

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 APR 24 A 8:06

TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020
6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Steven P. Rose, Chairman
Robert F. Brady, Jr., Clerk (via videoconference)
Eric S. Beckerman, Associate (via videoconference)

Others Present: Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant (via videoconference)
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel (via videoconference)
Fire Chief Robert Spurr (via videoconference)
Tracy Self, Chair, Designer Selection Committee (via videoconference)
Donald Velozo, Architectural Consulting Group (via videoconference)
Michael Josefek, Architectural Consulting Group (via videoconference)
Greg Devlin, Architectural Consulting Group (via videoconference)
Mark Saccoccio, Saccoccio & Associates (via videoconference)
Kyle Robinson, Saccoccio & Associates (via videoconference)
Patricia C. Bessette, Town Clerk (via videoconference)

Chairman Rose announced that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. Chairman Rose reminded the viewing audience that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by watching local cable on Channel 9. Chairman Rose requested that any questions or comments during the meeting, be e-mailed to info@avon-ma.gov for a response from the Board while discussing the correlating subject matter. Links to watch the recorded meeting will be available on the Avon Cable Access website avontv.org.

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members present. Chairman Rose was present in the Mary McDermott meeting room, while Mr. Brady and Mr. Beckerman were present through the videoconference Zoom. Each Board member acknowledged their presence at the meeting by responding in the affirmative during the roll call. In addition, all anticipated speakers acknowledge their presence by responding in the affirmative when Chairman Rose called their names.

Mr. Enos led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

APPOINTMENTS

Designer Selection Committee – Update on Fire Station Renovation Project

Ms. Self stated that the final plans of the Fire Station Renovation project were now available at Town Hall for the Board's review. She introduced the architects, Mark Saccoccio and Kyle Robinson of Saccoccio & Associates, to present an overview of the finalized plans to the Board. Mr. Saccoccio began the presentation by informing the Board that the project is designed to be completed in three phases. He stated that Phase One of the project will consist of the complete demolition of the side of the building that was formerly occupied by the Police Department. Phase One will also include the construction of the outside storage shed/building. Mr. Saccoccio stated that Phase Two of the project will consist of the renovation and remodel of the existing Fire Department side as well as the apparatus bay. Mr. Saccoccio stated that Phase Three of the project will consist of finalizing the exterior of the building such as the creation of the parking lot and ensuring the building is ADA compliant for public access. Chairman Rose expressed concern that, according to the current plans, the area of the Fire Station deemed accessible to the public, the training room area, is currently unmanned and remotely monitored by dispatch at the Police Station. The public parking, including handicapped parking, is also on that side of the building, as opposed to the administration side. Mr. Brady and Mr. Beckerman agreed that it did not seem feasible that a resident requesting a permit would have to cross the apparatus bay to the administration office. Mr. Saccoccio appreciated the questions and concerns from the Board. Both he, Chief Spurr and Mr. Robinson stated that they had ideas and alternatives as to what would provide the best public access to residents under the current plans and would discuss and come to a consensus on the best solution. Mr. Saccoccio stated that overall, the renovated Fire Station will feature a training/conference room, a day room, locker rooms and showers, administrative offices, an HVAC and mechanical room, as well as a large apparatus bay. Mr. Saccoccio stated that the whole project is expected to be completed in one year's time. As for staff parking during the renovation project, Mr. Saccoccio stated that the owner of the private property has agreed to let the vehicles park on his property. Chairman Rose advised that a formal agreement in writing should be drafted to memorialize the verbal agreement.

After a lengthy discussion of the project and all questions regarding public access to the building were answered, Mr. Velozo requested formal approval of the Fire Station Renovation Project plans to move forward with the advertising and bid requests for this project. Mr. Velozo provided the bid schedule for the Board to review. Mr. Velozo stated that should the ad be placed in the next week, the project could begin by late June/early July. Mr. Velozo recommended to the Board moving forward with the project considering the current COVID-19 pandemic based on his slightly modified pre-bid adjustments to the schedule. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to allow the Designer Selection Committee to move forward with the Fire Station Renovation Project and advertise for bids for the project. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the minutes of March 19, 2020 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dangerous Dog Hearing – Status Report

