial. Chairman Beckerman asked the DPW Director William Fitzgerald if this employee could be useful to him during the time period in question. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that they could use the extra help as the DPW is currently short-staffed by two positions. Ms. Coffey requested further information on this position before deciding on which way to vote. Therefore, Ms. Coffey made a motion to table the



Personnel Action Form of the Seasonal DPW Laborer until the meeting of March 16, 2023. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. Chairman Beckerman abstained from the vote. The motion was tabled.

### **Request to Display Political Signs**

Ms. Coffey made a motion to approve the request of Jason Suzor to display up to 50 political signs throughout private residences for his bid for Selectman no earlier than 30 days prior to the Annual Town Election with the understanding the signs would be taken down within 10 days after the election. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. Mr. Suzor abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

### **New Appointment**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Julie Tallent to the Board of Registrars. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. Chairman Beckerman abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

### **Announcements**

Chairman Beckerman announced that the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission has determined that licensees with patios/outdoor expansions and takeaway/delivery of alcohol has been expanded until April 1, 2023. The amended licenses will automatically revert to their prior status at that date unless further expanded by Governor Healy.

Chairman Beckerman announced the retirement of Highway Foreman Peter Marinelli on March 3, 2023 after 32 years of service with the Town of Avon. Mr. Suzor read a letter from DPW William Fitzgerald thanking Mr. Marinelli for his important lead role in developing and implementing DPW initiatives such as modernizing snow fighting by using salt instead of sand and upgrading equipment specifications such as spreader calibrations to put down the most effective salt applications. The Board thanked Mr. Marinelli again for his dedication and service to the Town and wished him well in his retirement.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that the School Superintendent Christine Godino will be invited to the March 16, 2023 meeting to propose submitting a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority regarding proposed renovations and/or additions to the Butler Elementary School.

Mr. Purcell stated that the DPW Director William Fitzgerald was making progress on the RFP bid for the cell phone towers on water tank. Mr. Purcell stated that Mr. Fitzgerald was seeking assistant from a member of the Board of Selectmen for the next step in this project.

### **Town Counsel's Report**

None

### **Adjournment**

At 7:55 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. Also, to conduct a strategy

session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel. (Fire Chief) 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. March 2, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. February 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Draft FY 24 Budget
4. FY 24 Budget PowerPoint Presentation
5. Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant
6. Surplus Equipment Form for Avon Public Library
7. Personnel Action Forms (Human Resources Coordinator, Assistant Library Director, Seasonal DPW Laborer)
8. Request from Jason Suzor, Sr. to display political signs
9. Request from Julie Tallent to be appointed to Board of Registrars
10. ABCC Memo re: Temporary Patio Service and Takeaway
11. Retirement Letter from Peter Marinelli and Letter of Accolades from DPW Director