

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

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019
6:45 P.M.
WORKSHOP MEETING

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

Others present: Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator
Joseph S. Lalli, Town Counsel
Fire Chief Robert Spurr

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. with all members present. He informed the audience that the purpose of the Workshop Session was to discuss the recent house fire in Avon.

Chief Spurr approached the Board to discuss the house fire on Christmas night. Chief Spurr stated that on the evening of December 25, 2018, Public Safety Dispatcher James McIsaac received an emergency call reporting a house fire at 52 Freeman Street with people still trapped inside of the house. Mr. McIsaac dispatched help immediately to the scene. Engines One and Two, the ladder truck and the ambulance were sent to Freeman Street. Chief Spurr reported that Captain Francis Currie and Firefighter David Martineau, Jr. were the first to arrive to the scene. Upon arrival at 52 Freeman Street, the house was heavily engulfed in flames. Chief Spurr stated that he called for a Second Alarm Fire with mutual aid from the neighboring towns of Randolph, Holbrook, Brockton, Abington and Canton coming to provide aid in fighting the fire. Chief Spurr stated that Holbrook was the first neighboring town to arrive almost within minutes of the call for help. Chief Spurr stated that the firefighters had some difficulty opening the front door due to a large recycling bin that was hindering the entrance. Chief Spurr stated that another concern was a large propane tank in the back of the house that had the potential to explode. Chief Spurr stated that the source of the fire came from the kitchen. Further testing is being done to find out which appliance was the exact cause of the fire. Chief Spurr stated that he had no equipment failure during the house fire. He reported that he had twelve members of the Avon Fire Department to assist with extinguishing the fire, consisting of four full-time Firefighters, seven Call Firefighters, as well as the Fire Chief. Chief Spurr commended his team as well as Dispatcher McIsaac for their professionalism during this tragedy. Chief Spurr stated that he was also fortunate to have five Fire Chiefs and two Deputy Chiefs from surrounding communities to assist him that night at 52 Freeman Street. Chief Spurr stated that procedural-wise, all Fire Departments involved did their best to contain the fire and assist the victims. Chief Spurr stated that despite their best efforts, there were two fatalities in the fire, a 70-year old father and his 28-year old son. Chief Spurr stated that an 8-year old child was taken to the hospital with burns to his hands and feet.

TOWN OF AVON
2019 JAN 25 A 10:11
TOWN CLERK

The Board asked Chief Spurr if they could provide any assistance to the staff and family of the victims. Chief Spurr stated that a debriefing and peer support session was held for the staff affected by the house fire on December 27, 2018. Chief Spurr stated that Walmart has generously donated to the family. Both the Avon Call Firefighters and Avon Career Firefighters also donated Walmart gift certificates to the family. Chief Spurr stated that the Town of Randolph has donated toys and clothing to the family. Chief Spurr stated that the Red Cross is working with the family to assist with housing. Finally, Chief Spurr stated that a Go Fund Me page has been set up to help the family. Chairman Rose requested that the link to that page be placed on the Town's website. He also requested that Council on Aging Director Gene Mazzella assist residents who would like to donate but are not familiar with the website. Chief Spurr stated that he would like to hold informational sessions to residents regarding the importance of working smoke detectors in the house.

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Brady made a motion to adjourn the Workshop Session. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Brady voted aye.

Mr. Beckerman voted aye.

Chairman Rose voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shanna M. Faro".

Shanna M. Faro

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator