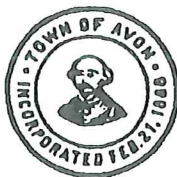


BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk
Shannon M. Coffey, Associate

James P. Purcell
INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts



Town Offices
Buckley Center 02322
(508) 588-0414
FAX (508) 559-0209

TOWN OF AVON

2023 APR 10 A 11:07

TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023
6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk

Others Present: James P. Purcell, Interim Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant (via videoconference)
Deb Morin, Treasurer/Collector
Police Chief Jeffrey Bukunt
Kate Feodoroff, Esq., Mead, Talerman & Costa LLC
Charles Comeau, Planning Board Chair
Frank Staffier, Town Moderator

Chairman Beckerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Selectman Coffey was absent from the meeting. Chairman 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.

Chief Bukunt led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Citations for Police Officers and Dispatcher

Chief Bukunt appeared before the Board to announce that seven members of the Police Department would be receiving Meritorious Service Awards for going above and beyond the call of duty.

The first award issued by Chief Bukunt was a Lifesaving Award for quick and decisive actions taken during an incident on February 2, 2023 regarding an individual making suicidal statements. The award recipients were Sergeant Glenn Fernald, Officer Michael Dombrosky, Officer Jeffrey Donovan, and Dispatcher Jannell Webb.

The second award issued by Chief Bukunt was a Lifesaving Award for an emergency medical call that resulted in a life being saved to Officer Jeffrey Donovan, Officer Chris Guillaume, and Dispatcher Robert Burke.

The third award issued by Chief Bukunt was an Outstanding Performance Award to Officer Stephen Stenstrom for his proactive policing, work ethic, and profound and positive impact in the community.

Chief Bukunt commended the Officers and Dispatchers for their skills, training, and expertise on the job and their dedication to the citizens of the Town of Avon.

INSA Proposed Bylaw Changes

Ms. Feodoroff, Special Counsel for the Town, approached the Board to discuss INSA's proposed bylaw changes. INSA is the medical marijuana facility located on Stockwell Drive. Ms. Feodoroff informed the Board that INSA has proposed a bylaw change to allow for a retail facility for recreational use as opposed to only medicinal use. Ms. Feodoroff asked if the Board was willing to entertain such a proposal. She stated that the proposal has been submitted by the tenant of the facility and would require an article on a Town Meeting Warrant and a ballot vote. Chairman Beckerman stated his concern of submitting an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant as it is only 49 days away. Ms. Feodoroff stated that the proposal is very comprehensive so the Board may want time to fully review all of the details in the submission. Mr. Comeau stated that the timeline is very narrow if this proposal is to be submitted as a Town Meeting article. Mr. Comeau stated the proposal would require a series of Public Hearings through the Planning Board and proper notice must be given for said hearings. Mr. Suzor made a motion to table the proposed bylaw changes and requested INSA go through the proper channels via the Planning Board for such a request. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Town Moderator Frank Staffier

Mr. Staffier appeared before the Board to propose hosting a Coffee Hour potentially on April 8, 2023 to invite residents to join Boards and Committees. He requested that the Board of Selectmen purchase coffee and donuts to sponsor the event.

Mr. Staffier requested an increase in his budget by \$200 for an Assistant Town Moderator - \$100 in salary and \$100 in expenses. Mr. Staffier said that he could use assistance. The Assistant Moderator would have to be educated and trained in this position, which is why the expense line would be increased. The salary line increase is a modest stipend for this position.

Update on Maple Street Project

Planning Board Chairman Chuck Comeau appeared before the Board to give an update on the Maple Street Project in Stoughton. Mr. Comeau stated that there is a company that is seeking to place their warehouse facility in Stoughton where the land abuts with the Town of Avon. Mr. Comeau stated that the warehouse facility intends to operate 24/7. The Town of Stoughton will not disclose the tenant of the facility. Mr. Comeau stated that a recent traffic study has indicated that the Town of Avon will receive a 15% traffic increase, particularly on Bodwell Street and Page Street. Mr. Comeau will continue to apprise the Board as this situation develops.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the March 2, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Discussion

Chairman Beckerman stated that the Board would vote on the remaining departmental budgets that were tabled at the meeting of March 2, 2023.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to reopen the Assessors budget for the increase (and approval) in the non-union salary line item in the amount of \$8,828 for a part-time Administrative Assistant. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to reopen the Town Moderator's budget for an increase (and approval) in the salary and expense line totaling \$200 for an Assistant Town Moderator. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to reopen the Building Department budget for the increase (and approval) in the non-union salary line item in the amount of \$8,828 for a part-time Administrative Assistant. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Fire Department budget with the change in the Non-Energy Utility/Phone line-item adjustment to \$7,000. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Avon Public Schools budget for a total of \$10,460,906. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Blue Hills Regional School budget for a total of \$845,400. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the DPW budget for a total of \$1,537,144. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the new line item for a Town Planner in the amount of \$40,000. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Suzor made a motion to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant of May 2, 2023. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Board will review all proposed articles in detail at a Workshop Meeting of March 30, 2023. Mr. Purcell will send the draft Warrant to the Finance Committee.

School Committee's Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority

Mr. Suzor, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, made a motion to authorize the Superintendent of the Avon Public Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building

Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 2023 for the Ralph D. Butler Elementary School located at One Patrick Clark Drive, Avon, MA 02322 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. The description of the priorities listed on the Statement of Interest Form are as follows:

1. Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
 - Ten interchangeable classrooms are housed in a modular unit (2004). The modular is designed to last 20 years.
2. Elimination of existing severe overcrowding.
 - One shared inadequate space for Title I teacher, 2 special educators, art teacher and computer teacher.
 - One shared inadequate space for Occupational therapist, Physical therapist, speech and language therapist and a special educator.
 - One shared inadequate space for two English learner teachers and one special educator teacher.
3. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.
 - Roof leaks in modular. Roof was replaced on the main building only in 2011.
 - Asbestos tile remains in a large percentage of the main building. Popcorn asbestos ceilings remain in the main building.
 - Windows in the main hallway are leaking. Half were replaced in 2004 and the remainder were replaced in 2007.
4. Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.
 - There is no library, no music room, no art room, no motor room and no computer lab.
 - There are no conference rooms.
 - There is no private exam space in the nurse's office.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this State of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority or commits the Town of Avon in filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Towing Policies

Chairman Beckerman recommended postponing voting on the Towing Policies as the Board just recently received the final draft. Mr. Suzor made a motion to table to discussion on Towing Policies until the Workshop Meeting of March 30, 2023. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Appointment to Veteran's Memorial Committee

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Philip Tortorella to the Veteran's Memorial Committee effective April 1, 2023. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion for discussion. Chairman Beckerman stated that Mr. Tortorella also requests in his letter that this be a permanent standing Committee. Chairman Beckerman stated that this request must be reviewed by Town Counsel as it was his understanding that permanent Boards and Committees must be approved by a Town Meeting vote. The motion to appoint Mr. Tortorella to the Veteran's Memorial Committee passed.

Political Signs

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the request of Paul Garcia to display approximately 100 political lawn signs for his bid for Selectman to be erected no earlier than 30 days prior to the election and to be taken down within 10 days after the election. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Personnel Action Forms

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Matthew McAndrew to the Park & Recreation Director position effective March 20, 2023. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to deny the reappointment of Stephen Bates for Seasonal DPW Director. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the request to surplus a cubicle partition at the Council on Aging. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gift Donation Forms

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift donation in the amount of \$1,000 from T.L. Edwards to sponsor the St. Patrick's Day luncheon at the Council on Aging. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift donation from Republic Services for 4 Red Sox tickets to be used as a raffle prize for participants in the upcoming Community Clean-Up Day. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcements

Chairman Beckerman announced that the April meetings of the Board will be April 6, 2023 and April 20, 2023. There will be a Workshop Meeting on March 30, 2023.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that he received a status update regarding the AFFF litigation, the class action lawsuit that the Town of Avon is a participant in.

Town Counsel's Report

None

Adjournment

At 7:38 p.m., Mr. Suzor made a motion to adjourn the regular session. Chairman Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chairman Beckerman voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. March 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. March 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Draft FY 24 Budget
4. Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant
5. School Committee's Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority
6. Towing Policies
7. Request for Appoint to Veteran's Memorial Committee by Philip Tortorella
8. Request for Political Signs by Paul Garcia
9. Personnel Action Forms (Park & Recreation Director & Seasonal DPW Laborer)
10. Surplus Property Form for Council on Aging
11. Gift Donation Forms (Board of Health & Council on Aging)