

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Steven P. Rose, Chairman,  
Robert F. Brady, Jr., Clerk  
Eric S. Beckerman, Associate

Gregory S. Enos  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

# Town of Avon Massachusetts



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TOWN OF AVON  
2020 FEB 24 A 9:01  
TOWN CLERK

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 6:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** Steven P. Rose, Chairman  
Robert F. Brady, Jr., Clerk  
Eric S. Beckerman, Associate

**Others Present:** Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator  
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant  
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel  
Fire Chief Robert Spurr  
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director  
Christopher Connolly, Esq.  
Erin Barry, Town Accountant  
Dan Norian, Finance Committee Chairman  
Shannon Coffey, Finance Committee Member  
Judith Leggett, Finance Committee Member  
Kathy McDonald, School Business Coordinator  
Christine Godino, School Superintendent  
Ann Fogg, Library Director  
Gene Mazzella, Council on Aging Director

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with all members present.

Chairman Rose announced that the meeting is being recorded by the local Cable Access Channel.

Dan Norian led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Public Participation

None

### APPOINTMENTS

#### Introduction of New Town Accountant

Chairman Rose introduced the new Town Accountant, Erin Barry, to members of the viewing audience. He stated that Ms. Barry has six years of municipal experience and most recently served as the Assistant

Treasurer-Collector for the Town of Abington. Ms. Barry began her employment with the Town on January 22, 2020.

### **Budget Workshop with the Finance Committee**

Mr. Norian, Ms. Leggett and Ms. Coffey approached the Board to discuss the status of the budget. There was not a quorum of the Finance Committee in attendance. Mr. Enos informed the Board that after all the budgets were submitted by the Departments and after a calculation of revenue including property taxes, local receipts and state revenue, as well as expenditures, the budget is not yet balanced and in deficit approximately \$470,967.99. Mr. Enos stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to begin the discussions as to remedy this situation and balance the budget.

School Superintendent Christine Godino informed the Board that the School Department has requested an 8% increase in the budget this year, as opposed to the 5% increase which they have been receiving over the past few years. Ms. Godino stated that the unusually high increase this year is due to the critical need of a High School Adjustment Counselor and an English as a Second Language teacher for both schools. Ms. Godino stated that since the State is providing additional Chapter 70 funding for the district, she requested that these funds be designated for the school budget.

Mr. Enos stated that due to the absence of a Town Accountant until recently and new software, the budget is not finalized yet. He requested joint workshop meetings between the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee to interview Department Heads to streamline the process and not duplicate efforts in balancing the budget. Mr. Enos will send Chairman Norian dates for potential budget workshop meetings and requested Mr. Norian report back with the Finance Committee's availability on those dates.

### **Pinning Ceremony for New Full-Time Firefighter**

Chief Spurr welcomed Nduabugbo Nnoli as the new full-time firefighter to the Avon Fire Department. Mr. Nnoli was pinned by his aunt.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the minutes of January 9, 2020 (Regular Session) as written. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Avon Public Library ADA Compliant Family Bathroom Project**

Mr. Enos informed the Board that bids for the ADA Compliant Family Bathroom at the Avon Public Library were opened on December 6, 2019 in which three companies bid on the project. Mr. Enos stated that the lowest bidder on the project was Page Building Construction, Inc. for \$220,000. Mr. Enos reminded the Board that at the Annual Town Meeting of May 7, 2019, Article 10 allocated \$200,000 for the construction of an ADA compliant family bathroom and to make the other accessible improvements. Mr. Enos presented the Board with a letter from Library Trustee Chairman Charles Comeau requesting that the Town award the bid to Page Building Construction, Inc. in hopes of moving the project along. The Library Trustees have voted to supplement the additional \$20,000 needed through State Aid as this is an eligible expense. Mr. Enos stated his support for Page Building Construction, Inc. as well. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to award the bid for the ADA Compliant Family Bathroom Project for the



Avon Public Library to Page Building Construction, Inc. and to sign the contract pending their submittal of the paperwork. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Warrants**

Mr. Brady made a motion for the Board to sign the State Presidential Primary Warrant for March 3, 2020. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant for February 24, 2020. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion for the Board to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant for February 24, 2020. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Personnel Action Forms**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for Children's Library Assistant, Diane Peterson, for a step increase at a Grade F8, Step 2, at the rate of \$15.15 per hour effective January 28, 2020. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for a promotion for Nabilah Abdulsalam from a Senior Circulation Assistant to a Library Technician B at a Grade OAL 3, Step 1 at the rate of \$20.19 per hour effective February 10, 2020. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for Council on Aging Van Driver, Anthony Famalore, for a step increase at a Grade F7, Step 5, at the rate of \$15.13 per hour effective January 2, 2020. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to oppose the Personnel Action Form for a rate increase for the Council on Aging Outreach Coordinator as it was submitted late, therefore it was not on the meeting agenda, and additional supporting documentation was requested from the COA Director regarding the reason for the increase. Mr. Brady seconded the motion to oppose. The motion carried. The Chair requested this item be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for DPW Director William Fitzgerald for a merit-based increase effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for Treasurer/Collector Deb Morin for a merit-based increase effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Gift Acceptance Forms**

