

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



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TOWN OF AVON

2023 OCT -6 A 11:12

TOWN CLERK

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 (via videoconference)
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director
Fire Chief Robert Spurr

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.

Chief Spurr led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Pinning Ceremony for Call Firefighter Shaquil Wilkie

Chief Spurr was pleased to announce the newest addition to the Fire Department, Call Firefighter Shaquil Wilkie. Mr. Wilkie was pinned by both his younger brother and his younger cousin. The Board welcomed Mr. Wilkie to the Town of Avon.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the September 7, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ambulance Write Offs

Chief Spurr informed the Board that ambulance write-offs will now occur on an annual basis. He stated that the ambulance billing company has reviewed uncollectable amounts from July 2021 through June 2023 in the amount of \$100,275.26. Chief Spurr stated that the vast majority of the ambulance bills have been partially paid. He is requesting write-offs for the amounts that health insurance will not cover, and/or patients provided an invalid name and address. Attempts were made to collect this balance through the ambulance billing company's collection agency to no response. Mr. Suzor made a motion to authorize the ambulance write-off in the amount of \$100,275.26. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed. Chief Spurr will notify ComStar of the Board's decision.

Recruitment for Fire Department

Chief Spurr updated the Board on the hiring process for the Fire Department. Chief Spurr stated that there is currently a Call Firefighter candidate going through the application process and will contact Ms. Faro within the next week to set up his pre-employment physical. That will make a total of eight Call Firefighters. Chief Spurr informed the Board that he intends to have a table for recruitment at the Fire Station's Open House in which employment applications will be available for interested candidates. Chairman Beckerman asked Chief Spurr if he has ever thought about participating in a local job fair. Chief Spurr stated that he was aware of a local job fair in Bridgewater and can reach out for more information.

Fire Prevention Week

Chief Spurr announced that the Fire Department will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to kick off Fire Prevention Week. Participants can also get their "Passport to Avon" stamped that day at the Fire Station.

Snowplow Rate Increases for 2023-2024 Season

Mr. Fitzgerald presented the snowplow rates for the 2023-2024 season. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the rates for all equipment has increased by \$25 due to the cost of fuel, driver availability, and other increases. A large loader over 42,000 lbs. would be \$275 per hour, a loader less than 42,000 lbs. would be \$250 per hour, and a six-wheel, 4WD plow vehicle would be \$175 per hour. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 snowplow rates. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Snowplow Contracts

Mr. Fitzgerald recommended awarding the snowplow contract to T.L. Edwards at the rates approved for the 2023-2024 season. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he anticipated T.L. Edwards will use approximately three large loaders, no loaders, and three six-wheel 4WD plow vehicles. The Board asked Mr. Fitzgerald why he will place loaders in the contract if none are expected to be used. Mr. Fitzgerald requested that loaders be left in the contract in the event that there is a severe winter, and he will need to contract out a second vendor with that type of equipment. Mr. Suzor made a motion to award the snowplow contract to T.L. Edwards and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the contract once it has been signed by the

contractor and approved by both Town Counsel and the Town Accountant. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Update on Harrison Boulevard/Pond Street Roadway Construction Project

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that construction will resume after Columbus Day, possibly sooner if the state can line up the subcontractors on this project to begin the work. Once the work resumes, it will be performed at night and during the weekends to minimize traffic.

Veterans' Services Intermunicipal Agreement

Mr. Beder presented the Board with the executed Veterans' Services Intermunicipal Agreement. Mr. Beder requested authorization for the \$7,000 payment to the Veterans Agent for his services for the Fiscal Year 2024. The Board authorized payment.

New Appointments

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form and appoint Mark Devoll as part-time Circulation Assistant at the library for a Grade 3, Step 1 rate of \$16.73 per hour effective September 25, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

One Day Special Permits

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the One Day Special Alcohol Permit for the Avon Fish & Game Association for October 1, 2023 for an outdoor club event. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the One Day Special Alcohol Permit for Black Hat Brew Works for Oktoberfest at Blachard's Tavern on October 7, 2023 with the stipulation that the company provide their insurance liability certificate by October 5, 2023 or the permit will become null and void. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Request for Costco to Operate on Normal Business Hours for Columbus Day and Veterans Day Holidays

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the request for Costco to operate during normal business hours on Columbus Day and Veterans Day 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. as approved by Chief Bukunt. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcements

Chairman Beckerman announced that the October meetings of the Board will be October 5, 2023 and October 19, 2023.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Beder informed the Board that he was working on backup power generator at the Council on Aging. There is still funding in from the May 3, 2016 Annual Town Meeting for this purpose. Mr. Beder is also researching a commercial gas stove for the Council on Aging kitchen.

Mr. Beder stated that the Finance Team met with the Department Heads on September 19, 2023 to discuss the past, current, and future of their capital projects.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that he had a call with the Deputy Chief Operating Officer of MWRA to informally discuss water and sewer concepts for the Avon Industrial Park. He has also received a proposal from Weston & Sampson in the amount of \$65,250 to run models and develop cost estimates for connections to the Industrial Park and Merchants Park.

Mr. Beder stated that the door closures have been installed and the electricians have started to wire the units, which will be completed next week. The two doors at Town Hall and the main door of the Council on Aging will now be fully ADA accessible once operational.

Mr. Beder stated that he is working with the Conservation Commission regarding administration, fees, enforcement, and services to be provided by the Randolph Conservation Agent Joe Dunn. Mr. Dunn will be assisting the Commission as needed to administer projects, reviews, and filings. But first he needs to follow up as to structuring an agreement for this work and notifying state ethics of his role in assisting the Town of Avon while simultaneously working for the Town of Randolph.

Mr. Beder stated that the Master Plan Workshops will be held next week on September 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center and on September 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mary McDermott room of Town Hall. These are the kickoff meetings to the nine-month process of establishing a Master Plan.

Mr. Beder stated that the Board of Health will be hosting a Flu Clinic on October 17, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall for people 9 years of age or older.

Mr. Beder stated that the D.W. Field Park Association is looking for members to serve on this committee from the Town of Avon. If interested, please e-mail info@dwfieldpark.org or call Patricia Jensen at (508) 269-5488. Tower Fest is being held in the park on October 7, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for anyone interested in attending.

Town Counsel's Report

Mr. Lalli is reviewing net metering credits and National Grid's objection to the same. Mr. Lalli informed the Board that he has been advised by the attorney for AT&T which is proposing the small cell tower on Rock Street is searching for alternative locations. A new public hearing has not been scheduled at this time.

Adjournment

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Suzor made a motion to adjourn the regular session. 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 21, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. September 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Letter from Chief Spurr regarding ambulance write-offs
4. Memo from W. Fitzgerald regarding snowplow rates for 2023-2024
5. Memo from W. Fitzgerald regarding recommendation for snowplow contract for 2023-2024
6. Veterans Services Officer Intermunicipal Agreement
7. Personnel Action Form for Part-Time Circulation Assistant
8. One Day Special Alcohol Licenses for a) Fish & Game Association and b) Black Hat Brew Works
9. Costco Wholesale's Request to Operate on Normal Business Hours for Columbus Day and Veteran's Day 2023