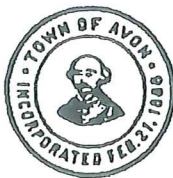


**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Steven P. Rose, Chairman  
Robert F. Brady, Jr., Clerk  
Eric S. Beckerman, Associate

Gregory S. Enos  
**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

# Town of Avon Massachusetts



Town Offices  
Buckley Center 02322  
(508) 588-0414  
FAX (508) 559-0209

**TOWN OF AVON**

**2020 MAY 26 P 1:02**

**TOWN CLERK**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2020**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Steven P. Rose, Chairman  
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)  
William Fitzgerald, DPW Director (via videoconference)  
Gene Mazzella, COA Director (via videoconference)  
Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent (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](mailto: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](http://avontv.org).

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with all members present. Chairman Rose was present in the Mary McDermott meeting room, while Mr. Beckerman was 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.

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

### **Moment of Silence**

Chairman Rose called for a Moment of Silence for all persons suffering or who have lost their lives from COVID-19.

## **Public Participation**

None

## **APPOINTMENTS**

None

## **Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 16, 2020 (Regular Session) as written. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 Updates**

Chief Spurr informed the Board that the Town seems to be on the downslope as to the rate of positive coronavirus cases. Ms. Waldron stated that the Town currently has 60 cases, however, it seems to have stabilized somewhat. Ms. Waldron informed the Board that the curbside recycling program "Simple Recycling" will resume next week. Mr. Enos informed the Board that the Avon Walmart has reopened after extensive cleaning and sanitation of the store. Ms. Waldron stated that she will inspect every business prior to its reopening. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the DPW will work with owners who need water flushing done prior to their business reopening. Mr. Beckerman asked about the phased reopening of Town Hall. Mr. Enos stated that he will work with the Emergency Management team to determine the best way to reopen Town buildings safely.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Face Covering Order**

Ms. Waldron informed the Board that the Board of Health issued a Face Covering Order effective April 24, 2020 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All members of the public, ages 2 years and older are required to wear a cloth face covering over their nose and mouth when entering public buildings. This order will be strictly enforced by local law enforcement and persons not following this order are subject to a fine of \$100 per incident.

### **Memorial Day Parade Cancellation**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to cancel the Memorial Day Parade scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

### **Vacation Time Carry Over**

Mr. Enos reminded the Board that several Town employees have an excessive amount of vacation time on the books. Mr. Enos stated he held a meeting several months back and advised employees that if they did not use their vacation time by June 30, 2020, accrued time off above and beyond what the Town is contractually obligated to carry over, would be eliminated. Mr. Enos informed the Board that although staff has been working diligently on dwindling down their time, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused



some problems regarding this matter. Mr. Enos stated that employees have expressed their concern about using vacation time during the pandemic as the Stay at Home Order prohibits people from traveling or utilizing their time in a manner that they normally would. Mr. Enos requested the Board allow him some time to research and review the best approach to resolve the excessive vacation time problem and propose a solution to the Board. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to allow the Town Administrator to review the vacation time carry over issue and submit a proposal for resolution of this matter to the Board for discussion. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. Mr. Beckerman stated that last year, the deadline for vacation time carry over was December 31, 2020. Mr. Beckerman asked if there was still a lot of time on the books, to which Mr. Enos replied that certain Departments still have excessive time to use. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

### **Compost Site**

Ms. Waldron announced that the Compost Site will be opening for the season on May 20, 2020. Ms. Waldron also announced that Bulk Collection Day will be held on May 23, 2020. Each household will be allowed to put ten items curbside.

### **Department of Health and Human Services CARES Act Relief Fund**

Mr. Enos informed the Board that the Treasurer/Collector has received a stimulus payment in the amount of approximately \$6,000 from the Department of Health & Human Services CARES Act Relief Fund. The payment amount was determined by the Town's 2019 Medicare payments. Mr. Enos stated that although it does not state specifically how to use the payment, it can be used to prevent, prepare for and/or in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the stimulus payment from the Department of Health and Human Services CARES Act Relief Fund. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

