

**SELECT BOARD**

Eric S. Beckerman, Chair  
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  
REC'D MAY 3 2024 AM 8:56

**SELECT BOARD  
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024  
MARY MCDERMOTT MEETING ROOM  
6:30 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Eric S. Beckerman, Chair  
Jason L. Suzor, Sr., Clerk  
Shannon M. Coffey, Associate

**Others Present:** Jonathan L. Beder, Town Administrator  
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant/Human Resources Director  
Deb Morin, Finance Director  
Fire Chief David Charest

Mr. Beckerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members present. Mr. Beckerman announced that this meeting of the Select Board is being conducted via a hybrid method. The public may attend the Select Board meetings in-person or may continue to participate via remote Zoom access. Mr. 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](http://www.avontv.org).

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

### **Reorganization of the Board**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to nominate Eric Beckerman as Chair. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Coffey made a motion to nominate Jason L. Suzor, Sr. as Clerk. Mr. Beckerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to nominate Shannon Coffey as Associate. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Public Participation**

None

### **National Student Leadership Week Proclamation**

The Board received notice from Amanda Pyne of the Avon Middle High School notifying them that the third week of April is National Student Leadership Week. Citizens should seek opportunities to recognize student leaders in our schools and support their training and activities as they prepare themselves for future stations as leaders of our town, state, and nation. Mr. Beckerman read the full Proclamation for National Student Leadership Week. Ms. Faro will make sure the proclamation gets delivered to the school.

### **Pinning Ceremony for new Call Firefighters and Full-Time Firefighter**

Chief Charest appeared before the Board to welcome two new Call Firefighters and a full-time firefighter to the Avon Fire Department.

Ricardo Calixte joined the department as a Call Firefighter a few months ago. He was pinned by his wife.

Tyler Csakan was recently hired as a Call Firefighter. He has just enrolled in the Fire Academy and will be attending soon. He was pinned by his mother and accompanied by his grandfather.

Nicholas Gazerro has joined the Fire Department as a career firefighter. He has transferred from the East Bridgewater Fire Department. Mr. Gazerro is a certified paramedic. This is his first week with the Avon Fire Department. He was pinned by his wife.

The Board congratulated all new members of the Avon Fire Department and welcomed them to the team.

### **A-1 Market Request for Home Rule Petition**

Mr. Peter Patel, Ms. Oanh Quach, and John Connell appeared before the Board to discuss their request for a Home Rule Petition for A-1 Market. Mr. Patel and Ms. Quach are the owners of A-1 Market. Mr. Connell is an attorney at the law firm of Upton, Connell & Devlin, LLP. Mr. Beckerman prefaced the discussion by informing the audience that this is not a public hearing regarding this matter. Mr. Connell stated that the owners of this convenience store are interested in getting an article on the next available Town Meeting Warrant for a Home Rule Petition by the Town of Avon for a Special Legislation license for an all-alcoholic beverage package store license to be used exclusively for A-1 Market. Mr. Connell stated that upon approval, A-1 Market would surrender their beer and wine license. Mr. Connell stated that the applicants are both residents of Avon. They are invested in the community. Their children attend the Avon Public Schools. Mr. Connell stated that there is also a petition circulating with signatures from residents supporting A-1 Market in this request. Ms. Faro informed Mr. Connell that the petition is with the former attorney regarding this matter. In closing, Mr. Connell asked for the Board's support with this request. Mr. Edward McKinney of 4 Keefe Avenue expressed his support for A-1 Market. He stated that he is a neighbor of the business and has never had any complaints. The Board will take this matter under advisement.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the April 4, 2024 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Intermunicipal Public Health Nurse Service Agreement**

Mr. Beder informed the Board that this agreement has been in place since 2020. The public health nurse is experienced and provides five hours of service per week at a cost of \$10,000 per year to the town. Mr. Beder stated that the program works really well. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Intermunicipal Public Health Nurse Joint Service Agreement between Avon and Randolph. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **2024 ROTH 457**

Ms. Morin appeared before the Board to propose a new employee benefit. Ms. Morin stated that many employees have been inquiring as to whether the town offers a ROTH plan. Mr. Morin contacted the town's financial advisor who stated that a ROTH 457 plan could be set up as an employee benefit at no cost to the town. The town would not match the contribution. Ms. Morin stated that, if approved, open enrollment would be in May and June, and the new program would roll out on July 1, 2024. Mr. Suzor made a motion to authorize the Finance Director to set up a ROTH 457 plan for employees. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Avon Call Fire Department Landscape Donation**

Call Firefighter Captain Joseph Aiello appeared before the Board to discuss the Avon Firefighter's Relief Association's request to donate a spring clean-up of the Avon Fire Station lawn at 150 Main Street by Green Earth Tree and Landscape in the amount of \$1,800. Mr. Beckerman requested that Mr. Aiello place this request on an official gift donation form. Ms. Faro will assist him with this request. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the gift donation by the Avon Firefighter's Relief Association in the amount of \$1,800. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Annual Town Report and Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Document**

Mr. Beder informed the Board that he was delighted to present the newly combined and revamped Annual Town Report and Fiscal Year 2025 budget document. Mr. Beder stated that the town received a \$25,000 Community Compact grant in 2022 aimed to develop a budget document in line with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Over the past eight months, town hall staff has collaborated closely with the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at UMass to craft a superior shared report and budget document that mirrors best practices recommended by the GFOA. Mr. Beder informed the Board the document is now available on the town's website and the hard copy is at the printer for publication. Mr. Beder thanked everyone for their hard work on this project including Marcia Birmingham and Heather Michaud from UMass.

