

TOWN OF AVON
WARRANTS FOR
ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING
and
Finance Committee Report



.....

AVON MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Meeting begins at 7:00PM.

Bring this Copy with You to Town Meeting

Letter from the Finance Committee

It is the Finance Committee's responsibility by way of bylaw and standard to present a feasible practical town meeting warrant. The Finance Committee works in conjunction with Select Board to create a budget that is balanced and effective for the Town's operation. The Annual Town Meeting is a mix of annual fiscal budget, capital planning projects, and other matters that require a town meeting vote. This is your opportunity to join the process and make this community as great as it can be and. As great as YOU want it to be. The greater the number of people attending town meeting the more voices, ideas and perspectives that can be represented. At town meeting every vote is heard and matters. We hereby present this year's Annual Town Meeting warrant. We now anticipate you becoming part of this necessary decision-making process. This is our Town and while we may be small, we are mighty when everyone is involved. Think about joining a committee that shares your interest. Think about what you can do to make Avon the envy of all our neighbors. Let's put Avon on the map with town participation.

Do you have questions about the Town Warrant? Questions about what is happening in the Town? Join Us and let YOUR voice be heard. The finance committee will be having an open meeting the night of the town meeting at 6:15pm. Anyone with questions concerns or input is free to stop by.

Thank You all! The moderator will be hosting a breakfast on April 29th at 9am. Anyone who wants more information on how to get involved should attend.



LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED?

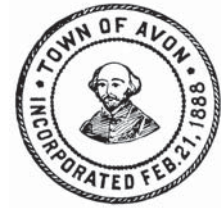


TOWN MODERATOR TO HOST WITH COFFEE AND DONUTS

SATURDAY APRIL 29TH
MARY MCDERMOTT MEETING ROOM
10AM - NOON

LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING A PART OF A BOARD OR COMMITTEE!!

**TOWN WARRANT
FOR
TOWN ELECTION AND TOWN MEETING**



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Norfolk, SS: To either of the Constables of the Town of Avon:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Avon qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at:

**AVON MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
WEST MAIN STREET**

on **TUESDAY, THE SECOND OF MAY 2023 at 7:00 o'clock** in the evening for the following purpose:

To act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To hear the reading of the reports and minutes of the previous session(s) and to hear and act on the annual reports of the Town Officers and Town Departments for the year ending December 31, 2022 and to hear the reports of any committees, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries of the elected Town Officers for the Fiscal Year 2024, and raise and appropriate the necessary funds to defray such costs, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Finance Committee Recommendation: Withhold recommendation pending clarification

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2024, including salaries of the several elected officers of the Town, and make appropriations for the same, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Finance Committee Recommendation: Withhold recommendation pending clarification

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and to enter into a contract for the expenditure of any funds allotted or to be allotted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or County of Norfolk for the construction, reconstruction and/or improvement of Town roads, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: Chapter 90 Funding

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Septic Loan Receipts Account a sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$27,740) for repayment of the CLEAN Water Pollution Abatement Trust Loan voted and approved at the Annual Town Meeting of May 5, 2015, Article 37, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF HEALTH

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Fourteen Thousand Dollars (\$14,000) to previous ATM May 2018 Article 16 to fund necessary water operations of the Town as listed below, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

Program	Amount	Previous Article	Source
Cross Connection	\$14,000	ATM 5-2018 #16	Free Cash

NOTE: The Interconnect Program is for protecting, maintaining, and maximizing the sustainability of the Town's water supply and treatment, evaluating, and upgrading interconnects with area towns and supply capacities, projects related to water storage and distribution.

FINANCE ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars and Ninety-Four cents (\$5,177.94) to pay prior year bills, or take any other action in relation thereto.

RBLA Design: \$765

Atlantic Tactical: \$134.66

WB Mason: \$251.75

Morton Salt, Inc. \$4,026.53

Proposed by: TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to set the following annual spending limits for the revolving accounts authorized by May 2022 ATM Article 14:

Revolving Account:	Spending Limit:
COA Van	\$7,500
COA Lunch	\$15,000
Park and Recreation	\$50,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: ATM May 2022 Article 14 established and authorized revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E½.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Seven dollars (\$5,707) to upgrade the Treasurer/Collectors software from DNWINDOWS to QDS CORE this updates a DOS version of software we have been using since 2002, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Chapter 40 §5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, and determine how the money from such fund may be spent; to see if the Town will vote to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of money received from judgements or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023, or act in any way relative thereto; and, further, to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of Chapter 40 §5B of the Massachusetts General Laws, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Finance Committee Recommendation: Withhold recommendation pending clarification

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 17D exemptions by increasing the exemption amount from One-Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$175) to Two-Hundred Dollars (\$200) or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: This does not establish a new tax exemption. Instead, it updates the amounts for existing elderly person statutory exemptions.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 22 exemptions by increasing the exemption amount from Four-Hundred Dollars (\$400) to Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500) or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: This does not establish a new tax exemption. Instead, it updates the amounts for existing qualifying veterans' statutory exemptions.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 37A exemptions by increasing the exemption amount from Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500) to Six-Hundred Dollars (\$600) or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: This does not establish a new tax exemption. Instead, it updates the amounts for existing blind person statutory exemptions.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to adjust under MGL Ch. 59 § 5 Clause 41C exemptions by increasing the gross receipts limits from Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) if single and from Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) if married; and by increasing the whole estate limit from Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) to Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) if married; and by lowering the age of qualification from Seventy (70) to Sixty-Five (65); and by increasing the exemption amount from Seven-Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750) to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: This does not establish new tax exemptions. Instead, it updates the requirements and amounts for the existing senior citizen statutory exemptions.

ZONING/BYLAW ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will amend the Town of Avon Zoning By-Laws with text pertaining to automotive service and open-air drive-in retail service as posted with the Town Clerk and subject to a Public Hearing or take any other action in relation thereto.

Current:

§ 255-5.3 Table of Use Regulations.

<i>Table of Use Regulations - Principal Uses</i>										
<i>Avon Zoning Districts</i>										
		<i>RES R-25</i>	<i>RES R-40</i>	<i>GEN BUS</i>	<i>IND</i>	<i>COM</i>	<i>MU Low D</i>	<i>RES HD</i>	<i>BOD</i>	<i>VOD</i>
<i>F.</i>	<i>Automotive Service and Open-Air Drive-In Retail Service</i>									
<i>Ib</i>	<i>Self-service gasoline sales outlet.</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>

Change to:

§ 255-5.3 Table of Use Regulations.

<i>Table of Use Regulations - Principal Uses</i>										
<i>Avon Zoning Districts</i>										
		<i>RES R-25</i>	<i>RES R-40</i>	<i>GEN BUS</i>	<i>IND</i>	<i>COM</i>	<i>MU Low D</i>	<i>RES HD</i>	<i>BOD</i>	<i>VOD</i>
<i>F.</i>	<i>Automotive Service and Open-Air Drive-In Retail Service</i>									
<i>Ib</i>	<i>Self-service gasoline sales outlet.</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>

<i>Table of Use Regulations - Principal Uses</i>									
<i>Avon Zoning Districts</i>									
	<i>RES R-25</i>	<i>RES R-40</i>	<i>GEN BUS</i>	<i>IND</i>	<i>COM</i>	<i>MU Low D</i>	<i>RES HD</i>	<i>BOD</i>	<i>VOD</i>

Proposed by: PLANNING BOARD

Finance Committee Recommendation: Make no recommendation

NOTE: The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 6th. The board will report the results and give a recommendation at Town Meeting.

CAPITAL ITEMS:

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$32,000) for the purchase of a new Board of Health vehicle, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF HEALTH

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: Currently the Board of Health has a 2016 Ford Escape. Would like to have this vehicle replaced with a small pick-up truck or another SUV.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 4 of the January 28, 2023, Special Town Meeting which read:

A motion was made and seconded and VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY to transfer from Free Cash the sum of One Million One Hundred and Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$1,117,000) to complete funding for “paving” various streets.

By changing “paving” to

“design, associated costs, installation of water lines, road reconstruction, sidewalks and paving”

Or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: DPW

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: This amends Article 4 of the Jan 28, 2023, STM to clarify the funds appropriated can be used for water as well as roads as part of the streets that are part of the two projects. This article is not requesting any additional funds.

