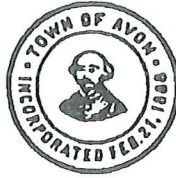


BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Eric S. Beckerman, Chairman
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk
Shannon M. Coffey, Associate

Jonathan L. Beder
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts



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

TOWN OF AVON
2023 SEP 25 P 1:07
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 6:30 P.M.

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

Others Present: Jonathan L. Beder, Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant/HR Coordinator
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director
James Hoyt, Tata & Howard
Alison Shivers, Tata & Howard

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. Beder led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the August 10, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Tata & Howard – Sewer Presentation

Mr. Beder introduced Alison Shivers and James Hoyt from Tata & Howard who would be giving a presentation on localized sewer for the Avon Industrial Park. Mr. Beder stated that the purpose of tonight's presentation was a kick-off meeting to start to analyze options and reinvigorate the discussions of bringing sewer into the Avon Industrial Park.

Mr. Hoyt stated that the Town recently received a grant from the MassDevelopment Site Readiness Program – One Stop for Growth in the amount of \$132,000. The preliminary research for this project is being funded through a grant program and focuses on the feasibility of onsite disposal.

Mr. Hoyt stated that the Avon Industrial Park, consisting of 108 parcels of land, is a mixture of retail, office, and industrial buildings that each have existing on-site wastewater disposal systems. This hinders the potential for growth and redevelopment. There has also been a history of onsite disposal system failures.

Mr. Hoyt stated that the purpose of a localized sewer district is to improve water quality and allow for future expansion, or change in use, of parcels within the district. A localized sewer district will create sewer collection/conveyance system servicing all existing buildings. Mr. Hoyt stated that Tata & Howard is currently looking at two different options for wastewater disposal. (1) Wastewater conveyed to a proposed wastewater treatment facility located on town-owned land and leaching field disposal system or (2) connection to a neighboring collection system.

Ms. Shivers stated that the one option (the Wastewater Treatment Plant would be built in phases. It would be owned and operated by the Town of Avon (although it could be contracted to a private company). It would require specific permitting as well. An initial hydrogeological analysis should that Rear Page Street may be a possible location for the disposal site. Ms. Shivers stated the estimated cost for a Wastewater Treatment Plan system would be \$15,500,000 with an estimated annual operating and maintenance fee of \$200,000.

Ms. Shivers informed the Board that another option is a connection to MWRA/Stoughton. This connection would require an additional pump station. The costs associated with a connection would be operating and maintenance fees as well as a cost per gallon disposal fee to the receiving facility, and wheeling fee for the collection system. These costs would have to be negotiated. Planning, coordinator, and agreements with the Town of Stoughton and the MWRA would be required, as well as obtaining the special permits. The estimated cost for the initial connection would be approximately \$10,100,000.

Ms. Shivers stated that a third option would be a connection to the City of Brockton. This would require similar infrastructure to Stoughton; however, it would also require a force main at least 1.6 miles compared to 0.5 miles required for Stoughton at an additional cost of approximately \$500,000.

Ms. Shivers reviewed the pros and cons of each of the three options with the Board. Ms. Shivers stated that the next steps in this project are a survey of the industrial park area, conduct surveys with focus groups with the owners and users of the Avon Industrial Park parcels, reach out to the Town of Stoughton and the MWRA, additional hydrogeological assessment of wastewater disposal, research for the permitting needed. After all that is concluded, a final design, plans, and specifications for bidding will be next. The timeline for these steps would be approximately one year from August 2023.

Ms. Shivers and Mr. Hoyt discussed the funding options for this project. Communities must find a balance between the general tax burden and sewer betterments. The Town has applied for funding through the SRF program. This project also appears to be a good fit for the Community One Stop for Growth program, and the Economic Development Administration's grants for Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance.

The Board thanked Mr. Hoyt and Ms. Shivers for their presentation and looked forward to further updates regarding the status of this project.

