

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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AVON TOWN CLERK
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director
Patricia Bessette, Town Clerk
Robert Borden, Building Commissioner

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.

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

Public Participation

Reverend Ixon Chateau introduced himself to the Board as the Pastor of St. Michael's Parish on North Main Street. He also announced that St. Michael's will be having a holiday craft fair on November 11, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on November 12, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

6:45 p.m. – Public Hearing for Common Victualler's License of Avon's Best Pizza

Mr. Suzor read the public hearing notice which was advertised in the Brockton Enterprise. Mr. Mina Barsoum introduced himself to the Board as the new owner of Avon's Best Pizza located at 17B North Main Street. The Board reviewed the application which was in order. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Common Victualler's license for Ava Kirolos Inc. d/b/a Avon's Best Pizza. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the October 5, 2023 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the October 12, 2023 (Workshop Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Special Town Meeting

Mr. Beder informed the Board of the need to hold a Special Town Meeting this fall for items such as the acquisition of open space at no cost to the town as part of a state grant. Mr. Suzor made a motion to set the Special Town Meeting date as November 18, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Suzor made a motion to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant and for all articles to be submitted by the closing date of October 26, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Board will review the Special Town Meeting Warrant for approval at the November 2, 2023 meeting.

Discussion of VOTES Act

Ms. Bessette appeared before the Board to discuss the VOTES Act; an election reform law signed into law on June 22, 2022. Ms. Bessette informed the Board that according to the VOTES Act, voting by mail is now permanently available for registered voters for all state and federal primaries and elections. On or around January 20, 2024, all registered voters can expect to receive a Vote by Mail application postcard mailed from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office. If you are interested in having a ballot mailed to you for any or all elections in 2024, simply fill out the postcard by selecting which elections you would like to receive a mail-in ballot for and return it to the Town Clerk's Office. Ms. Bessette stated that the Board of Selectmen have the option to vote to opt out of the vote by mail feature for town elections. The Board did decide to opt out last year for the Annual Town Election. After a brief discussion, the Board decided not to opt out of the vote by mail option for local elections for 2024.

Personnel Action Forms

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for Per Diem Dispatcher Allison Ning for a step increase effective July 1, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for School Crossing Guard Frances Cruise for a step increase effective October 4, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for Outreach Worker Louise Hardiman for a step increase effective October 30, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Safety Dispatchers – Resignation and Appointment

Mr. Suzor made a motion to accept the resignation of an AFSCME Public Safety Dispatcher. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Tammi Thorp to the AFSCME Public Safety Dispatcher position for a Grade D-1, Step 1 effective October 30, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Appointment of Temporary Alternate Building Inspector

Mr. Borden informed the Board that both he and the Alternate Building Inspector Charles Comeau will be on vacation during the first week of November. Mr. Borden stated that the Building Inspector in Canton, Ed Walsh, would be willing to help out for emergency situations under the terms that he is appointed for the entire month of November and that he would bill at the rate of \$50.00 per hour with a three-hour minimum. Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Ed Walsh as the Temporary Alternate Building Inspector for the month of November 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Suzor made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the Personnel Action Form for Mr. Walsh after it is prepared. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Street Opening Permit Application from Eversource

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve Eversource Gas Company's request for an extension to complete the Street Opening Permit for 228 East Spring Street by November 15, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Street Opening Permit & Water Main Extension Permit for Joanna Road/Joanna Hills Estates

Mr. Beder informed the Board that the developer is seeking to move forward with the next step of the Joanna Hills Estate project, which would be the approval of the Street Opening Permit, followed by the water main extension permit. Mr. Beder informed the Board that the Street Opening Permit application is fully complete and is missing fees, the bond, and insurance documentation. Mr. Beder stated that he and Mr. Fitzgerald would list the terms and conditions applicable to the Street Opening Permit prior to the release of the same and any work being done on the project. Mr. Suzor cautioned the Town Administrator on the approaching winter moratorium for the roads and the winter season approaching. Mr. Suzor made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator and DPW Director to release the Street Opening Permit subject to a completed application with proper documentation and fee payment. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator and DPW Director to release the Water Main Extension Permit subject to a completed application with proper documentation and fee payment. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Net Metering Agreement with the Town of Abington

Mr. Beder presented the Board with a Memorandum of Understanding for Net Metering Credit Purchase with the Town of Abington. The Town of Avon will agree to purchase up to \$265,000 in Net Metering Credits from Abington's electricity accounts at the purchase price of 80% of the Net Metering Credit value during the contract term. Mr. Beder stated that the Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed and approved by the Town Counsel. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Net Metering Agreement with the Town of Abington and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Gift Acceptance Form

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift acceptance form in the amount of \$300 from Avon Community Access & Media to sponsor lunch for the seniors at the Council on Aging on October 12, 2023. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements

Chairman Beckerman announced the November meetings of the Board as November 2, 2023 and November 16, 2023.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Beder informed the Board he met with the mayor of the City of Brockton to discuss the water and sewer infrastructure concepts in connecting both utilities to the Brockton system. The mayor stated that the City of Brockton does not have water available for other communities due to significant development projects in the works. Given the results of that discussion, Mr. Beder recommended an engineering consultant develop a scope of work for a Wastewater Treatment Plant with a focus on the Industrial Park.

Mr. Beder stated that the developers for Joanna Estates are looking to start the project. They retained SLT Construction and will commence work upon the approval of the Street Opening Permit. Mr. Beder stated that residents should be advised of construction activity upon the start up of the project at the intersection of Page Street and Joanna Road.

Mr. Beder stated that he met with a landscape architect to review the proposed plan for the renovation of the tennis courts on Bartlett Street to tennis and pickleball courts and for a new basketball court on Fagan Drive. The next step is to develop site surveys and complete full design plans and specifications to publicly bid on the project. Mr. Beder will work with the Parks & Recreation Commission on this project.

Mr. Beder stated that the final design of the electronic message board at the intersection of Harrison Boulevard and West Main Street has been completed. The DPW will be working with the sign company to assist with the installation and construction of the stone segments of the base of the sign. This project should begin in mid-November.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that the Community Preservation Act (CPA) allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing, and outdoor recreation. Community preservation monies are raised locally through the imposition of a surcharge of not more than 3% of the tax levy against real property, and municipalities must adopt this act by ballot referendum. The Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2010 did not authorize this Act to be accepted.

Mr. Beder stated that a Special Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Avon Middle High School. The main drive of the meeting is to acquire 36+ acres of private property as open space.

Town Counsel's Report

None

Adjournment

At 7:15 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 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 19, 2023 Meeting Agenda
2. October 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. October 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. Application for Common Victualler's License for Avon's Best Pizza
5. Personnel Action Forms (Per Diem Dispatcher, Crossing Guard, Outreach Worker)
6. Resignation of Public Safety Dispatcher
7. Personnel Action Form for Public Safety Dispatcher
8. Street Opening Permit from Eversource for 228 East Spring Street
9. Net Metering Agreement with Town of Abington
10. Gift Acceptance Form for Council on Aging