### **Resignation of Building Commissioner**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to accept the intention of Building Commissioner Robert Borden to retire effective June 30, 2024 after 19 years of service to the town. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Board thanked Mr. Borden for his dedication over the years to this position. Mr. Beder informed the Board that he would like to post the position soon as it is a competitive market.

### **Appointment of Youth Prevention Leader Kavon Williams**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the appointment and Personnel Action Form of Kavon Williams to the Youth Prevention Leader position at the rate of \$15.00 per hour effective April 22, 2024. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Appointment of Water Systems Technician Corron Wilson**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the appointment of Water Systems Technician Corron Wilson with the stipulation that all pre-employment requirements are satisfactorily completed for a Grade PW-2, Step 1 at the rate of \$26.03 per hour effective May 6, 2024. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Appointment of Tree Warden**

Mr. Beder stated that pursuant to Article 17 of the May 2021 Annual Town Meeting, it was voted to move the Tree Warden position from an elected position to an appointed position. Subsequently, it passed the ballot question on April 12, 2022. Mr. Beder stated that the current, elected Tree Warden's term expired on April 9, 2024. Mr. Beder stated that Charlie Guilbault has been serving as the town's Tree Warden for many years and does a good job. Mr. Beder recommended the Board appoint Charlie Guilbault for a three-year term to this position. Mr. Suzor made a motion to appoint Charlie Guilbault as Tree Warden for the term to expire June 30, 2027. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Old Colony Elder Services Nomination**

Mr. Suzor made a motion to nominate Council on Aging Director Jane Carthas to the Old Colony Elder Services Board of Directors for the term beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Beckerman announced that the May meetings of the Board will be held on May 2, 2024 and May 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mary McDermott meeting room.

Mr. Beckerman congratulated Conservation Commission Chair Paul Garcia for completing the training program and receiving his certification from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

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

Mr. Beder stated that counsel for the 3M-PFAS litigation has informed us that the defendant has appealed the case. The appeal should conclude by the end of May 2024. There will be a 60-day period for claims. Mr. Beder stated that the settlement funds should be expected by August with an anticipated amount of \$523,252-\$619,724 from 3M and an additional \$50,000 to \$60,000 from DuPont.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that he, along with Mr. Borden and Mr. Martin, met with FEMA and DCR on April 9, 2024 to review and update the flood maps. The new maps will be going into effect next year and we will need to update our Flood Plan bylaw. The Town of Avon will need to update its bylaw with proposed bylaw revisions to be presented for approval at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Beder has sent correspondence to the City of Brockton's DPW Commissioner Pat Hill requesting 50,000 GPD of sewer flow into Brockton, up to 100,000 GPD in future years, to be timed with upcoming reconstruction work along Route 28. This connection would be along the East Main Street corridor (Route 28), intended to provide sewage collection services.

Mr. Beder inquired as to whether the Board is interested in holding an upcoming Select Board meeting at Blanchard's Tavern. This is the original location of Select Board meetings from 1939 to 1975. Camera setup would be available as well. The Board agreed and requested Mr. Beder plan a date for a future meeting at the Tavern.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that the library roof continues to leak during heavy rainstorms. Mr. Beder and Ms. LaForge met with Weston & Sampson last week to review the next steps to accelerate the much-needed repairs needed to stop the water penetration. Weston & Sampson is concluding the building assessment report, and a draft is expected in the coming weeks. The draft will be presented to the Library Trustees for further discussion and to finalize the next steps. The most critical areas to focus on are the roof repairs, window replacement in certain areas, rear deck repairs, and a sump pump installation in the basement.

### **Town Counsel's Report**

Mr. Lalli informed the Board that the meeting held on April 15, 2024 with the new Moderator to review the articles on the Annual Town Meeting was very productive. Mr. Lalli stated that the team is well prepared for the Town Meeting.

### **Adjournment**

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. Suzor made a motion to adjourn the regular session and convene in Executive Session for the review and approval of executive session 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). Also, 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). Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel. (Building Commissioner retirement and recruit for replacement). Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Coffey voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Chair Beckerman voted aye. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro  
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

### **LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. April 18, 2024 Meeting Agenda
2. April 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
3. Proclamation for National Student Leadership Week
4. Letter from John Connell to Jonathan Beder dated 03/25/24 regarding request for Home Rule Petition for A-1 Market

5. Intermunicipal Public Health Nurse Service Agreement between Avon and Randolph
6. ROTH 457 documents
7. Letter from Joseph Aiello of Avon Firefighter's Relief Association dated 04/16/24 re: request to donate landscaping costs for spring clean up of the Avon Fire Station
8. Memorandum from J. Beder to Select Board dated 04/12/24 dated 2024 Annual Report & Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Document
9. Letter from R. Borden to Select Board regarding intent to retire on June 30, 2024
10. Personnel Action Form of Youth Prevention Leader Kavon Williams
11. Memorandum from Brian Martin to Select Board dated 04/16/24 regarding recommendation for appointment of Corron Wilson as Water Systems Technician
12. Personnel Action Form of Water Systems Technician Corron Wilson
13. Memorandum from Jonathan L. Beder to Select Board regarding recommendation of Charlie Guilbault to Tree Warden
14. Letter from Nicole Long to Eric Beckerman dated 04/01/24 regarding Old Colony Elder Services – request for nomination to Board of Directors
15. Town Administrator's Report dated 04/18/24