### **Street Opening Permits**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Street Opening Permit for 253 Page Street for a 3' x 5' x 3' road cut to abandon gas service at the main with the stipulation that the road be restored pursuant to the DPW's rehabilitation procedures. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Street Opening Permit for 420 Page Street for a 3' x 5' x 3' road cut to abandon the gas stub at the main with the stipulation that the road be restored pursuant to the DPW's rehabilitation procedures. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Street Opening Permit for 102 Highland Street for a 3' x 5' x 3' road cut to abandon gas service at the main with the stipulation that the road be restored pursuant to the DPW's rehabilitation procedures. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Street Opening Permit for 37 West High Street for a 3' x 5' x 3' road cut to abandon gas service at the main with the stipulation that the road be restored pursuant to the DPW's rehabilitation procedures. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Street Opening Permit for 291 Pond Street for a 3' x 5' road cut to replace the gas service line with the stipulation that the road be restored pursuant to the DPW's rehabilitation procedures. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Street Opening Permit for 12 Ledin Drive for a 4 x 6' road cut tie in and a 4' x 30' road cut trench to install new gas service the stipulation that the road be restored pursuant to the DPW's rehabilitation procedures. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Street Opening Permit for the intersection of Packard Street and Cross Street to replace 15' of gas main the stipulation that the road be restored pursuant to the DPW's rehabilitation procedures. This Street Opening Permit must also be performed prior to the final top coating of the roads performed by TL Edwards and under the supervision of the Assistant DPW Director Brian Martin. Columbia Gas has agreed to work with Mr. Martin to minimize any cut and use flowable fil. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **Gift Acceptance Forms**

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Gift Acceptance Request from the Avon Police Relief Association of the Council on Aging in the amount of \$250 to be used for any program expense. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **COUNCIL ON AGING GRANTS**

##### **Tufts Health Plan Foundation Grant**

Mr. Mazzella informed the Board that the Tufts Health Plan Foundation Grant – Healthy for Life is a three-year regional grant totaling \$15,000 which will disperse \$5,000 to Avon each year. Mr. Mazzella stated that the money is meant to support outreach and community engagement to help seniors live a healthier life. This is a regional effort that includes Council on Aging Senior Centers and YMCAs throughout the towns of Avon, Taunton, and Brockton. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Tufts Health Plan Foundation Grant – Healthy for Life in the amount of \$15,000. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

##### **Walmart Community Grant**

Mr. Mazzella informed the Board that he received notification from the Store Manager of the Avon Walmart, Bert Cabral, informing him that the Council on Aging has received a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to be utilized at the discretion of the COA Director to be used for special events, celebrations and/or COVID-19 relief of the seniors. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the Walmart Community Grant for the Council on Aging. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.



### State Formula Grant

Mr. Mazzella informed the Board that he has received the paperwork for the Fiscal Year 2020 Formula Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the amount of \$12,240. Mr. Mazzella stated that typically the money is used to fund a portion of the Volunteer Coordinator's salary. In addition, the remaining funds were used to upgrade the sound system at the Senior Center. Mr. Mazzella stated that this year, he was hoping to use the remaining funds for computer stations for the seniors. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the FY20 State Formula Grant and authorize the Chairman to sign the paperwork. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

### Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos stated that he will work with the Emergency Management team to determine the best way to reopen Town buildings safely. He will ensure that shield guards are in place and that the Town is equipped with the necessary cleaning supplies. He will also work on policies and procedures for the employees to slowly start returning to work in a safe manner.

Chairman Rose requested that the Town Administrator, Selectman Beckerman, and Ms. Faro meet to determine employees who have gone above and beyond their normal call of duty during the COVID-19 pandemic so that they can be recognized by the Board. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve Chairman Rose's suggestion. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Enos stated that he received correspondence from the Town Clerk regarding dates for the Annual Town Election. Ms. Bessette proposed June 9, 2020 or June 16, 2020. She has assured Mr. Enos that she will take the proper safety precautions by to hold the election during the pandemic by following the state guidelines and taking such action as reducing polling hours and encouraging early voting. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to hold the Annual Town Election on June 16, 2020. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Enos stated that before a date is decided on the Annual Town Meeting, he will need to meet with the Treasurer/Collector and the Town Accountant to review the budget. He suggested a date of June 29, 2020 for the Annual Town Meeting but will confirm later.

Mr. Beckerman stated that he has submitted his reappointment letter for the Norfolk County Advisory Board. Chairman Rose made a motion to reappoint Mr. Beckerman to the Norfolk County Advisory Board. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

### Adjournment

At 4:51 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. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Beckerman voted aye.

Chairman Rose voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

#### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. May 11, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda
2. April 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Regular Session)
3. Board of Health's Face Covering Order of April 24, 2020
4. Department of Health and Human Services CARES Act Relief Fund
5. Street Opening Permits from Columbia Gas: (253 Page Street, 420 Page Street, 102 Highland Street, 37 West High Street, Intersection of Packard Street and Cross Street, 291 Pond Street, 12 Ledin Drive)
6. Gift Request Form for Council on Aging
7. COA Grant Information: (Tufts Health Plan Foundation Grant, Walmart Community Grant, State Formula Grant)