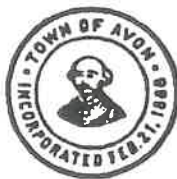


SELECT BOARD

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 APR 5 2024 AM 8:33

SELECT BOARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 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 Coordinator
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel
Interim Fire Chief Kevin Partridge
Interim DPW Director Brian Martin

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.

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

Mr. Beckerman called for a Moment of Silence for Peter V. Crone, Sr. Mr. Crone passed away on March 14, 2024. He was a retired police lieutenant serving the community of Brockton for over 30 years. Mr. Crone, a resident of Avon, has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals since 1983. Mr. Crone was also a Special Police Officer from 2002-2009 and served on the Conservation Commission from 1978-1995.

Public Participation

None

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the March 7, 2024 (Regular Session) meeting minutes as written. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

New Appointments

Mr. Beckerman announced with great pleasure the appointment of David Charest as Fire Chief. Mr. Beckerman stated that Mr. Charest is a 25-year veteran of the fire service who has worked his way up the ranks as a Call Firefighter, Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Captain, and most recently District Fire Chief from the Attleboro Fire Department. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form and appointment of David Charest as Fire Chief effective March 25, 2024. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Suzor made a motion to execute the Employment Agreement. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Charest was sworn in by the Town Clerk Patricia Besette. He was pinned by his wife Kristy. He was welcomed by Interim Chief Patridge and the entire Avon Fire Department.

Mr. Beckerman announced with great pleasure the promotion of Brian Martin from Assistant DPW Director to DPW Director. Mr. Martin has been with the Town of Avon since 2019 and has earned the respect of his colleagues and staff through hard work and determination. Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the Personnel Action Form and promotion of Brian Martin as DPW Director effective March 22, 2024. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Suzor made a motion to execute the Employment Agreement. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Martin was sworn in by the Town Clerk Patricia Besette.

At 6:45 p.m. the Board held a fifteen-minute recess. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

Construction Update on Rock and Gill Streets & Water Main Projects

Mr. Martin provided the Board with an update on the Rock Street and Gill Street Roadway Reconstruction Project. Mr. Martin informed the Board that during the week of March 4, 2024, MDR Construction mobilized to Rock Street to begin culvert work. Erosion control for both Rock Street and Gill Street was installed, and subcontractors for tree cutting and trimming began their work. The temporary barriers and fencing were installed on the Rock Street culvert. Test pit excavation work was performed to locate existing electric and water utilities. Work to temporarily relocate the 1 - 1/4' steel water line fed from West Main Street was performed. Finally, work for the stream's temporary bypass utilizing gravity piping and sump pumps was performed as well during that week.

Mr. Martin stated that during the week of March 11, 2024, the stream bypass pumping and dewatering work continued. Culvert work continued with the installation and leveling of the stone bed. The precast culvert sections were installed and secured. The new culvert was backfilled with clean, processed gravel prior to the start of retaining wall work. Finally, MDR began block wall installation on the upstream side of the Rock Street culvert.

Mr. Martin informed the Board that during the week of March 18, 2024, the block retaining wall work for the upstream culvert continued. The retaining wall work for the upstream side was completed. MDR Construction began work for the culvert's downstream retaining wall. Rock Street was reopened, and the detour route was removed, prior to the crew closing Gill Street.

Mr. Martin informed the Board that the plan for the week of March 25, 2024 is to close Gill Street for the culvert excavation, relocation of the water main under the new precast culvert, and culvert and block retaining wall installation. Following the Gill Street culvert work, MDR Construction will continue on Gill Street with drainage work which will take approximately two weeks. After completion of the drainage work on Gill Street, MDR will move back to Rock Street to begin drainage work and water main replacement work. Once all the utility work is complete on both Rock Street and Gill Street, roadway reconstruction and binder paving will take place, then sidewalk/curbing work on Gill Street, followed by sidewalk paving and final top paving. The final timeline depends on the weather conditions.

Mr. Martin informed the Board of the progress of the water main project. Excavation began on Ivy Road at the intersection of Ivy and Chestnut Road. At that point, trench preparation began on Chestnut Road. The contractors also began ledge removal on Chestnut Road. The installation of new water pipes is scheduled between March 18, 2024 and March 29, 2024. The new pipe will be tested the week of April 1, 2024. New service connections in that neighborhood will occur between April 1, 2024 and April 19, 2024.

Snow & Ice Deficit Spending

Mr. Martin informed the Board that the Snow & Ice budget for Fiscal Year 2024 was approved for \$100,000. Expenditures to date are approximately \$126,414.55. Mr. Martin informed the Board that with the weather forecast predicting a continuation of the current weather pattern, it is probable that the DPW will continue to incur expenses associated with winter snow and ice operations. Therefore, Mr. Martin requested authorization from the Board to overspend the Snow & Ice account by up to \$66,414.55. Mr. Beckerman informed the audience that the Snow & Ice account is one of the few accounts that the town is allowed to deficit spend. The Board approved Mr. Martin's request.