FIRE VEHICLE CAPITAL ITEMS:

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer the sum of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Seven Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$116,007.70) from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account as the 3rd of 5 payments of the lease purchase agreement on, the Fire Department’s Rescue Pumper truck, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

NOTE: This is the third of five payments of approximately \$120,000 which will be funded through the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to upgrade Police and Fire radio equipment for digital Emergency Management communication, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend as written

HOUSE KEEPING ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed in the Capital Stabilization Account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation: Withhold recommendation pending clarification

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed in the Stabilization Account, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by: BOARD OF SELECTMEN/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation: Withhold recommendation pending clarification

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof, at not less than seven (7) public places, including the Post Office, and by leaving not less than twenty (20) copies in each of the public places for distribution in said Town, seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make do return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 30th day of March, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

A True Copy. Attest:

PATRICIA C. BESSETTE, TOWN CLERK

ERIC S. BECKERMAN, CHAIRMAN

JASON L. SUZOR SR.

JEFFREY BUKUNT, POLICE CHIEF

SHANNON M. COFFEY

AVON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dept	LINE	Description	2022 Approved	2023 Approved	FY24		Increase (Decrease)	Change	
					Department Request	BOS Recommends			FinCom Recommends
114	<u>MODERATOR</u>								
		Salary	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	100	10%
		Expenses	225	225	426	426	426	201	89%
	Total Moderator		1,225	1,225	1,526	1,526	1,526	301	25%
122	<u>SELECTMEN</u>								
		Salary	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	-	0%
		Salary Non Union	62,464	67,808	73,383	73,383	73,383	5,575	8%
		Expenses	19,022	19,022	19,022	19,022	19,022	-	0%
		Salary Reserve	100,000	171,526	50,000	50,000	50,000	(121,526)	-71%
		Newsletter	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	0%
		Celebrations	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,750	-	0%
	Total Selectmen		205,236	282,106	166,155	166,155	166,155	(115,951)	-41%
125	<u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u>								
		Expenses	8,000	9,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	3,000	33%
	Total Human Resources		8,000	9,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	3,000	33%
129	<u>TOWN ADMINISTRATOR</u>								
		Salary	156,794	156,788	162,392	162,392	162,392	5,604	4%
		Expenses	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	-	0%
	Total Town Administrator		161,294	161,288	166,892	166,892	166,892	5,604	3%
131	<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>								
		Expenses	5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050	-	0%
	Total Finance Committee		5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050	-	0%
132	<u>FINCOM RESERVE</u>								
		Reserve Fund	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	-	0%
	Total Reserve Fund		75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	-	0%
135	<u>TOWN ACCOUNTANT</u>								
		Salary	97,734	109,956	118,563	118,563	118,563	8,607	8%
		Expenses	38,115	40,020	41,328	41,328	41,328	1,308	3%
	Total Town Accountant		135,849	149,976	159,891	159,891	159,891	9,915	7%
141	<u>ASSESSORS</u>								
		Salaries	120,373	122,393	51,644	51,644	51,644	(70,749)	-58%
		Expenses	23,220	23,220	93,175	93,175	93,175	69,955	301%
	Total Assessors		143,593	145,613	144,819	144,819	144,819	(794)	-1%
145	<u>TREASURER/COLLECTOR</u>								
		Salary	212,131	217,546	226,257	226,257	226,257	8,711	4%
		Expenses	20,780	20,780	20,600	20,600	20,600	(180)	-1%
	Total Treasurer/Collector		232,911	238,326	246,857	246,857	246,857	8,531	4%
149	<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>								
		Salary	78,000	80,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	5,000	6%
		Expenses	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	-	0%
	Total Technology		338,000	340,000	345,000	345,000	345,000	5,000	1%
151	<u>LEGAL</u>								
		Retainer, Town Counsel	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	-	0%
		Purchase Services	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	-	0%
		Assessors Legal Expense	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-	0%
	Total Legal		133,250	133,250	133,250	133,250	133,250	-	0%
152	<u>PERSONNEL BOARD</u>								
		Expenses	100	100	100	100	100	-	0%
	Total Personnel Board		100	100	100	100	100	-	0%
155	<u>PAYROLL DATA PROC.</u>								
		Expenses	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	0%
	Total Payroll Data Proc.		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	0%
161	<u>TOWN CLERK</u>								
		Salary	125,764	131,219	153,442	153,442	153,442	22,223	17%
		Expenses	8,109	8,109	9,873	9,873	9,873	1,764	22%
	Total Town Clerk		133,873	139,328	163,315	163,315	163,315	23,987	17%
162	<u>ELECTIONS/REGISTRARS</u>								
		Salary	3,500	4,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	(1,000)	-22%
		Expenses	6,800	7,500	7,925	7,925	7,925	425	6%
	Total Elections/Registrars		10,300	12,000	11,425	11,425	11,425	(575)	-5%