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Gift Acceptance Form from Mary Cocozella to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$200 to be used for a memorial lunch for Emmie Cocozella. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Gift Acceptance Form from Walmart to the Council on Aging for miscellaneous February shopping items valued at \$222 to be distributed to the seniors. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Gift Acceptance Form from Walmart to the Council on Aging for miscellaneous January shopping items valued at \$400 to be distributed to the seniors. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Gift Acceptance Form from the Norfolk County District Attorney to the Council on Aging for five surplus computers. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. Beckerman requested that the Town Administrator and the COA Director coordinate with the IT Department as to the viability of these surplus computers. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Gift Acceptance Form from CareOne at Randolph to the Council on Aging for the ongoing pizza sponsorship for monthly birthday celebrations. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. Beckerman inquired as to the length of time in which CareOne will sponsor the purchase of pizza for the Council on Aging. Ms. Faro answered that this is the second year that CareOne has sponsored the monthly celebrations and it was previously requested by the Board that the COA Director fill out a Gift Acceptance Form for this sponsorship on a yearly basis. The motion carried.

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Gift Acceptance Form from the Norfolk County District Attorney to the Avon Public Library for six surplus computers with the stipulation that the Town Administrator and the COA Director coordinate with the IT Department as to the viability of these surplus computers. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Change of Hours for Home Depot**

Chairman Rose read a request from Home Depot Store Manager Joe Simas requesting that effective March 8, 2020, Home Depot's Sunday hours be extended one hour from an 8:00 p.m. closing to a 9:00 p.m. closing time throughout the spring season. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the change of Sunday hours for Home Depot with the stipulation that the Police Chief reviews this request and provides written approval of same. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Announcements**

Chairman Rose announced that the next Regular Session meeting of the Board will be on February 20, 2020.

Mr. Brady announced with deep regret that due to medical conditions, he will not be seeking re-election to the Board. He encouraged anyone who is interested in running for office to speak to the Town Clerk.

#### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he received notice from the Animal Control Officer requesting a dangerous dog hearing for two dogs on Oak Street who are frequently unleashed and have been known to cause harm to other dogs and intimidate residents. Chairman Rose scheduled the hearing date for the meeting of February 20, 2020 and requested that the dog owners be notified via certified and regular mail. Chairman Rose requested that the Board of Health, Animal Control Officer and Town Counsel also be notified of this hearing.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that the kick-off date for the Human Resources Services, Inc. job classification and pay study was held on February 3, 2020 in which a presentation was given to Department Heads. Mr. Enos stated that the project is scheduled to be completed within four months.



Mr. Enos requested that Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Connolly approach the Board to discuss their efforts regarding Article Three of the February 24, 2020 Special Town Meeting. Mr. Connolly introduced himself to the Board as special counsel on the Harrison Boulevard/Pond Street project. Mr. Connolly informed the Board that he, Mr. Enos and Mr. Fitzgerald have been reaching out to the owners of the ten parcels of land in which the Selectmen seek to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain in fee land rights, permanent easements and temporary easements which is a necessity to complete the widening of the road for the Harrison Boulevard/Pond Street project. Mr. Connolly stated that the residents contacted and granting the easements will benefit by the outcome of this project by items such as new sidewalks, stonewalls, tree removal and other reasonable requests. Mr. Fitzgerald informed the Board that the Harrison Boulevard/Pond Street project will be funded by Chapter 90 money and will have no financial impact to the taxpayers

### **Adjournment**

At 7:35 p.m., Chairman Rose requested the Board make a motion to conclude the Regular Session and to convene in Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Bargaining Units (Police, Fire & AFSCME), and Employment Agreements with Non-Union Personnel as such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body, so declared by the Chair. The Board will reconvene in Open Session for the sole purpose of adjournment. Mr. Brady made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Beckerman voted aye.

Mr. Brady voted aye.

Chairman Rose voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

### **LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. February 6, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda
2. January 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Regular Session)
3. Letter from Library Trustee Chair Charles Comeau dated January 9, 2020 regarding bids for the ADA Compliant Family Bathroom
4. Bid Sheet for ADA Compliant Family Bathroom
5. March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Warrant
6. February 24, 2020 Special Town Meeting Warrant
7. Personnel Action Forms
8. Gift Acceptance Forms
9. Request from Home Depot for Extended Sunday Hours
10. Letter from Animal Control Officer requesting Dangerous Dog Hearing