Reappointment to Board of Registrars

Mr. Suzor read the request from Michael Lawler to be reappointed to the Board of Registrars for another term. Mr. Beckerman asked if there would be any issues since Mr. Lawler notified the Board that he has switched his party affiliation. Ms. Faro informed Mr. Beckerman that she did consult the Town Clerk Patricia Bessette who stated this would not be a problem. Mr. Suzor made a motion to reappoint Mr. Lawler to the Board of Registrars. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

DeMarco Park Permits

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the DeMarco Park permit application of Sabrina Alleyne for a family photo shoot for approximately 50 people on Saturday, July 6, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried. The permit fee must be paid before release of the permit.

Mr. Suzor made a motion to approve the DeMarco Park permit application of Diane Peterson for the Avon High School's 50th reunion on Sunday, September 22, 2024 for approximately 30 people from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Beckerman reminded Ms. Faro that no alcohol is permitted in the park without the proper permit. Ms. Faro will inform the applicant. Ms. Coffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements

Mr. Beckerman announced correspondence from Eversource Energy regarding their 2023-2027 Five-year Vegetation Management (VMP) for Eastern Massachusetts. Eversource Energy will selectively apply herbicides along the power line rights-of-way that pass through the Town of Avon.

Mr. Beckerman announced the April meetings of the Board as April 4, 2024 and April 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mary McDermott meeting room.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Beder informed the Board that he has been working with members of the Parks & Recreation Commission executing a scoping study with BETA engineers to advance concept design at the Bartlett Street tennis court location as well as an additional location on Fagan Drive. The objective is to rehabilitate the existing tennis courts on Bartlett Street for pickleball and tennis and to construct a new basketball court at the end of Fagan Drive in accordance with the prior Town Meeting article. Once the conceptual design is established, it will be advanced to the final design. Work is anticipated to occur at the Bartlett Street site this season. Depending on finances, work will be initiated at the Fagan Drive location as well.

Mr. Beder stated that the closing for the T.L. Edwards 30-acre open space acquisition was held on March 20, 2024. The total purchase price was \$1,054,766. The State MVP grant funded \$792,266 with the remaining balance of \$262,500 coming from the Wildlands Trust. The next step is to record the Conservation Restriction necessitated by the Wildlands Trust contribution.

Mr. Beder informed the Board that he met with representatives from FX Messina last week to discuss and provide an overall update on providing sewer service to Merchants Park. The Town's sewer consultant Weston & Sampson has been analyzing flows through Stoughton to service this area and early reports look viable. Mr. Beder stated that he will be filing an expression of interest with the One Stop program outlining a subsequent Mass Works grant application for engineering and design. Some of the next objectives include determining a connection point, establishing flows, fees and permitting, and developing estimates to apply for the grant.

Mr. Beder announced that there will be an Open House at Town Hall on Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to noon to present and discuss all the information pertaining to the proposed consolidation of Town Hall, Council on Aging, Civic Center, and school offices into one modern, efficient municipal complex. Residents are invited to attend and tour the buildings, review available information, and ask questions in an informal setting. There will also be a presentation at the next Select Board meeting regarding this matter.

Mr. Beder announced that the Annual Town Meeting Warrant has been finalized. There will be 23 articles to be voted on at the May 7, 2024 meeting. Mr. Beder encouraged all residents to review the warrant and attend the meeting.

Town Counsel's Report

Mr. Lalli updated the Board on the PFAs litigation. A major company is looking to settle with the Town of Avon. A conference call with the attorney for the defendant is scheduled for next week.

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). Finally, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Library Director Elise LaForge, Council on Aging Director Jane Carthas, Human Resources Coordinator Shanna Faro, Police Chief Jeffrey Bukunt, Park & Recreation Seasonal Positions). 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. March 21, 2024 Meeting Agenda
2. March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes
3. Personnel Action Form & Employment Agreement for Fire Chief David Charest
4. Personnel Action Form & Employment Agreement for DPW Director Brian Martin
5. PowerPoint presentation for Rock Street & Gill Street Roadway Reconstruction Project
6. PowerPoint presentation for Water Main Project (Chestnut Road)
7. Memorandum from Interim DPW Director to Select Board dated March 18, 2024 requesting authorization to overspend for the Snow & Ice budget for Fiscal Year 2024
8. DeMarco Park Permit Applications (Sabrina Alleyne on 07/06/24 & Diane Peterson on 09/22/24)
9. Correspondence from Eversource Energy regarding 2024 Yearly Operational Plan
10. Town Administrator's Report