

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2018**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Avon Town Hall by Chairman Thomas Harrison. Members present: Chairman Thomas Harrison, Vice Chairman/Secretary Cathy Durdan, Dean Hamilton, Michael Oleyer, Ken Birk, and Margaret Bratton. Katrina Marin 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)

David Cavanaugh, liaison for the Board of Education (BOE), reported on the hiring of a new principal at Thompson Brook School, the hiring of a Director of Human Resources who was hired from outside of the District and will be starting soon, and the BOE reached an agreement with the teachers' bargaining unit.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

September 17, 2018 Meeting

On a motion made by Ken Birk, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the September 17, 2018 Meeting as drafted.

Messrs: Harrison, Oleyer, Birk, and Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

Mr. Harrison and the Clerk shared that Ms. Marin, who was absent from tonight's meeting, asked for the following clarification related to a question she asked at last month's meeting regarding the pad life versus the turf life of which Mr. Robertson had responded about the turf life but was unsure about the pad life with an approximate cost of \$80,000 to \$90,000 in the budget. Mr. Harrison noted that this comment would be included in the minutes for tonight's meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

18/19-05 Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project:
To consider and act on a resolution recommending an appropriation and borrowing authorization for various improvements to athletic facilities located at Avon High School

In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Robertson responded that at the last Board of Finance Meeting there were a series of suggestions made regarding the mailer and one we didn't incorporate was changing "Improvement" to "Replacement." Mr. Robertson noted that for both projects the Planning and Zoning Commission had positive 8-24 Referrals, the mailer went out last Friday/Saturday, and Town Council has a meeting tomorrow night with resolutions to adopt, we had a Public Information Meeting a few weeks ago at which the Council Chair mentioned that the Council would make a decision on the infill material prior to going to referendum. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that Council is not leaning towards any one particular infill type, the architect is reviewing what everybody is using, we have surveyed everybody in our athletic conference, and overall probably 98% of the owners we spoke with use some variation of crumb rubber and a couple use acrylic coated sand and single locations using the outliers. Mr. Harrison noted that at the Public Information Meeting there was considerable opposition to the coated crumb rubber. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that nothing has changed with the cost estimate. Mr. Hamilton shared thoughts

regarding this project (which are attached and made part of these minutes). Mr. Robertson responded that the resolution language is vetted by Bond Counsel and they would disagree since it is their opinion that it is an "Improvement" not a "Replacement." In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Hamilton responded that looking at all of the presentations available on the Town's web site we were adding approximately fifteen field sessions per day/week and included in the cost benefit analysis in the cost per use of the artificial turf versus natural grass and that was never updated to reflect that without lighting there are many fewer uses of the field because it gets dark and you can't play. In response to a question from Mr. Oleyer, Mr. Robertson responded that the project cost estimate includes the higher cost infill, not coated crumb rubber. He noted that once the project is finalized and goes through the competitive bidding process that it will be lower. In response to a question from Mr. Oleyer, Mr. Robertson responded that this is the number going to referendum. Mr. Robertson noted that perhaps at the Town Meeting, once the infill decision is made, it can be addressed and the expected impact on the project amount. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that it is a function of timing and in order to get the project on the ballot for December 12th numbers had to be locked in by beginning of September. Ms. Durdan reflected on a comment from Ms. Maguire at their last Board meeting and that the Booster Club would start raising money for lights on the field. Mr. Oleyer commented that this has to be presented to our voters regardless of how we feel, specifically about how we would vote; the resolution should pass onward. Mr. Harrison noted that this is different than when we work on the budget as the Charter says we can make adjustments to the numbers that Town Council and Board of Education have presented to us. Ms. Bratton agreed with quite a few points that Mr. Hamilton made but she agrees this should go to the voters.

