



Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XLVI

April, 2015

Annual Town Meeting

This issue of the Town newsletter is devoted to the proposed budget, which will be the subject of the May 4, 2015 Annual Town Meeting and the May 13, 2015 Referendum. The Annual Town Meeting is held for the purpose of presenting the Board of Finance's proposed budget to the voters; the Annual Town Meeting will not include a vote for the budget or result in an increase or decrease in the budget. The budget will be voted on at the May 13th Referendum.

The Board of Finance held its Public Hearing on April 13th. On April 15th, the Board of Finance held their budget workshop with the Board of Education and Town Council and reached their final decision on the total budget.

As approved by the Board of Finance, and if approved by the voters at referendum, the overall fiscal year 2015/2016 budget will be \$86,406,996. This represents a budget increase of \$2,519,901, or 3.00%, and an increase in the levy of 2.48%. The associated mill rate would increase from 28.32 to 28.80, or 1.69%.

The Board of Finance will be presenting their proposed budget at the Annual Town Meeting on May 4, 2015. The Resolution that will be presented at the Town Meeting and the Referendum is as follows:

'SHALL THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,406,996 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2015 BE APPROVED?'

At the conclusion of the discussion on the proposed budget, the meeting will be adjourned to a referendum vote on May 13th. Those eligible to vote include electors and taxpayers. Taxpayers are permitted to vote if they are at least 18 years of age, own property that has an assessed value of \$1,000 or more as of the October 1, 2014 Grand List, and are U.S. citizens.

From the Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Fundraising - The AVFD would like to thank the community for its continued generous support over the years to help sustain our all-volunteer status. We're continuing to work to raise money for the live fire training facility to be built in Farmington. With about \$100,000 still needed, it is an exciting time as we close in on our goal. For more information visit www.avonvfd.org/livefiretraining.

Another way to give is through our annual fundraising campaign - please keep an eye out for a letter in the mail or visit www.avonvfd.org to make an online donation.

Brush Fires - While cold, snowy weather has again postponed the start of spring fire season this year, it's never too early to prepare. Downed trees that fell under the weight of ice and snow as well as other storm debris can provide additional fuel for brush fires. Wind gusts and low humidity cause brush fires to quickly grow and spread.

Most brush fires are started by humans—a discarded hot match or cigarette or a campfire that isn't properly extinguished. The AVFD urges residents to take precautions. For more information about Avon's Open Burning policies and procedures visit <http://www.avonct.gov/fire-prevention/pages/open-burning>.



Recreation and Parks is now on Facebook! Check us out at Avon Recreation and Parks Department.

The Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for all Summer Programs. Please log onto www.avonrec.com to view programs and register!

Inside this issue:

Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Homeowners 2

Proposed FY 2015/16 Budget 3-7



Tax Relief For Elderly and Disabled Homeowners

In November 2014, the Town Council approved a two year extension of the Town's Elderly Property Tax Relief Program and raised the income limit. Homeowners who are age 65 or older or totally disabled may be eligible for up to \$2,150 (for a married couple) or \$1,900 (for an unmarried individual) in property tax relief. To be eligible, you must have been 65 or older by 12/31/14, your adjusted gross income plus social security has to be \$55,000 or less, and you must have owned your home on October 1, 2014. Applications must be received by May 15, 2015. If you have any questions or feel you might be eligible, please contact the Assessor's Office at (860) 409-4335 for a confidential appointment.

Avon Police Department News

We are proud to announce the addition of four full-time Police Officers and three full-time Dispatchers to the Department. They are: Officer Jeffrey Dubien, Officer William Forster, Officer Jonathan Mazza, Officer Michael Zurawek, Dispatcher Andrew Potter, Dispatcher Amber-Lee Donohue and Dispatcher Hannah McCaw. Officers Zurawek and Forster have graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy, Officer Dubien graduated from the New Britain Police Academy and Officer Mazza graduated from the Waterbury Police Academy and all are now full-time members of the Patrol Unit of the Department.

In August 2014, Officer Christopher Poulin completed his extensive training in the D.A.R.E. program and is now a certified D.A.R.E. instructor. He will be teaching the D.A.R.E. program at Thompson Brook School beginning this month, joining Sergeant Lisa Petkis and Officer Eric Lundell.