Dept	LINE	Description	2022 Approved	FY24			Increase (Decrease)	Change	
				2023 Approved	Department Request	BOS Recommends			FinCom Recommends
163	CENSUS								
		Expenses	3,200	3,200	3,700	3,700	3,700	500	16%
	Total Census		3,200	3,200	3,700	3,700	3,700	500	16%
171	CONSERVATION COMMISSION								
		Salary	500	500	-	-	-	(500)	-100%
		Expenses	4,850	4,850	4,850	4,850	4,850	-	0%
	Total Conservation Comm.		5,350	5,350	4,850	4,850	4,850	(500)	-9%
175	PLANNING BOARD								
		Salaries	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	-	0%
		Expenses	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	-	0%
	Total Planning Board		9,300	9,300	9,300	9,300	9,300	-	0%
176	BOARD OF APPEALS								
		Expenses	200	200	200	200	200	-	0%
	Total Board of Appeals		200	200	200	200	200	-	0%
180	Development/Town Planner								
		Expenses	-	-	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Total Development/Town Planner				40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	
184	CABLE TV ADV. BOARD								
		Expenses	100	100	100	100	100	-	0%
	Total Cable TV Adv. Board		100	100	100	100	100	-	0%
192	TOWN HALL & BUILDING MAINT.								
		Salary (clock)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	0%
		Expenses	89,882	85,682	85,682	85,682	85,682	-	0%
	Total TH and Bldg. Maint.		90,882	86,682	86,682	86,682	86,682	-	0%
195	TOWN REPORTS								
		Expenses	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	0%
	Total Town Reports		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	0%
210	POLICE DEPARTMENT								
		Salary	2,048,046	2,048,513	2,241,086	2,241,086	2,241,086	192,573	9%
		Expenses	205,773	256,773	277,392	277,392	277,392	20,619	8%
		Police Cruiser		51,000	56,000	56,000	56,000	5,000	10%
		CMVI transfer		(51,000)	(56,000)	(56,000)	(56,000)	(5,000)	10%
	Total Police Department		2,253,819	2,305,286	2,518,478	2,518,478	2,518,478	213,192	9%
215	FIRE & POLICE DISPATCH								
		Salary	366,517	365,439	404,414	404,414	404,414	38,975	11%
	Total Fire & Police Dispatch		366,517	365,439	404,414	404,414	404,414	38,975	11%
220	FIRE DEPARTMENT								
		Salary	1,574,399	1,575,809	2,237,406	1,744,846	1,744,846	169,037	11%
		Ambulance transfer	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	-	0%
		Expenses	226,575	226,575	284,400	284,400	284,400	57,825	26%
		Ambulance transfer	(50,000)	(50,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(10,000)	20%
	Total Fire Department		1,675,974	1,677,384	2,386,806	1,894,246	1,894,246	216,862	13%
241	BUILDING INSPECTOR								
		Salary	103,282	105,283	135,411	135,411	135,411	30,128	29%
		Alt. Inspector	3,162	3,225	3,225	3,225	3,225	-	0%
		Expenses	12,217	11,030	15,285	15,285	15,285	4,255	39%
	Total Building Inspector		118,661	119,538	153,921	153,921	153,921	34,383	29%
242	GAS INSPECTOR								
		Salary	9,624	9,816	9,816	9,816	9,816	-	0%
		Alt. Inspector	1,040	1,060	1,060	1,060	1,060	-	0%
		Expenses	600	600	600	600	600	-	0%
	Total Gas Inspector		11,264	11,476	11,476	11,476	11,476	-	0%
243	PLUMBING INSPECTOR								
		Salary	9,624	9,816	9,816	9,816	9,816	-	0%
		Alt. Inspector	1,040	1,060	1,060	1,060	1,060	-	0%
		Expenses	600	600	600	600	600	-	0%
	Total Plumbing Inspector		11,264	11,476	11,476	11,476	11,476	-	0%
245	WIRING INSPECTOR								
		Salary	19,248	19,632	19,632	19,632	19,632	-	0%
		Alt. Inspector	1,145	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,168	-	0%
		Expenses	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	0%
	Total Wiring Inspector		21,593	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	-	0%

