

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 JUN -5 A 8:47
TOWN CLERK

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 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/HR Coordinator
Jane Carthas, Council on Aging Director
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director
Brian Martin, Assistant DPW Director
Stephen Smith, Lead Water Operator
Jason L. Suzor, Jr., Water Operator
Michael Guilbault, Highway Foreman
John Petrin, Community Paradigm Associates (via videoconference)

Chairman Beckerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members present. 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. 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. Stephen Smith led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

**6:45 p.m. – Public Hearing for Off Premises, Section 15 Package Store, All Alcoholic Beverages
Liquor License for Wine.com – Massachusetts, Inc., d/b/a Wine.com**

Mr. Suzor read the Public Hearing Notice for the above-referenced matter which was advertised in the Brockton Enterprise. Mr. William Tomaszewski, General Counsel for Wine.com appeared before the Board, along with General Manager Michael Arico, and Elizabeth Pisano, Esq. Mr. Tomaszewski informed the Board that the process for Wine.com to obtain a full alcohol license started approximately one year ago when special legislation was filed in support of this application. Mr. Tomaszewski stated that Wine.com has been a business located in the Avon Industrial Park for over 20 years. It is the intent

of the company to stay in the town, however, they would like to expand their business by selling spirits. Mr. Tomaszewski stated that Wine.com expanded its warehouse area last year by 4,000 square feet in anticipation of this application. Ms. Pisano stated that the All Alcoholic Beverage license would be specific to Wine.com and its location at 30 Wales Avenue. Ms. Pisano stated that should this license be approved, it would open up another beer and wine license for local businesses. Ms. Coffey informed Ms. Pisano that one of the CORI forms has not been notarized. Ms. Pisano stated that she would take care of that issue. After reviewing the application, Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the All Alcoholic Beverages liquor license for Wine.com contingent on the CORI form being notarized. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Faro will forward the application to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for approval.

Meeting Minutes

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition of DPW – Water Division

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Drinking Water Program awarded the Town of Avon's Water Division for its outstanding performance in 2022 as our system achieved one of the top scores in the Medium and Large Community System Category of the 2023 Public Water Systems Awards Program. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that Mr. Martin, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Suzor attended the awards ceremony on May 11, 2023 at the Massachusetts State House before Representative Galvin. The Board thanked the Department of Public Works for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

Update on RFP for Water Tank Tower Lease

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that one proposal came in for the water tank tower lease, which was not unexpected. Mr. Fitzgerald is reviewing the proposal. He also sent it to the engineers for review and they did not see anything major. The proposal has also been sent to the town's insurer and Town Counsel for review. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the terms of the lease would most likely be a five-year lease with three five-year options to renew. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this item may possibly be ready for the Board to review at the June 1, 2023 meeting. The lease would start on January 1, 2024.

New Appointments/Personnel Action Forms

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Lucia Aristote-Oliveira to the part-time Administrative Assistant position for the Assessing and Building Department for a Grade 6, Step 1 rate, effective May 30, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Michael DeRienzo to the Senior Water Operator position for the Department of Public Works for a Grade PW3, Step 1 rate, effective June 5 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form of Volunteer Coordinator Catherine Emery for a step increase to a Grade 6, Step 2 effective May 12, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the following items for surplus at the Avon Public Library:

- 3 all-in-one PCs in average/poor condition
- 1 dry erase sign in poor condition
- 1 Sony audio/video control center in average/poor condition
- 1 book drop wagon in poor condition
- 15 cassette and VHS storage containers
- 1 old computer desk with two cabinets and CD storage in poor condition
- 1 electronic labeling system in average/poor condition
- 1 globe in poor condition
- 1 JVC portable monitor in average/poor condition
- 1 media display unit in poor condition
- 7 metal and plastic chairs in poor condition
- 5 monitors in average/poor condition
- 1 office chair in poor condition
- 3 PC towers in average/poor condition
- 1 rotating CD display in average condition
- 1 Wifi router in average/poor condition
- 1 72 x 48-inch Persian rug in poor condition
- 1 TV wall mount in new condition but missing parts
- 1 VCR and cassette display unit in poor condition
- 1 wooden bench in average/poor condition

Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Gift Acceptance Form

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift donation from the Avon Fish & Game Association to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$750 for a luncheon that benefits the seniors. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senior Tax Work Off Program Amendment

Ms. Carthas requested an amendment to the eligibility requirements of the Senior Tax Work Off Program. She requested to strike the clause that states that the senior must own and reside in a home in the town for a minimum of five years. Ms. Carthas asked the Board to remove the 5-year minimum. She stated that there is no statute in the Massachusetts General Laws which require a minimum residency requirement. Mr. Suzor made a motion to remove the 5-year minimum residency requirement from the eligibility requirements for the Senior Tax Work Off Program. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Town Administrator Search

Mr. Petrin informed the Board that 21 candidates applied for the Town Administrator position. Community Paradigm brought forward four finalists for the Board to interview. Those interviews took place on Monday and Tuesday night. Mr. Petrin stated that it was now time for the Board to decide which finalist they would like to move forward with. Chairman Beckerman stated that both interviews were public and broadcast via Zoom and then placed on social media. He has received no commentary from residents. He opened up the discussion to the other Selectmen. Mr. Suzor stated that all four candidates were extremely qualified and would bring a lot of positive traits to the town. Mr. Suzor stated that he was looking for a candidate who would have tenure here and put their heart and soul into the job. Mr. Suzor congratulated all four candidates and informed Mr. Petrin he was very satisfied with the four finalists. Ms. Coffey echoed Mr. Suzor's sentiments. She noted that three of the four candidates all had master's in public administration with the fourth candidate currently pursuing that degree. Ms. Coffey stated that all four finalists presented very well. However, she stated that she felt that Mr. Jonathan Beder would be the best fit for the Town of Avon. Chairman Beckerman stated that the town will have many challenges in the next five years with turnover and retirements. He agreed with Ms. Coffey that Mr. Beder is the right candidate for this position. Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Mr. Beder to the Town Administrator position pending the satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements which will be listed in the conditional offer of employment letter. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Petrin will inform the candidates of the decision.

National Grid Foliage Treatment

Mr. Suzor announced that the Board has received correspondence from National Grid that they will be performing a summer and fall selective foliage treatment as necessary on rights-of-way that will pass through the Town of Avon. Chairman Beckerman requested that this correspondence be posted on the town's website to make residents aware of this matter.

Announcements

Chairman Beckerman announced that the regular scheduled meetings in June will be held on June 1, 2023 and June 15, 2023.

Chairman Beckerman announced that the unveiling of the Veterans Memorial will take place on May 21, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. directly across from the Fire Station.

Chairman Beckerman announced that the annual Memorial Day parade will take place on May 27, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. commencing at St. Michael's Church and ending at the Frank M. Noyes VFW Post 8892 where a celebratory cookout will take place. The public is welcome to attend the event.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Purcell informed the Board that he has reviewed the town's financial status and it is very positive in preparation for Fiscal Year 2024.

Town Counsel's Report

None

Adjournment

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Suzor made a motion to adjourn the regular session and to 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. (Town Administrator). 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 passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. May 18, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. All Alcoholic Beverages Liquor License Application for Wine.com
3. May 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. May 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes
5. Personnel Action Forms (Part-Time Administrative Assistant Assessors/Building Department, Senior Water Operator, Volunteer Coordinator)
6. Surplus Equipment Forms for Avon Public Library
7. Gift Acceptance Donation Form for Council on Aging
8. Senior Tax Work Off Program
9. Correspondence from National Grid dated April 25, 2023 regarding foliage treatment