On a motion made by Michael Oleyer, seconded by Margaret Bratton, it was voted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Avon: (a) appropriate \$2,995,000 for costs related to the various improvements to athletic facilities located at Avon High School, contemplated to include installation of a synthetic turf multi-purpose athletic field, an eight-lane track, and associated site improvements; and (b) issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,995,000 to finance the appropriation. The Town anticipates applying not in excess of \$50,000 of the appropriation to reimburse the Turf Field Project capital projects account for preliminary expenditures on the project.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, and Oleyer and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor. Mr. Hamilton voted against. Motion carried 5-1.

18/19-06 Town and Public Safety Communications System Replacement Project

Mr. Hamilton shared a thought, let's do it. Mr. Oleyer repeated that it should be presented to the public regardless of how the vote proceeds.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Avon: (a) appropriate \$3,890,000 for costs related to the replacement of the communication system serving the Town's Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Management operations, Department of Public Works and Board of Education, contemplated to include replacement of the Town's existing conventional analog public safety radio system with a 700 MHz radio system meeting the Project 25 (P25) standard including the acquisition and installation of dispatch consoles and user devices, the installation of a new radio tower and related improvements to the existing Huckleberry Hill tower location on Kingswood Drive, site improvements to the existing tower sites on Deercliff Road and Ridgewood Road, and related work and improvements; and (b) issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$3,890,000 to finance the appropriation.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, Oleyer, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

18/19-09 Review and Discussion: FY 19/20 Budget

Mr. Robertson noted storm clouds on the horizon for the FY 20 budget: Revaluation effective October 1, 2018 is forecasted to decrease 2-3% and would require a mill rate increase of 2.04% if everything else stays the same; Avon Education Association Contract effective FY 20 will increase \$2.1 million or 7.99% over three years notably \$680,000 in new dollars in FY 20, if added to the Revaluation increase it would require a mill rate increase of 2.93%; Farmington wastewater treatment plant expansion costs, budgeted in Fund 5 - Sewer Fund, and sewer users could see another increase on top of the current fiscal year increase. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that he did not know the percentage of residents on the sewer system, perhaps at least half. Mr. Robertson added that expenditures will likely increase because we have fixed costs and contracts, on the revenue side interest income will definitely increase because rates are going up, all other revenues should be stable but we don't know what the State is going to do so we can expect that net there will probably be a decrease. He noted the elimination of state and local tax deductions for those that itemize and may impact some portion of the population. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Robertson responded that his interpretation was that not everybody was losing that. Ms. Colligan noted that advanced tax payments last year was about \$7 million and normally runs \$2 to \$3 million hoping to take advantage of that loop hole which did not come into effect. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that regarding State elections it is all entirely up in the air and there would be no surprise if we were well past July 1st before you know how all of this going to settle out; and nothing out there is giving a lot of hope for how things are going to go forward. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Harrison responded that he believes the ballot includes a question regarding disposal of State-owned land. Mr. Robertson concluded that interest income will increase somewhat and over the last few years the budgets that the Board has submitted to referendum have included fairly significant reductions in anticipated inter-governmental so we will continue to plan for those, even though at the last minute some of that money comes through. He noted that Intergovernmental Revenue is budgeted in the General Fund at \$1.6 million for FY 19, down from \$2.3 million in FY 17. Mr. Harrison responded that it is prudent that we have been doing it that way. Mr. Robertson noted that the Superintendent of Schools will discuss the teacher's contract at Council's meeting tomorrow night; the Council can do nothing about the contract and it would go into effect or reject the contract within 30 days from the date it is filed in the Town Clerk's Office. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that Council rejected a teacher's contract in the early 2000s or perhaps 2007-2009. Ms. Durdan noted the very positive outcome with the teacher contract negotiations especially with other towns over 8%. In response to a question from Mr. Birk, Mr. Cavanaugh responded that BOE operating budget discussions have not yet been scheduled.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report Summary

Details were included in the packet report dated period ended 9/30/18 prepared and reported by Margaret Colligan. Ms. Colligan noted that auditors are onsite this week with the same team from last year.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS – No other items were discussed.

IX. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Ken Birk, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, Hamilton, Oleyer and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Durdan, Vice Chair/Secretary

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

All referenced material is available to the public in the Town Manager's Office.