Mr. Enos informed the Board he has spoken to the Animal Control Officer regarding this matter. Ms. Hedges informed Mr. Enos that Mr. Flynn has provided the new owner's name and address of the third dog, Remney, who was given away. Mr. Enos stated that the new owner resides in Everett and Ms. Hedges is satisfied with the information provided. Mr. Enos informed the Board that kennel mandated by the Board to be constructed for the dangerous dog at the Flynn residence is about 95% complete. Mr. Enos stated that Mr. Flynn is getting the supplies and materials needed to complete the kennel and it should be finalized by this weekend. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the updated status report from the Animal Control Officer regarding the Dangerous Dog Hearing and for the Board to receive a follow-up report at their meeting of April 16, 2020. Should the kennel not be completed to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer at that time, then the Board will proceed in taking the necessary steps to remove the dog from the household. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Town of Avon's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Chief Spurr informed the Board that as of today, 224,000 people in the United States have tested positive for COVID-19. The state of Massachusetts has 8,966 cases of COVID-19, which has resulted in 154 deaths. The Town of Avon has 5 positive cases, with approximately 10 individuals currently in quarantine. Chief Spurr stated that some additional symptoms of the virus include nausea and vomiting. Chief Spurr stated that the most effective measure to prevent the spread of the virus continues to be social distancing. Chief Spurr stated that the Fire Department has received a small amount of personal protective equipment from MEMA. Chief Spurr has also obtained gear through his normal channels, so the Fire Department has an adequate supply currently. Chief Spurr reminded residents that bagged lunch is available for school aged children and seniors of the Town on weekdays. In addition, Chief Spurr reminded residents that he and Health Agent Kathleen Waldron host a web-based show updating citizens on the COVID-19 pandemic on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Status of the Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Enos informed the Board that the Governor is working on new legislation to be passed that would allow Annual Town Elections to be postponed to a future date. Town Clerk Patricia Bessette informed the Board that the proposed new legislation would require only 20 days-notice to citizens of the new election date. Ms. Bessette suggested the first week of June to hold the Annual Town Election. Mr. Brady made a motion to postpone the Annual Town Election, originally scheduled for April 14, 2020 to a future date to be determined in adherence with the new legislation to be passed. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that according to the new legislation to be passed, Annual Town Meetings may also be postponed with permission from the Town Moderator. Mr. Beckerman stated that he will reach out to the Town Moderator regarding this matter. Mr. Brady made a motion to postpone the Annual Town Meeting to a future date to be determined in conjunction with the new legislation passing and permission from the Town Moderator. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Personnel Action Form for Principal Assessor

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form for a rate change for Principal Assessor, Paul Sullivan, effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Appointment of Per Diem Public Safety Dispatcher

Mr. Enos requested the Board appoint Joseph Khirallah as a Per Diem Public Safety Dispatcher pending the satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Police Department's need for dispatchers, the request was made earlier to expedite the process. Mr. Brady made a motion to appoint Joseph Khirallah as a Per Diem Public Safety Dispatcher for a Grade F9, Step 7 at the rate of \$18.27 per hour pending the satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Appointment of Democratic Registrar of Voters

Mr. Brady made a motion to appoint Michael Lawler as the Democratic Registrar of Voters for a one-year term from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Water Operations Support

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the proposal for a general services contract from H2Olson Engineering, Inc. for water operations support. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

CEI-EPA MS4 Compliance Support

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the proposal for scope of services by Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated to assist the Department of Public Works with MS4 compliance. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Summer Concert Series

Chairman Rose read correspondence from Paul Chute of the Avon Civic Association requesting that the Summer Concert Series at DeMarco Park begin on June 17, 2020 to be held on Wednesday evenings weekly through August 5, 2020. Mr. Chute also requested a meeting with the Board to discuss improvements to DeMarco Park including a bandstand/pavilion. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the dates for the Summer Concert series at DeMarco park. Mr. Brady seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. Brady commented that the dates were acceptable pending approval from the Health Agent regarding the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and if the guidelines for social distancing have been lifted. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Mr. Brady voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Announcements

Chairman Rose stated that the next April meetings of the Board will be on April 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and following the rules of social distancing the Board will teleconference via Zoom.

Chairman Rose announced that the Avon Food Pantry is in dire need of donations. Gift cards and monetary donations are also accepted. If you would like to donate, please call the Avon Baptist Church.

Chairman Rose wished for the safety and well being of all residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adjournment

At 8:00 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. Beckerman made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session. Mr. Brady 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. April 2, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda
2. March 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Regular Session)
3. Fire Station Renovation Project PowerPoint Presentation by Saccoccio & Associates
4. Personnel Action Form for Principal Assessor
5. Personnel Action Form for Per Diem Public Safety Dispatcher
6. Letter of Interest from Michael Lawler to be appointed as a Registrar of Voters
7. Proposal from H2Olson Engineering, Inc. for Water Operations Support
8. Scope of Services from Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated for MS4 Compliance
9. Request from Avon Civic Association for Approval of Summer Concert Series Dates