

TOWN OF AVON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023



The Moderator, Frank Staffier called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with the required quorum of fifty (50) being present. Moderator Staffier welcomed Interim Fire Chief Kevin Partridge to Avon and asked for him to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed with a moment of silence. Congressman Stephen Lynch recognized and thanked Moderator Staffier for his 30 years of service and dedication to the Town of Avon. Congressman Lynch followed this with an update on the war in Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East.

Board of Selectmen Chair Eric Beckerman and Chair Derek Staffier also recognized and thanked Moderator Staffier for his years of service.

Moderator Staffier called for Article 1.

ARTICLE 1: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY A 2/3RD VOTE (COUNTED YES 66/ NO 13)** to authorize the Board of Selectmen to purchase the property owned by T.L. Edwards Realty, LLC, Trustee of South Street and Route 24 Realty Trust u/d/t dated June 25, 2003 and recorded with Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 19426, Page 14, and consisting of 30 acres +/- of land located on Fieldstone Way, Katherine's Drive and Parkview Lane consisting all or portions of the lots shown on Assessor's Map as Parcels B1-2-10, B2-4-10, B1-2-13, B1-2-14, B2-4-11, C2-2-2, C2-2-3 and C2-2-8, and B2-4-12 and abutting parcels for water supply protection, conservation, recreation, and resilience/green infrastructure purposes, and for the purpose of granting restrictions and easements for said purposes, with grant funds received from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program in the amount of \$1,455,350, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire such land on such terms and conditions and subject to such restrictions, easements and rights as the Board of Selectmen may determine.

Notes: Town has been awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program for 75% of the land acquisition costs and Wildlands Trust raised the remaining funds to support the application. This funding will be used to protect 29.97 acres of forested land adjacent to D.W. Field Park.

ARTICLE 2: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to accept the provisions of MGL c.44, §54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with MGL c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule".

Notes: This section enables Municipal Treasurers to apply the Prudent Investor Rule to optimize returns on trust fund monies, as defined in MGL Ch. 203C. The use of this new law requires local approval at Town meeting before implementation.

ARTICLE 3: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixteen Dollars and Ten Cents (\$32,716.10) into the Opioid Stabilization Account, for the purpose of spending such funds on programs and projects set out in the Massachusetts State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements and the National Opioid Settlement Agreement to combat the opioid epidemic including; Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”) Treatment; Support Programs for People with OUD in Treatment and Recovery; Connects to Care for People with or at risk of developing OUD; Harm Reduction efforts to prevent overdoses deaths or other opioid related harms; Support of Pregnant or Parenting Women and their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; To prevent Misuse of Opioids and Implement Prevention Education.

Notes: In May at our ATM (Article #10) the Town voted to set up a stabilization account for these funds. There is an ongoing State and Nationwide Opioid Settlement in which we received \$32,716.10 in FY23 it closed out to Free Cash and now that it has been certified the monies need to be placed into the Stabilization Account for future funding.

ARTICLE 4: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) for the purpose of financing the following water pollution facility projects: repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with the Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust or otherwise.

Notes: This is a state sponsored program in which low interest loans are granted to homeowners. Town Meeting has approved this program two times previously.

ARTICLE 5: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** transfer funds from STM 2013 Article #8-\$2,000 to purchase an additional Poll Pad and Poll Pad Receipt Printer at a cost of One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty-Five dollars (\$1,625) and any items pertaining to the purchase.

Notes: STM 2013 Article #8 was to survey private roads. This project has been completed.

ARTICLE 6: A motion was amended and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Forty- Four Thousand and Eight Hundred Dollars (\$44,800) for a Building Condition Assessment of the Town Library at a cost of Forty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred dollars (\$44,800) located at 280 West Main Street.

ARTICLE 7: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from ATM 2019 Article #15 the sum of \$7,242.53 and ATM 2021 Article #7 the sum of \$6,400.00 and ATM 2021 Article #8 the sum of \$45,536.50 and ATM 2022 Article #23 the sum of \$25,436.06 for a grand total of \$84,615.09, and to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Four Dollars and Ninety One Cents (\$80,784.91) to conduct a Wastewater and Water Connection Feasibility study of the

MWRA, or City of Brockton, and/or local wastewater disposal for the Avon Industrial Park and Stockwell Drive.

Notes: Total Project cost is \$315,400.00. The combined old article money to be utilized is \$84,615.09 and an earmark from the economic Development Bond Bill for the project of \$150,000 brings the remaining balance needed to \$80,784.91.

ARTICLE 8: A motion was made and seconded and **VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY THE MAJORITY** to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Twenty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$23,000) to the Park and Recreation Revolving Account to correct an accounting entry made in Fiscal Year 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:49 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia C. Bessette
Town Clerk