

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall by Chairman Thomas Harrison. Members present: Chairman Thomas Harrison, Vice Chairman/Secretary Thomas Gugliotti, Jeff Bernetich, Margaret Bratton, Catherine Durdan and Dean Hamilton. Michael Oleyer was absent. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cathy Durdan.

**III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE
(Including Board of Education Liaison Report)**

Ken Birk, liaison for the Board of Education reported the budget is trending similar to last year. Salary line about \$400,000 less than last year. Unencumbered balances will begin being reported in December. Capital budget approval is pending and will be presented to the Town Council in November. Enrollment numbers as of June 2016 were 3,323, and as of October 2016 are 3,275. There continues to be a strong focus at elementary school level. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Birk will follow up on total out of district students. In response to a question from Ms. Durdan, Mr. Birk stated he will report back to the Board on how non-resident students are monitored. Ms. Bratton commented that the new principal at Avon High School has established a connection very quickly and has been well received. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Birk stated since the BOE began televising meetings the meetings have become a bit more formal, but no other noticeable changes. There is a search committee and a search process ongoing to replace the interim principal at Avon Middle School.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

**April 11, 2016 Public Hearing
July 25, 2016 Regular Meeting**

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Dean Hamilton, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Public Hearing as amended.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Bernetich, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton voted in favor. Cathy Durdan abstained.

On a motion made by Dean Hamilton, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the July 25, 2016 Regular Meeting as amended.

Messrs: Harrison, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor. Messrs Gugliotti and Bernetich abstain.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

16/17-02 Approve Board of Finance 2017 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Bratton requested the day of the week be added to the schedule in the future.

On a motion made by Thomas Gugliotti, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby accept the proposed 2017/2018 meeting schedule.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Bernetich, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

16/17-03 Review and Discussion: FY 17/18 Budget Process

Mr. Harrison stated with the new State Law taking effect this budget season, he and Mr. Gugliotti met proactively with Mr. Robertson and Peggy Colligan to determine the specifics and how they will apply to Avon. Mr. Robertson stated Peggy Colligan and her staff worked hard to gather all relevant information. The Legislature approved a soft cap for fiscal year 2018. There is discussion to push for a delay on the implementation and changes to definitions. As a result of the upcoming session we may see some changes, but we won't know what they are until after the budget is prepared and passed. Mr. Gugliotti noted for the record that Avon is ahead of the curve in looking at this and how it applies to future budgets. Mr. Bernetich asked if anyone has considered pushing back on this and filing a lawsuit. He stated this is erosion of local control when the State of Ct which is in debt tells Avon which is AAA bond rated and has a reserve how to manage the budget. Mr. Gugliotti responded that we couldn't afford to mount that lawsuit. We are powerless to do anything about it. The State is simply stating that non-compliance will result in a loss of funds. The town has a choice to comply or loose the funds. Mr. Hamilton stated that Mr. Robertson did not budget for MERSA this year, so if we continue to not budget, then it won't be an issue. Mr. Robertson responded that it will be an issue because whether the funds are budgeted for or not, they still are applied either through supplemental appropriations or defaulting to Unassigned Fund Balance. There was a discussion of how this law would affect negotiated contacts. Mr. Harrison stated there will be a meeting this week with the Board Chairs to share the information in the comparison chart prepared by Ms. Colligan.

16/17-04 Supplemental Appropriation: Rotary Club of Avon-Canton Grant to Avon Senior Center, \$2,000.00

The Senior Center Director took the initiative to apply for this grant. This restores this program for seniors.

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 16/17 budget by increasing:

REVENUES

Recreation Activities Fund, Other Local Revenue, Donations & Grants, Private Sources, Account #09-0360-43651 in the amount of \$2,000.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

Recreation Activities Fund, Senior Citizens, Services-Other, Account #09-5301-52189 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the purpose of funding our meal program on Tuesdays and Thursdays over the 35 person cap for the month of September and for a new projector.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Bernetich, Hamilton, and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

16/17-05 Supplemental Appropriation: State of CT Department of Education Youth Services Bureau Grants, \$20,250.00

Mr. Robertson stated this is an item is not budgeted for and handled through an appropriation when the grant is received.

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Dean Hamilton, it was voted:
RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 16/17 budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Youth Services Bureau Grant, Account #01-0330-43383 in the amount of \$20,250.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Human Services, Service & Consultant, Account #01-4203-52184 in the amount of \$20,250.00 for the purpose of funding expenditures, which will be reimbursed through approved State of Connecticut Department of Education Youth Services Bureau Grants.
Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Bernetich, Hamilton, and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

16/17-06 Technology Lease/Purchase Approval

Mr. Harrison stated this has already been approved by Council. It is the third lease-purchase for the Board of Education. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Robertson stated payments would begin prior to delivery. In response to a question from Mr. Gugliotti, Mr. Birk confirmed that these chrome books are not given to the students to take home, they remain in the buildings. Currently the target is 2 chrome books for every 3 students. The older devices are still in use and these 538 devices add to the existing numbers. Mr. Birk stated he is unaware of the plans for the devices at the end of the lease-purchase period. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Birk will report back on where the carts are stored when not in use.

On a motion made by Cathy Durdan, seconded by Margaret Bratton, it was voted:
RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby approve a 48-month lease agreement between Dell Financial Services, LLC and Town of Avon for the Board of Education to secure 538 Chromebooks and 20 mobile carts
Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Bernetich, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report Summary

Details were included in the packet report dated period ended 8/31/2016 prepared and reported by Margaret Colligan. Most items are running in line. Intergovernmental is running ahead of budgeted amounts because the MERSA funds were received in August. The Engineering group has been on top of reimbursements from the State. Old Wheeler Bridge was completed and we'll see the funds returned, \$350,000 will be going back to the general fund.

In response to a question from Mr. Harrison on the enclosed Board of Education financial report, Mr. Birk stated Heather will begin reporting estimates by December, but it has been fairly quiet year to date.

B. Synthetic Turf Field Project

Mr. Robertson reported there was a joint meeting on the 22nd. There was a fair amount of public comment, about a dozen or so speakers. The Council asked Mr. Robertson to look at staff and come back with a final recommendation for the Council's consideration. This is a cost sharing project involving a combination of state/town/private fund raising. The project cost estimate is 4-5 million dollars. The final cost depends on if field hockey fields are turfed (est. 800-900 K)

C. The Auditor's Communication with Those Charged with Governance

The memo included in the packet dated August 16, 2016 from Ronald Nossek of Blum Shapiro & Co. to the Board of Finance has been received and reviewed.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none

X. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Thomas Gugliotti, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Bernetich, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas A. Gugliotti, Secretary

Attest: Mary Marinello, Clerk

All referenced material will be available to the public in the Town Clerk's office.