The following Department members marked "milestone" employment anniversaries in 2014: Edmund Sikora – 40 years of service and Officer Dena LaFleur – 20 years of service. Both were honored at celebratory gatherings and each received a special commemorative plaque from the Town Manager. Other anniversaries in 2014 included: Detective Jason Reid – 10 years of service; Dispatcher Dale Swanson – 10 years of service; and Officer Jonathan Haynes – 10 years of service.

Avon Historical Society

This spring the Avon Historical Society's Sesquicentennial Committee of the Civil War wraps up a four-year commemoration with a final exhibit and events open to the public. "Legacies of the Civil War" will look at the closing campaign, the way in which the war was remembered in Connecticut and the long-term outcome of the war. Events of the past two years have been funded by CT Humanities and other local sponsors. The "Legacies" exhibit will be outside the History Room in the Avon Free Public Library from March 1 to April 30. Four special events to accompany the exhibit will run in March and in May. For details and schedule of events, visit: www.avonhistoricalsociety.org.

Dog Registration

On May 18th, the Town Clerk's Office will begin issuing July 2015 dog licenses. Renewal notices will be mailed to all registered dog owners. To purchase a license, simply bring or send a copy of the dog's valid rabies certificate and spayed/neutered certificate along with \$8.00 or \$19.00 if unaltered dogs to: Avon Town Clerk, 60 W Main St., Avon CT 06001-3719. Please make check payable to the Town of Avon. There is a \$1.00 penalty fee per dog per month if you fail to register your dog on or before June 30th. Remember that Connecticut law requires that all dogs be licensed.

Dog/Cat Rabies Vaccination Clinic (Open to all Towns)

Avon Animal Shelter

11 Arch Road • Saturday, May 30, 2015

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00/vaccine (**CASH ONLY**)

Proof of previous rabies vaccine must be presented to receive a three year vaccine. For additional information you may contact Beverly LaPlume, Animal Control Officer, at (860) 409-4205.



Town of Avon – BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY 2013/2014	Adopted FY 2014/2015	Projected FY 2014/2015	Proposed FY 2015/2016
<u>Revenues</u>				
Property Taxes & Assessments	71,381,666	72,721,955	72,721,955	74,486,325
Intergovernmental Revenues	5,396,125	4,940,842	4,940,842	4,984,171
Licenses, Fees and Permits	1,346,220	1,054,725	1,054,725	1,053,825
Charges for Services	4,531,335	4,370,778	4,370,778	4,546,512
Other Local Revenues	502,622	498,663	498,663	479,163
Transfers from Other Funds	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Use of Fund Balance	194,027	300,132	300,132	857,000
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Revenues	83,351,995	83,887,095	83,887,095	86,406,996
<u>Expenditures</u>				
General Government	2,916,098	3,075,949	3,075,949	3,096,390
Public Safety	9,076,255	9,061,716	9,061,716	9,708,581
Public Works	5,100,396	5,323,106	5,323,106	5,583,203
Health and Social Services	486,315	473,209	473,209	483,568
Recreation & Parks	1,152,501	1,158,004	1,158,004	1,145,800
Culture & Education	1,398,579	1,453,265	1,453,265	1,503,905
Education – Town	52,559,034	54,230,554	54,230,554	55,120,652
Education - Regional School District	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Conservation & Development	600,151	626,021	626,021	636,900
Miscellaneous	298,811	323,412	323,412	333,814
Sewers	2,392,703	1,923,732	1,923,732	1,962,071
Debt Service	3,858,788	3,647,490	3,647,490	3,300,940
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	2,423,542	2,590,637	2,590,637	3,531,172
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Expenditures	82,263,172	83,887,095	83,887,095	86,406,996

Proposed FY 2015/2016 Budget Summary

Total Estimated Expenditures	\$ 86,406,996
Less: Revenues Other Than <u>Current</u> Property Taxes	\$ 12,135,130
Amount to be Raised from <u>Current</u> Property Taxes (based on an estimated tax collection rate if 99%)	\$ 74,271,866

Estimated Fund Balance (Deficit) – General Fund as of July 1, 2015

General Fund Resources Available as of June 30, 2014	\$ 8,687,086
FY 2014/2015 General Fund Projected Increase (Decrease) in Revenues over Expenditures	<u>\$ (54,270.01)</u>
Estimated General Fund, fund balance (deficit) as of July 1, 2015	\$8,632,815.99

The estimates above of the proposed fiscal year 2015/2016 budget represents a summary of the proposed budget. A complete detailed presentation is on file at: Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001. It can also be viewed at the following web address:
www.avonct.gov.