Dept	LINE	Description	2022 Approved	2023 Approved	FY24		Increase (Decrease)	Change	
					Department Request	BOS Recommends			FinCom Recommends
292	<u>ANIMAL CONTROL</u>								
		Expenses	15,700	15,700	15,700	15,700	15,700	-	0%
	Total Animal Control		15,700	15,700	15,700	15,700	15,700	-	0%
294	<u>TREE WARDEN</u>								
		Salary	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	0%
		Expenses	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	-	0%
	Total Tree Warden		19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	-	0%
299	<u>LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</u>								
		Expenses	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0%
	Total Local Emerg. Mgt.		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0%
300	<u>AVON PUBLIC SCHOOLS</u>								
		Operating Expense	10,478,327	10,903,295	11,838,906	11,625,418	11,625,418	722,123	6.62%
		School Choice offset	(960,622)	(960,622)	(1,164,512)	(1,164,512)	(1,164,512)	(203,890)	21.22%
	Total Public School		9,517,705	9,942,673	10,674,394	10,460,906	10,460,906	518,233	5.21%
390	<u>BLUE HILLS REG. SCHOOLS</u>								
		Operating Expense	1,095,049	738,894	690,308	690,308	690,308	(48,586)	-7%
		Capital Outlay		140,034	140,034	140,034	140,034		
		Schools to Careers	14,456	15,058	15,058	15,058	15,058	-	0%
	Total Blue Hills		1,109,505	893,986	845,400	845,400	845,400	(48,586)	-5%
391	<u>NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL</u>								
		Operating Expense	12,000	16,976	16,976	16,976	16,976	-	0%
	Total Norfolk Aggie		12,000	16,976	16,976	16,976	16,976	-	0%
423	<u>SNOW & ICE</u>								
		Expenses	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	0%
	Total Snow & Ice		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	0%
424	<u>STREET LIGHTING</u>								
		Expenses	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	0%
	Total Street Lighting		100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	0%
433	<u>WASTE DISPOSAL</u>								
		Rubbish Collection	537,000	543,500	565,000	565,000	565,000	21,500	4%
		Recycling Expenses	31,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	-	0%
	Total Waste Disposal		568,000	571,500	593,000	593,000	593,000	21,500	4%
440	<u>DPW</u>								
		Salary	841,089	864,777	938,418	938,418	938,418	73,641	9%
		Expenses	597,826	597,826	598,726	598,726	598,726	900	0%
	Total DPW		1,438,915	1,462,603	1,537,144	1,537,144	1,537,144	74,541	5%
510	<u>BOARD OF HEALTH</u>								
		Salary/Service	141,014	145,775	147,267	147,267	147,267	1,492	1%
		Animal Inspector	1,000	700	700	700	700	-	0%
		Expenses	16,200	16,200	18,200	18,200	18,200	2,000	12%
		Compost Attendant	10,100	10,038	13,300	13,300	13,300	3,262	32%
	Total Board of Health		168,314	172,713	179,467	179,467	179,467	6,754	4%
529	<u>HEALTH SERVICES</u>								
		Visiting Nurses	10,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	-	0%
	Total Health Services		10,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	-	0%
541	<u>COUNCIL ON AGING</u>								
		Salary	214,040	225,163	211,691	211,691	211,691	(13,472)	-6%
		Expenses	12,870	10,870	15,870	15,870	15,870	5,000	46%
	Total Council on Aging		226,910	236,033	227,561	227,561	227,561	(8,472)	-4%
543	<u>VETERANS SERVICES</u>								
		Salary	14,030	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	-	0%
		Expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	0%
		Veterans Benefits	37,600	37,600	37,600	37,600	37,600	-	0%
		Veterans Quarters	700	700	700	700	700	-	0%
	Total Veterans Services		53,330	46,300	46,300	46,300	46,300	-	0%
610	<u>LIBRARY</u>								
		Salary	282,780	325,952	327,425	327,425	327,425	1,473	0%
		Expenses	145,784	145,784	147,121	147,121	147,121	1,337	1%
	Total Library		428,564	471,736	474,546	474,546	474,546	2,810	1%