Rock and Gill Street Roadway Reconstruction Project

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that GCG Associates has reviewed the bids for the Rock and Gill Street Roadway Reconstruction Project. The lowest bidder for the project was MDR Construction. This includes the base bid of \$1,727,489, as well as Alternative #1, optional replacement of the 1938.6" water line replacement section in the east end with an 8" CLDI water line for \$105,515, for a total contract value of \$1,833,044. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that GCG has checked the MDR Construction bid package and references and found them to be acceptable. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the DPW also recommends MDR Construction for this project. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve and execute the Notice of Award to MDR Construction for the Rock and Gill Street Roadway Reconstruction Project. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Update on Electronic Message Board

Mr. Beder stated that a Public Hearing for the electronic message board requested at the corner of West Main Street and Harrison Boulevard was held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on August 8, 2023. At that time, the Zoning Board had some concerns regarding the location. They proposed some alternative locations such as Town Hall, DeMarco Park, the library, and the Fire Station. Mr. Beder requested advice from the Board as to how to proceed. The Board informed Mr. Beder that the electronic message board was proposed and approved by a Town Meeting vote at the specific location of Harrison Boulevard/West Main Street location and to move forward with the request for that original location. The hearing before the ZBA has been continued to September 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Suzor will attend that meeting with Mr. Beder.

Personnel Action Forms

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for Prevention Coordinator Emmanuela Isidor for a step increase upon her anniversary date effective August 2, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for Executive Assistant/Human Resources Coordinator Shanna Faro for a step increase upon her anniversary date effective September 28, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for a classification change for John Picardi from Highway Laborer to Motor Equipment Repairman/Highway Laborer for a Grade PW3, Step 1 with a start date of September 11, 2023 contingent upon proof of his renewed Hoisting License. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Appointment of Town Accountant

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form to appoint Theresa Provencal as Town Accountant effective September 11, 2023 and to authorize the Board to sign and execute the Employment Agreement. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the request for the disposition of surplus equipment for an old, donated Frigidaire refrigerator no longer keeping food cold. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcements

Chairman Beckerman announced that the Board will have a Workshop Meeting on October 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss goals and budget guidelines in preparation for the upcoming budget season.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Beder informed the Board that the Town Offices Feasibility Committee has had two meetings since they were appointed by the Moderator. At their meeting of August 23, 2023, the Committee voted to conduct an environmental assessment on both Town Hall and the Council on Aging, an appraisal, and a code compliance survey. Mr. Beder stated that he has contacted DBVW Architects to provide a new scope of work to refine the report they did in 2021, update their cost estimates, and look into incorporating the school administrative offices into the overall scheme. Mr. Beder stated that the asbestos and lead testing are scheduled for the week of September 11, 2023 and will take approximately two days to complete. The next meeting of the Feasibility Committee is September 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Beder stated that he had a call with Old Colony Planning Council on August 29, 2023 to discuss utilizing OCPC's staff to conduct an analysis of Avon's statistical data to best determine if we can document the 1.5% minimum statutory criteria necessary to utilize the Safe Harbor statute.

Mr. Beder stated that the Police Department is continuing their enforcement of the heavy vehicle exclusion on Page Street. Messages boards have also been placed notifying motorists that any vehicle over 2.5 tons is not authorized to travel on that road.

Mr. Beder stated that National Grid's legal department has placed all one-time transfers on hold. It appears that National Grid is questioning the legislation that governs net metering credits and a municipalities' ability to move the credits among its own accounts and sell credits as cost to other municipalities. National Grid is contacting the Department of Public Utilities regarding this matter. The Town of Avon currently has a Net Metering Agreement with the Town of Abington.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that he is now serving on a regional water steering committee established by the Old Colony Planning Council. OCPC has received \$800,000 to fund an engineering study to best study regional water supply options for the South Shore.

Mr. Beder stated that he, Ms. Morin, and Ms. Faro met with the team from the Collins Center to begin preparations for the Financial Forecast and Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) compliant budget document. This project will assist in the FY 2025 budget process.

Finally, Mr. Beder stated that the Town has been approved for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program Action Grant award in the amount of \$1,455,350 for the project titled "Urban Park for People: Resilient D.W. Field Park. This will allow for the purchase of 34 acres of property privately owned as open space.

Town Counsel's Report

Mr. Lalli informed the Board that he is working on the Net Metering Agreement with the Town of Abington. He is also researching how the POST Commission's new requirements will impact Special Police Officers. Mr. Lalli informed the Board that he has heard from counsel for the PFAs litigation, and the Town should be receiving settlement money soon regarding this matter.

Adjournment

At 7:46 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. 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. September 7, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. PowerPoint Presentation regarding Sewer Options by Tata & Howard
4. Notice of Award to MDR Construction for Rock & Gill Roadway Reconstruction Project
5. Personnel Action Form for Prevention Coordinator
6. Personnel Action Form for Executive Assistant/Human Resources Coordinator
7. Personnel Action Form and Employment Agreement for Town Accountant
8. Personnel Action Form for Mechanic
9. Surplus Equipment Form for Council on Aging
10. Town Administrator's Report