**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 - Revenues**

PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS	ACTUAL FY 13/14	BUDGETED 14/15	PROPOSED 15/16
Gross Levy	70,874,101	72,473,161	74,240,590
Uncollectible	(635,565)	(585,565)	(605,565)
Net Levy	70,238,536	71,887,596	73,635,025
Supplemental Real Estate	113,478	85,525	85,525
Supplemental Motor Vehicle	678,273	383,834	415,110
Prior Levies	85,514	130,000	130,000
Interest & Penalties	156,858	100,000	100,000
Sewer Assessments	52,065	75,000	60,665
West Main Interest	515	0	0
Lakeview Water Ext. Assessments	627	0	0
Telephone Gross Receipts	55,800	60,000	60,000
TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS	71,381,666	72,721,955	74,486,325
LICENSES, FEES & PERMITS			
Police Protection	9,600	9,000	9,000
Building, Struct. and Equip.	692,770	475,000	475,000
Hunting and Fishing	65	125	125
Animal Licenses	12,467	1,900	1,900
Street and Curb	3,300	2,500	2,500
Recording & Conveyance	562,638	500,000	500,000
Conservation and Development	17,739	25,000	25,000
Sale: Maps/Publications/Copies	24,378	25,700	25,700
LOCAP Recording Fee	7,953	5,000	5,000
MERS Land Recording Fee	3,580	4,500	3,600
Sewer Permits & Inspection Fees	11,670	6,000	6,000
TOTAL LICENSES, FEES & PERMITS	1,346,220	1,054,725	1,053,825
INTERGOVERNMENTAL STATE GRANTS-IN-AID:			
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	1,232,052	1,233,294	1,233,415
Immigrant Grant - Fund #13	21,515	0	21,515
BOE Education Program Grants - Fund #13 Various	12,118	58,919	58,000
School Transportation	18,261	19,684	18,256
BOE Special Education Excess Cost	1,337,891	1,054,197	1,181,621
BOE Open Choice Attendance	599,846	660,000	795,000
Title II Part A Teachers - Fund #13	22,681	36,289	33,466
Adult Education Cooperative - Fund #13	2,033	1,987	1,987
IDEA 611 Part B - Fund #13	471,844	523,000	523,000
Title I Improving Basic Programs - Fund #13	196,213	133,773	218,000
Pre School IDEA 619 - Fund #13	5,000	15,537	75,537
Carl Perkins - Fund #13	24,114	24,114	24,114
Sheff Settlement - Fund #13	191,325	182,375	191,325
Avon Education Foundation	108	0	0
Public Library	1,220	1,250	0
Pilot: Grants in Lieu of Taxes	86,889	79,218	95,895
Pilot: Pequot Funds	14,907	14,803	16,465
Property Tax Relief-Elderly	80,879	85,000	95,000
Veteran Reimbursement	4,583	5,250	4,750
(LOCIP) Local Cap. Improv. Fund	109,484	108,969	108,969
Town Aid Road Fund	310,739	310,739	113,809
Cafeteria - Board of Education	125,512	171,833	166,647
Miscellaneous State Grant Receipts	19,738	7,400	7,400
Emergency Homeland	9,072	0	0
Youth Services Grant	20,172	0	0
Judicial Branch 51-56	1,669	0	0
Manufacturing Transition-State Grant Receipts	380,852	0	0
FEMA Grant for Charlotte	95,408	0	0
Grants for Municipal Project	0	213,211	0
TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	5,396,125	4,940,842	4,984,171
TOTAL THIS PAGE	78,124,011	78,717,522	80,524,321

**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 - Revenues**

CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES	ACTUAL FY 13/14	BUDGETED 14/15	PROPOSED 15/16
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police Services	113,979	10,000	17,474
Accident Reports & Photos	901	1,300	930
Alarm System	3,825	1,500	0
Animal Pound Fee	1,080	2,000	1,080
PUBLIC WORKS			
Sale of Materials	479	0	0
Sewer Use Charges	1,638,451	1,475,000	1,777,306
Sewer Connection Charges	240,450	62,500	100,000
Landfill (Residential) Fees	138,019	144,975	140,000
Landfill - Bulky Waste/Other	24,852	30,000	25,000
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:			
Vital Statistics	23,063	25,000	22,500
RECREATION & PARKS:			
Organized Summer Programs	40,041	34,000	43,000
Swim Fees	51,479	62,000	60,000
Fees: Non-Reimbursable	4,413	4,200	4,200
Fees: Reimbursable	257,398	255,170	271,138
Maintenance Fees	46,245	57,900	58,615
Senior Rec. Activities	13,613	10,640	10,640
EDUCATION			
Cafeteria Sales	867,444	1,125,641	952,562
BOE Athletic Game Receipts/Pay to Play	199,816	205,995	199,816
Use of School Facilities	62,863	54,000	56,500
FINES & FORFEITS			
Courts	105	500	135
BOE Employee Bnft Contrb, Dent/Life	122,960	117,946	130,092
BOE Miscellaneous Receipts	243	20,388	14,000
BOE Tuition Receipts-Parent Paid (pre K Prog)	24,620	30,000	38,620
BOE TEAM Program	4,250	6,250	4,250
BOE Cafeteria Rent Receipts	99,573	99,573	69,573
BOE AHS Parking Fees	35,250	38,000	35,250
BOE Special Education Tuition	497,831	476,300	497,831
Public Library	18,092	20,000	16,000
TOTAL CHARGES FOR CURRENT SVCS.	4,531,335	4,370,778	4,546,512
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES			
Investment Interest - GF	46,905	90,000	90,000
Sewer Use - Interest & Liens	10,125	15,000	18,000
Sewer Assessments - Interest & Liens	9,268	100	100
Refunds & Reimbursements	101,640	132,075	132,075
Donations & Grants Private Source - Fund #9	1,959	0	0
Donations & Grants Private Source - GF	15,550	0	0
BOE Funding School Resource Officer	0	76,000	76,000
Rents & Reimbursements: Sprint Tower	55,674	52,000	52,000
Salvage and Demolition Sales	15,857	15,500	15,820
Interlocal Program Funding	134,563	78,300	55,480
Payment in Lieu of Road Improvement	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	72,980	14,688	14,688
Sale of Property	38,101	25,000	25,000
Forest, Park Mgmt. Sales	0	0	0
TOTAL OTHER LOCAL REVENUES	502,622	498,663	479,163
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance - Fund #1	0	0	27,000
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance - Fund #4	0	10,000	10,000
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance - Fund #5	0	290,132	820,000
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance - Fund #7	143,079	0	0
Use of Unassigned Balance - Fund #15	50,948	0	0
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	194,027	300,132	857,000
GRAND TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUES	83,351,995	83,887,095	86,406,996



**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 - Expenditures**

TOWN COUNCIL	ACTUAL FY 13/14	BUDGETED 14/15	PROPOSED 15/16
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Legislative	45,878	48,857	50,331
Executive	475,769	490,493	457,650
Judicial	4,618	4,750	4,950
Elections	71,708	100,468	100,961
Legal	156,723	165,000	165,000
Recording & Reporting	354,650	384,900	393,523
Town Hall	102,413	102,813	118,888
Human Resources	234,664	239,295	258,255
Finance	1,469,675	1,539,373	1,546,832
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,916,098	3,075,949	3,096,390
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police Protection	6,049,098	5,921,277	6,438,640
Fire Protection	1,793,140	1,780,152	1,824,870
Central Communications	685,338	788,486	802,735
Protective Inspection	303,396	332,678	377,531
Other Protection	245,283	239,123	247,331
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	9,076,255	9,061,716	9,708,581
PUBLIC WORKS			
Administration	378,245	399,434	442,229
Highways	2,069,035	1,953,527	2,020,812
Sanitation	340,405	403,731	386,759
Machinery & Equipment	498,415	558,498	597,601
Buildings & Grounds	1,476,955	1,654,981	1,783,216
Engineering	337,341	352,935	352,586
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	5,100,396	5,323,106	5,583,203
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES			
Conservation of Health	129,565	131,329	133,688
Social Services	356,750	341,880	349,880
TOTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	486,315	473,209	483,568
RECREATION & PARKS			
Recreation	787,718	831,234	846,812
Parks	245,191	165,483	120,675
Senior Citizens	24,839	36,746	36,746
Community Activities	94,753	124,541	141,567
TOTAL RECREATION & PARKS	1,152,501	1,158,004	1,145,800
CULTURE & EDUCATION			
Library	1,398,579	1,453,265	1,503,905
TOTAL CULTURE & EDUCATION	1,398,579	1,453,265	1,503,905
TOTAL THIS PAGE	20,130,144	20,545,249	21,521,447



