

**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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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023  
6:30 P.M.**

**AVON TOWN CLERK  
REC'D OCT 20 2023 AM 9:59**

**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  
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director  
Deb Morin, Treasurer/Collector  
Police Chief Jeffrey Bukunt  
Deputy Chief Christopher Bartolotta  
Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent  
Patricia Bessette, Town Clerk (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](http://www.avontv.org).

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

Chairman Beckerman called for a Moment of Silence for Margaret "Sandy" Cain. Mrs. Cain worked for the Avon Public Schools from 1972-1978. She was the Town Hall receptionist from 1996-2001 and worked in the Tax Collector's office from 2002-2009. She was an election worker from 2012 – 2018. She served on the Council on Aging Board from 2010-2013. Ms. Cain passed away on October 4, 2023.

**Public Participation**

None

**6:35 p.m. – ACES Presentation for Red Ribbon Week**

Ms. Waldron and Avon Middle High School student Madeline Iasimone approached the Board to discuss Red Ribbon week. Ms. Iasimone read the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation for October 23 – 31, 2023 and encouraging citizens to participate in drug prevention education activities, making a visible statement that

the Town of Avon stands in support of those who choose to live a drug free lifestyle and honor all of those whose lives have been affected by substance abuse. Ms. Waldron informed the Board that the Prevention Coordinator will be distributing large and small red ribbons to any citizen or local business that would like to support this cause. Chairman Beckerman signed and endorsed the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the September 21, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Police Department Recruitment**

Chief Bukunt and Deputy Chief Bartolotta approached the Board to discuss recruitment for additional police officers. Chief Bukunt informed the Board that the Police Department is looking to hire three Police Officers. Chief Bukunt stated that he has contacted vendors to provide professional services relative to recruitment. He stated that the vendor would post the job advertisement, proctor an entry level written examination approximately 4-6 weeks after the job posting, review the test results, and conduct the interviews for the candidates who are finalists. The Police Chief, Deputy Chief, and a Sergeant would be present for the interviews. Chief Bukunt stated that he intends to advertise for the openings through social media and job fairs. The vendor also has a database of potential candidates. Deputy Chief Bartolotta stated that he has approximately 6-8 candidates who have expressed interest in applying for the position. Chief Bukunt informed the Board that he will also be seeking lateral transfers as part of the recruitment process.

#### **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.

#### **Passport to Avon**

Ms. Bessette announced the new fall program – "Passport to Avon" which will be running from September 23, 2023 through October 28, 2023. All ages are welcome to participate. Passport books will be available at the library. Participants are to visit the locations around town to explore and learn about Avon. Each location will have a stamp to add to your passport. Once you have collected all stamps, return your passport to the library to be entered into a raffle for multiple prizes. Ms. Bessette informed the Board that we are in the second week of this program and 22 families have signed up to date. There are nine locations to visit, and some departments will be handing out swag bags along with stamping

your passport book. The Board thanked Ms. Bessette for organizing this fun activity for citizens to learn more about Avon.

### **Gift Acceptance Forms**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift acceptance form from LHS to the Town Clerk for 200 ballots and programming of the memory card for the Imagecast Tabulator as a raffle prize for the Passport to Avon program. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift acceptance form from Just Smash It to the Town Clerk for a gift card in the amount of \$60.00 as a raffle prize for the Passport to Avon program. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift acceptance form from National Amusements Theaters Showcase to the Town Clerk for four passes to the movies in the amount of \$62.00 as a raffle prize for the Passport to Avon program. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **FY 24 Water Rates**

Mr. Fitzgerald presented the Board with proposed water rates for Fiscal Year 2024. The rates are intended to continue to reduce the taxpayer subsidy of water system costs and meet state requirements that water rates recover water costs, over a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he recommended using the rates suggested in the Pioneer/Gardner water rate study. Revenues were on target with their suggested rates from Fiscal Year 2023. The proposed water rates for Fiscal Year 2024 are as follows:

Tier	FY23	FY24
Base Charge	\$100	\$100
Tier 1 – 0-1,400 cf	\$1.14 per ccf	\$1.30 per ccf
Tier 2 – 1,401 – 4,000 cf	\$4.56 per ccf above 1,400	\$5.20 per ccf above 1,400
Tier 3 – 4,001 to 8,000 cf	\$5.70 per ccf above 4,000	\$6.50 per ccf above 4,000
Tier 4 – 8,001 cf and above	\$7.41 per ccf above 8,000	\$8.45 per ccf above 8,000

Mr. Suzor made a motion to propose the Fiscal Year 2024 water rates as proposed by the DPW Director. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Street Opening Permits**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to grant a time extension to Eversource Gas Company for the Street Opening Permit Application at 35 Rock Street until November 15, 2023. All work must be completed by the winter moratorium. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to grant a time extension to Eversource Gas Company for the Street Opening Permit Application at 100 Wales Avenue until November 15, 2023. All work must be completed by the winter moratorium. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit Application by Eversource Gas Company for a 4' x 6" road cut tie in 4' x 10' road cut trench to install new gas service at 298 Page Street. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Announcements**

Chairman Beckerman announced that all activities for Oktoberfest with the exception of Black Hat Brewery at Blanchard's Tavern will now be held on the rain date of Sunday, October 8, 2023 in the lot across from the Avon Fire Station from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Beder informed the Board that the Town Office Feasibility Committee met on September 27, 2023. They reviewed the DBVW Architects Proposal, the Asbestos Containing Materials and Hazardous Materials Report, the Gone Green estimate for the Council on Aging generator, the Rustic Fire Protection Proposal for fire alarm and sprinkler work, and an appraisal scope of work from Foster Company. The committee voted for the Town Administrator to pause on scheduling any major projects until the meeting of October 18, 2023. The architect will attend that meeting for further discussion on the status of the building and projects for the repair and maintenance of the building.

Mr. Beder stated that he has received an estimate to relocate the exterior electrical service panel at the Avon Public Library to the interior of the building. Currently, the entire service along with all appurtenances are located outside of the building in a location which is difficult to reach for the staff in the event of a blown fuse. Mr. Beder stated that the current proposal was to relocate the service panel to the men's bathroom located on the lower level. The Library Trustees have expressed concern as to losing a bathroom for the electrical panel so alternative options are being explored. This would be a capital project.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that the current power contract with Constellation Energy expires this December. Constellation has negotiated a contract with the MMA and holds several unique benefits for each municipality. Mr. Beder stated that he is in the process of negotiating another three-year contract with Constellation for the town.

Mr. Beder stated that he met with Park & Recreation Chair Ben Chapman today regarding renovation of the tennis courts on Bartlett Street and a new basketball court for Fagan Drive as approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Mr. Beder stated that he and Mr. Fitzgerald will meet with the Mayor of Brockton on October 11, 2023 to discuss sewer and water infrastructure.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that road construction on the Harrison Boulevard/Pond Street project will resume on October 10, 2023 with work performed by a night crew.

Mr. Beder stated that the Rock and Gill Street preconstruction meeting will take place on October 11, 2023.

Mr. Beder stated that the Highland Park water main replacement project will mobilize on October 12, 2023. The contractor would like to perform as much work as possible before they need to shut down for the winter months.

## **Town Counsel's Report**

None

### **Adjournment**

At 7:25 p.m., Mr. Suzor made a motion to adjourn the regular session and convene in Executive Session for: (1) the review and approval of executive session meeting 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 (2) to meet with the Fire Chief to consider matters pursuant to G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(1); and (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the town's bargaining or litigating position. (AFSCME, Police, Fire, Call Firefighters). 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. October 5, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. September 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week
4. Gift Acceptance Forms for Town Clerk's Office
5. Memo from DPW Director W. Fitzgerald re: proposed water rates for FY24
6. Street Opening Permit – Extension Request from Eversource for 35 Rock Street and 100 Wales Avenue
7. Street Opening Permit from Eversource for 298 Page Street
8. Oktoberfest – rain date flyer
9. Town Administrator's Report Memo