Dept	LINE	Description	FY24					Increase (Decrease)	Change
			2022 Approved	2023 Approved	Department Request	BOS Recommendations	FinCom Recommendations		
650	<u>PARK & RECREATION</u>								
		Salary	62,000	62,437	62,437	62,437	62,437	-	0%
		Expenses	31,633	31,633	31,633	31,633	31,633	-	0%
	Total Park & Rec.		93,633	94,070	94,070	94,070	94,070	-	0%
695	<u>CULTURAL COUNCIL</u>								
		Expenses	100	100	100	100	100	-	0%
	Total Cultural Council		100	100	100	100	100	-	0%
699	<u>MEMORIAL DAY</u>								
		Expenses	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	-	0%
	Total Memorial Day		9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	-	0%
	<u>DEBT PAYMENT</u>								
710		Debt outside cap	1,979,926	1,945,900	1,910,600	1,910,600	1,910,600	(35,300)	-2%
752		Short Term Borrowing	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	0%
760		Cost of Bond Issuance	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	-	0%
	Total Debt Payment		1,997,926	1,963,900	1,928,600	1,928,600	1,928,600	(35,300)	-2%
	<u>PENSIONS</u>								
911		Norfolk County Retirement	1,560,397	1,674,267	1,846,616	1,846,616	1,846,616	172,349	10%
		OPEB	145,000	225,000	145,000	145,000	145,000	(80,000)	-36%
	Total Pensions		1,705,397	1,899,267	1,991,616	1,991,616	1,991,616	92,349	5%
	<u>INSURANCE</u>								
912		Workmens Comp	137,000	112,000	112,000	112,000	112,000	-	0%
913		Unemployment	80,000	60,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	(10,000)	-17%
914		Medical & Life	2,985,000	3,203,031	3,417,583	3,417,583	3,417,583	214,552	7%
916		Medicare	252,000	250,000	255,000	255,000	255,000	5,000	2%
910		Medicaid	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0%
945		Liability	258,000	175,000	185,000	185,000	185,000	10,000	6%
	Total Insurance		3,722,000	3,810,031	4,029,583	4,029,583	4,029,583	219,552	6%
930	<u>CAPITAL PLANNING</u>								
		Expenses	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170	1,170	-	0%
		Capital Reserve	45,000	60,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	15,000	25%
	Total Capital Planning		46,170	61,170	76,170	76,170	76,170	15,000	25%
	Total Budget		27,526,974	28,243,451	30,290,310	29,584,262	29,584,262	1,340,811	4.75%

DUTIES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN OF AVON BY-LAWS: ARTICLE II, SECTION 6 (f)

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to study the financial and other affairs of the Town and to advise all officers of the Town as to the expenditures and recommendations for appropriations to be made by them. All officers of the Town shall, on the request of the Committee, furnish it with all the facts, figures, and all other information pertaining to their several departments. The Finance Committee shall consider all articles in the warrants for all Town Meetings and report in print to the Town prior to each Town Meeting, Annual and Special, their estimates, and recommendations for the action of the Town. Said Finance Committee Report shall be distributed to each dwelling within the Town not less than seven (7) days prior to the Annual Town Meeting and posted in not less than seven (7) public places, including the Post Office, three (3) days prior to a Special Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee represents the Avon taxpayers. We are the official financial watchdog of the Town. We study financial and other affairs of the Town on behalf of ALL Town citizens – not just a special interest group. We have a duty to inform, provide advice, and make recommendations on all budgets and monetary articles that come before a Town meeting.

We are appointed (and reappointed) by the Town Moderator. The Committee consists of seven (7) members:

Derek staffier	Chair	2025
Suzzette Waters	Vice Chair	2023
Daniel Norian	Member	2024
James Norian	Member	2024
Richard Jordan	Member	2025
Paul Smith	Member	2023
Jarrett Beeley	Member	2025

Glossary of Financial Terms

Available Funds -- Funds established through previous appropriations or resulting from financial operations. Examples include Free Cash Funds, Stabilization Fund, and Overlay Surplus.

Cherry Sheet -- Named for the cherry colored paper on which they were originally printed, the Cherry Sheets are the official notification of the fiscal year's state aid and assessments to communities (State and County Charges) and regional school districts.