**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 - Expenditures**

	ACTUAL FY 13/14	BUDGETED 14/15	PROPOSED 15/16
TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS PAGE	20,130,144	20,545,249	21,521,447
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT			
Planning & Zoning	443,493	457,965	467,474
Conserv. Of Natural Resources	156,658	168,056	169,426
TOTAL CONSERVATION & DEV'T	600,151	626,021	636,900
MISCELLANEOUS			
Claims & Losses	32,779	15,000	15,000
Municipal Insurance	216,721	241,912	252,314
Intergovernmental Expend.	49,005	56,500	56,500
Contingency	306	10,000	10,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	298,811	323,412	333,814
SUB-TOTAL TOWN OF AVON	21,029,106	21,494,682	22,492,161
SEWERS			
Operating Expenses	2,392,703	1,923,732	1,962,071
TOTAL SEWERS	2,392,703	1,923,732	1,962,071
CAPITAL IMPROV. DEBT SERVICE			
Bond & Anticipat. Notes	3,858,788	3,647,490	3,300,940
TOTAL CAP. IMP. DEBT SERVICE	3,858,788	3,647,490	3,300,940
CAPITAL IMPROVE. PROGRAM (CIP)			
Capital Improvement Facilities	1,617,542	1,620,637	2,678,172
Capital Improvement Equipment	506,000	920,000	853,000
Capital & Non-Recurr. (C.N.R.E.F.)	300,000	50,000	0
TOTAL CIP	2,423,542	2,590,637	3,531,172
BOARD OF EDUCATION			
Salaries	32,033,762	33,581,445	33,581,807
Employee Benefits	7,877,790	8,278,529	8,743,144
Purchased Prof & Tech Services	732,439	856,534	952,005
Property Services	968,808	771,691	769,489
Other Purchased Services	5,365,021	5,659,251	5,785,758
General Supplies & Utilities	2,505,937	2,448,047	2,519,002
Equipment	891,565	257,605	379,389
Fees & Memberships	68,461	49,984	67,405
Cafeteria Operation	1,059,084	1,297,474	1,119,209
Facility Use	113,811	54,000	56,500
Prepaid State & Federal Grants	942,356	975,994	1,146,944
TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION	52,559,034	54,230,554	55,120,652
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	82,263,172	83,887,095	86,406,996

ISSUE XLVI
April, 2015

Avon Town Council
Town of Avon
60 W Main St.
Avon, CT 06001-3719

Phone: (860) 409-4300
Fax: (860) 409-4368
www.avonct.gov



PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AVON, CT
PERMIT No. 14

RURAL PATRON
OR
BOXHOLDER
AVON, CT—06001



IMPORTANT DATES

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 4, 2015

7:00 P.M.

AVON SENIOR CENTER

635 WEST AVON ROAD

BUDGET REFERENDUM

MAY 13, 2015

6:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

AVON SENIOR CENTER

635 WEST AVON ROAD

Absentee Ballots will be available.

**Any questions regarding absentee ballots should be directed to the
Town Clerk's Office at (860) 409-4310**

SAVE THE DATE

Avon Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015

VFW Annual Memorial Day Parade May 25, 2015

This will be the 70th anniversary and the 70th parade following the end of WWII. If you have any questions, please call Bill Samol (860) 673-0594. In case of rain, meet at the Avon Senior Center at 11:00 a.m. The **VFW POPPY DRIVE** will run from the 2nd week of May through Memorial Day. Please show your support for all the veterans.