Cherry Sheet Offset -- Local aid accounts that may be spent without appropriation in the annual budget, but must be spent for specific municipal and regional school district programs.

DOR -- Department of Revenue

Free Cash -- Unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year. The Department of Revenue certifies Free Cash. Each year, Free Cash is calculated based on the Town's balance sheet as of June 30. Certified Free Cash includes 1) unexpended free cash from previous year, 2) receipts in excess of estimates shown on the tax recapitulation sheet, and 3) unspent amounts in budgeted line-items. Unpaid property taxes and certain deficits reduce the amount that can be certified as free cash. *Maintenance of an adequate free cash level is not a luxury but a necessary component of sound fiscal management.*

Debt Exclusion -- A vote by the town at an election to exclude debt service payments for a particular capital project from the levy limit. The amount necessary to cover the annual debt service payment is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt only. Debt exclusion may temporarily increase the levy above the levy ceiling.

Levy Limit -- The maximum levy assessed on real and person property which grows 2½ percent of the prior year's levy limit plus new growth and any overrides.

Overlay -- (Overlay Reserve or Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions) An account established annually by the Board of Assessors to fund anticipated property tax abatements and exemptions in that year. The overlay reserve is not established by the normal appropriation process, but rather is raised on the tax rate recapitulation sheet.

Overlay Surplus--Any balance in the overlay account of a given year in excess of the amount remaining to be collected or abated. Within ten days of a written request by the Bd. Of Selectmen, the Bd. Of Assessors must provide a certification of the excess amount of overlay available to transfer. Overlay surplus may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. At the end of each fiscal year, unused overlay surplus is "closed" and becomes part of free cash.

Reserve Fund -- An amount set aside annually within the budget of the town (not to exceed 5% of the tax levy for the preceding year) to provide a funding source for extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures. The Finance Committee authorizes transfers from this fund.

Stabilization Fund -- A fund designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose. Towns may appropriate into this fund in any year an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the prior year's tax levy. The Fund's aggregate shall not exceed ten percent of the town's equalized value. Earned interest shall be added to and become part of the Stabilization Fund. A two-thirds vote of town meeting is required to appropriate money from this fund.

Tax Rate Recapitulation Sheet (Recap Sheet) -- A document submitted by the town to DOR in order to set a property tax rate. The recap sheet shows all estimated revenues and actual appropriations that affect the property tax rate.

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services. www.dls.state.ma.us

GUIDE TO PROCEDURE AT TOWN MEETING

**Please note that few people are comfortable with these procedures at their first Town Meeting, but the Moderator will be very patient and help you through if you wish to speak. Town Meeting is YOUR meeting and the Moderator is there to serve you.

TO VOTE:	Be checked off voting list Sit in voting section of the hall Signal in prescribed way
TO QUESTION VOTE:	Stand, be recognized, question with at least seven(7)other voters
TO REQUEST SECRET VOTE:	Be recognized, make motion Seconded Majority vote Only allowed on appropriations (money articles)
TO MAKE A MOTION:	Be recognized, state name and address Must conform to article under discussion Must be in writing (presented to the Moderator) Seconded and debated Voted by Majority
TO SECOND:	Call out "I second the motion"
TO AMEND:	Be recognized Make motion (also present in writing to Moderator) Seconded, amendment debated Voted by majority Only two (2) amendments per main motion
TO STOP DEBATE FOR VOTE:	Be recognized, state "I move the previous question" Seconded, no debate Voted 2/3 majority
TO RECONSIDER:	Anyone may make motion Be recognized, make motion Seconded and debated Made no later than one (1) hour after final vote Voted by 2/3 majority
TO QUESTION DECORUM OF MEETING:	Rise and state "Point of Order" Moderator rules on point
TO TAKE AN ARTICLE OUT OF ORDER:	Be recognized, make motion Seconded, debated Voted by 4/5 majority
TO ADJOURN:	Be recognized, make motion Seconded, no debate Voted by majority

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF AVON
BUCKLEY CENTER
AVON, MA 02322**

**PRSR T STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AVON, MA
PERMIT NO. 15
02322**

**TO: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
AVON, MA 02322**

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY MAY 2, 2023, 7:00 PM

WARRANTS ENCLOSED WITH THIS FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT