

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber by Chairman Zacchio. Members present: Mrs. Maguire and Messrs: Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Zacchio.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

15/16-72 Neighborhood Assistance Act

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Zacchio. Chairman Zacchio waived the reading of the following legal notice:

"LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall, Selectmen's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, for the following purpose:

To consider participation in the Neighborhood Assistance Act in accordance with Public Act 95-268.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 6th day of May, 2016.

Brandon L. Robertson
Town Manager"

Chairman Zacchio reported that the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) process requires a town entity to have a public hearing to hear applications for anyone who wishes to apply for grant monies that come in through the NAA. He noted that the Town acts as a conduit in this process, to open and have a public hearing and to submit the applications to the State. He added that the process is for the applicants who have an amount of money that they are trying to raise and will solicit donations from local businesses who would then be able to get a tax deduction through the program. Chairman Zacchio invited any applicants to speak briefly tonight.

Jennifer Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator, Avon Senior Center, reported that they are applying for 3-D printing programming for the Senior Center and their goal is to bring new programs to our older adults. She noted that the Library is going to allow them to use their equipment if this does get funded and classes will be held there.

Rob Shillington, President, Avon Volunteer Fire Department, reported that they have submitted proposals over the last couple of years but have not had a lot of success. He noted that this year's proposal is for energy efficiencies at their various facilities around Town, including light

fixture upgrades, kitchen improvements, etc. He noted that some of these items have been presented in the past under their capital budget presentation so they are trying to use this opportunity to fund some of these items. Mr. Speich commented that there are four items listed on their proposal and he questioned if a person can come forward and select one item. Chairman Zacchio responded that he is not sure how the State handles the process but one business could donate enough money to fund an entire program or could make up of 5 or 10 businesses. Mr. Stokesbury commented that perhaps if they get less than the total they could redefine it for that one that is funded. Mrs. Bennett reported that they do not have to fund the entire project as she has received money before but not fully funded.

Mark Rinaldo, Chief of Police, reported that the Avon Police Department had submitted a proposal but have since decided to withdraw it at this time.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council close the public hearing.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Speich, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the following requests for submittal to the Department of Revenue Services:

- a) Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra - \$82,135.00
- b) Avon Senior Center - \$1,880.00
- c) Avon Volunteer Fire Department - \$119,000.00
- d) The Sam & Elizabeth Colt Industrial and Frontier Heritage Foundation - \$150,000.00

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Speich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: February 6, 2016 Budget Work Session
May 5, 2016

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 6, 2016 Budget Work Session as submitted.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

A correction to the May 5, 2016 Meeting minutes was made as follows:

On page 6, 1st paragraph, 11th line, change “produce” to “reduce.”

Mr. Stokesbury also acknowledged his error under “Communication from Council” as he had the wrong date for the Migli Golf Tournament but he does not think that it misled anyone.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the May 5, 2016 Meeting as amended.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Speich, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Val Ferro, 88 Daventry Hill, commented that she is here tonight for emotional and political support and noted that June 11th is the 2nd Annual Play for Kurt lacrosse game. She noted that Kurt Skelley, who played lacrosse at Springfield College and was an all-star athlete, took his own life. She added that her son and Will Patten got together last year and renamed the alumni lacrosse game to “Play for Kurt” and it was a huge success which raised \$10,000 and Kurt’s mother, Lisa Ludwig, was instrumental as were a number of other parents. She noted that this year we have three times the number of participants. She commented that the players purchase a piney that has the number 10 on it which was Kurt’s number. She is asking the community to talk it up as much as they can. She noted that they are looking for food donations. She invited everyone to attend and if there are any other mechanisms to get the word out she would appreciate it. She noted that the Recreation and Parks Department will be sending out an e-mail blast. She asked if they could use Town sandwich board signs. She noted that Kurt’s mother, Lisa, has setup a web site, www.mindsatcapacity.org, and is a play off a piece of work that Kurt had done in a reflection of what was going through his mind. She closed by stating the game will be played on June 11th at Buckingham at 1:00 p.m. and if you cannot make it but would like to make a donation please go to the web site. Chairman Zacchio asked the Town Manager to look at the use of the Town sandwich board signs. Ms. Ferro commented that a flyer is posted at Luke’s, the Library, the PTO is handling notifications through the schools and has media assistance from the Hartford Courant and Avon Patch.

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, reported that last night he attended the annual boy scout cookout at the pavilion at Sycamore Hills Park and has been noticing over the last several years the deteriorating condition of the pavilion, primarily the fascia board along the edge of the roof line and is significantly rotten and the roof on the north side is starting to collapse in on itself and lots of moss growing on the roof as well. He asked the Town to look into making repairs while it is still on the cheaper side before it becomes a bigger problem and perhaps cut back some of the trees. Chairman Zacchio responded that we have money in this year’s capital budget to repair all of that and is being scheduled as the summer progresses. Mr. Lazinsk reported that last night was Bill Roell’s last official act as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 274 for as long as he knows and thought if it is appropriate the Council might send a letter of appreciation to him as he has been so instrumental as well as his wife over the years.

Deborah Key Mundair, 39 Gatewood, Board Vice President for Avon Historical Society, reported that they were present tonight to provide an update on the Derrin House fire that occurred on May 11, 2016. She, on behalf of the Avon Historical Society, thanked the Avon Police Department for stopping traffic very quickly and for the fast response from those passing by who alerted the Avon Volunteer Fire Department and to the quick action by the Avon, Canton, Simsbury, and Farmington Fire Departments that saved the buildings. She noted that the building is structurally sound but there is significant smoke damage in almost every room and artifacts have sustained a lot of smoke damage which has corrosive effects. She added that they do have insurance but there is a significant gap between what they have coverage for; they have one report and waiting for the other. She noted that they will have to make decisions on what artifacts to keep and go through the restoration process. She commented that some of the land is State land so they have assistance from the State, who has been the liaison with the Military Department, to see how we move forward in terms of remediation. She noted that the timing is

terrible; after twenty years of significant volunteer effort to restore the building on the eve of the 250th anniversary of the granting of the land deed to Lucy Derrin and a full year of programs that they have been doing with the Library and engaging very actively with the community. She noted that the fire was ruled an accident by spontaneous combustion. She added that they will have several fundraising activities and would specifically like to do something with the Avon Volunteer Fire Department that talks about spontaneous combustion and how it happens and make sure that people know that in their homes and garages that they should take preventative measures to make sure that they are safe. She added that most artifacts were old but not directly related to the three Derrin families that lived in those properties. She noted that they are still going through the triage process with State libraries and historical associations to share learning points with other towns. She added that there is a network of people that have been forthcoming with practical experience, advice, and recommendations on how what to do. She noted that they have already setup a Go Fund Me site and sandwich boards ready to display around Town once approved. She shared photos with Town Council. She noted that the building has been secured with plywood and tarps to prevent anyone from gaining access. Another member of the Avon Historical Society Board commented that any help in advertising fundraising efforts would be greatly appreciated. Mary Harrop, Avon Historical Society Board member commented that they do not have a figure from the insurance company yet and how much it will really cost to restore it but we know there will be a gap. Ms. Mundair commented that other historical organizations have given very clear advice about companies that are very reputable and expertise in this area but they are not cheap. She noted that tough decisions may need to be made. Chairman Zacchio appreciated the Avon Historical Society coming out tonight. He noted that it was incredibly lucky to have the Avon Fire Volunteer Department be able to respond in the manner that they did and Avon Police Department coordinate with the traffic; it is so much a part of our heritage and landmark for Avon and we are behind you in the restoration and anything we can do to help. He appreciates all of their efforts in what they are doing; it is heartbreaking but thinks it will come back and be better than it was. Mr. Pena asked where the Go Fund Me information is advertised. The response was that it is posted on the Historical Society's web site. Ms. Mundair commented that they have fantastic media coverage from the Courant and Avon Patch and have shown interest to do a feature every week.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Stokesbury commented on the unfortunate fire at the Derrin House and we are watching to see how the reconstruction and noted that he played a hand early on in that project so it is close to heart. He commented that as he drives by Old Wheeler Road every day, he has seen that they are ready to go with the project, the big orange signs are up, and they should be in the ground the day after school gets out so it is nice to see that road project move forward. He reported that he spoke with a neighbor in the Vermillion Drive neighborhood and the local reaction to the house fire where they are looking at and talking with Town officials over fire water supply and perhaps some good will come out of that tragedy.

Mrs. Maguire commended the Recreation and Parks Department and Department of Public Works for the outstanding job they did for the Memorial Day soccer tournament – 27th annual – it was nice to see the fields come alive, there are 88 teams, it was a huge success, things went smoothly, parking is always tough, and a shout out to Lt. Walsh for doing traffic duty. She noted that even though we did not have a parade on Memorial Day it did not dampen the spirit and true

meaning of the day holding it at the Senior Center, it was well attended, and is glad Avon celebrates and remembers Memorial Day.

Mr. Pena reported that he attended on behalf of the Town Council the recent Eagle Scout Ceremony, it is always a great event and he read the proclamation to the Eagle Scouts. He distributed copies of the ceremony program to Council members. He commented that the Memorial Day parade is one of his favorite events and that did not diminish even though it was held indoors this year and he thanked everyone involved with it.

Mr. Speich commented on the lack of turn out at the budget referendum and disturbs him in a way that residents do not think enough to come out and vote for the budget, not even the minimum. He noted that the Board of Finance, Town Council, and Town staff work very hard on the budgets every year and to see not even a minimum is disheartening at the least. He added that only if there are issues out there do we get a ground swell of support one way or another but it is our right to vote and we all should exercise that right. Chairman Zacchio noted that it is right on spot and it is important and communities all around us have been struggling the last few years and votes passing via the Charter versus the actual referendum and it is disappointing. Mr. Stokesbury noted Newington that went through many rounds and do have to recognize the good efforts we put into it and the results we provide the residents.

Chairman Zacchio congratulated the girls' track team who won the State MM Championship yesterday by one point by placing 6th in the last race, then moved to 3rd place and ultimately 1st place. He noted that the boys' baseball team is doing very well in the State tournament and has their third game on Saturday at Buckingham at 3:00 p.m.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

14/15-20 Presentation: Old Farms Road Relocation Feasibility Study (State Project # 04-129) and Old Farms Road Bridge and Intersection (State Project # 04-116 & 118)

Chairman Zacchio commented that the idea of relocating Old Farms Road has been around for decades and before this body since the late 1960s. He added that a couple of years ago we decided to anti in and make a decision on how to move forward and included a feasibility study which had to be step on in the building block process and how to address the east-west portion of Old Farms Road in the near future. He noted that we hired someone to do the study and tonight we will get a glimpse of what we are finding and what some of the costs might be so we are in a better position to start making decisions on how to move forward.

Larry Baril, Town Engineer, reported that the feasibility study has been completed to draft. Russ Adams, C&C Consulting Engineers, LLC, was selected to do the study and has done a tremendous job and will speak about it. He noted that we will also talk about the comparison of relocating the road versus rehabilitating the road in place and what's next. Chairman Zacchio clarified that we are only talking about the east-west portion from Thompson Road to Tillotson Road. Mr. Baril concurred.

Russ Adams, C&C Consulting Engineers, LLC, made a presentation (a copy of which is included and made part of these minutes). He noted that Mark L. Banks, PhD, did the archaeology and historical part of the study. Chairman Zacchio questioned that the design could support up to the speed limit of 45 mph but does not drive what the speed limit could be. Mr. Adams responded that is a design criteria for laying out the horizontal/vertical curves. Mr. Baril added that the design speed is intended to give you a minimum safe speed to travel the roadway but are designed for speeds greater than the posted speed because people travel faster than the posted speed. Mr. Adams noted that the significant fill area at the vertical alignment adds to the cost of constructing this roadway. Mr. Speich questioned what the R. Hart site is. Mr. Adams responded that it is a historical foundation that has been documented and is known site and should not be disturbed. Mr. Adams noted that Crossing 3 is the major crossing across Thompson Brook. He added that one of the criteria that Avon Old Farms School asked, who is in partnership with the Town on this as they would be donating the land in which the roadway would be built, that they be able to pass a small maintenance vehicle through there at any time. He noted that the total estimated construction cost is \$19,698,900.

Mr. Stokesbury questioned if you are on Tillotson Road and looking at the farm fields how far south of the existing road the southerly most point is and if we go into the farm fields. Mr. Adams responded approximately 800 feet. Mr. Baril added that the road is going completely through the woods. Mr. Stokesbury commented on the regulatory overview on the archeological/plant life/wild life and questioned who the regulatory agencies are for this project as planned. Mr. Adams responded that the primary one that we will be meeting with to go over the findings on the wetlands is the Army Corps of Engineers. He noted that this agency was back and forth before we started this project that defined the scope of work and wanted to see more detail. Mr. Stokesbury questioned once we are beyond that step if it is a federal or state review. Mr. Baril responded that it is a state review, CT DEEP for the Natural Diversity Database, the archaeological is the CT Office of Historic Preservation. Mr. Stokesbury commented that any of those reviews might be adversely impacted by the State budget and the pace of that review. Mr. Adams commented that the archaeologist has walked the site and has shown the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer what is being proposed and also submitted an "in the field work" letter presenting the findings and has had correspondence with the two Native American tribes and have corresponded back with no objections to any of the work being proposed with the relocation.

Larry Baril, Town Engineer, reported that we have investigated the Rehabilitation Option to do a comparison between the cost of the feasibility to relocate the road or to rehabilitate the road in place with the same basic interests along with the possibility to add a bike/pedestrian pathway. He noted that the proposed conditions soften the curves in the same corridor. He added that they softened the design speed to 35 mph. He noted that the proposed conditions include an 8 foot bike/pedestrian pathway. Chairman Zacchio commented that the bike/pedestrian pathway would run the east-west section and we could have discussions with the Thompson Road property owners about continuing that and making it continuous from MH Rhodes property and/or the schools to Fisher Meadows. He noted that the total construction cost estimated cost is \$6,990,134, based on CT DOT numbers. He added that one of the premises is to determine the differential and Avon Old Farms School in concept was going to participate based on that differential with initial estimates at \$2.4 to \$2.5 million which got us into the feasibility study

and now there is a difference of almost \$13 million. Mr. Adams commented that the amount of wetlands being disturbed has caused the structures to be much more significant than we thought.

Chairman Zacchio commented that our intent by going through this process was to determine a) if these estimates we initially had were close and in negotiations with Avon Old Farms School who has been a very good partner in this determine whether or not it made sense to relocate the road to the south location in partnership with land that would have connected potentially the MH Rhodes property to the Fisher Meadows property which would probably pick up a bike path and connected some of our trail systems. He commented personally that the estimates put the relocation option at \$19.6 million off the table. He does not think that Avon Old Farms School could or would want to participate at that level because they would not get the value out of it that we first determined and what we get is a relocated road and nothing else; our goal was to make the road safer and maybe in the process get some open space and land in partnership with Avon Old Farms School but it does not feel like we are there. He noted that we should start to pivot here and think about a renovation project for the road as it sits today.

Mr. Speich questioned the possibility for State funding for this project. Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, responded that in terms of construction he does not think there will be funding for the east-west portion but we have always talked about the north-south portion being 80/10/10 – Town/State/Federal respectively. He added that is something that we recently had a meeting with CROCOG Transportation Committee meeting about as the north-south portion has been bouncing around for years and part of the purpose was to have a reset with them and having to go through the feasibility study we have been on hold but want to plant the seed that we are going to pivot the approach and see what we can do for federal assistance through them but it will primarily be local funding. Chairman Zacchio noted that the dollars we spent so far for the feasibility study are reimbursable to us, one portion at 100% and another at 90%.

Mr. Stokesbury questioned with the east-west rehabilitation option, what approvals outside of municipal funding approval would be needed to put the shovel in the ground and undertake that project. Mr. Baril responded that the Town's Inland Wetlands Commission would need to approve, have to be vetted by CT DEEP and if we disturb more than 5,000 square feet of wetlands we need an Army Corp of Engineers non-Category I permit. He noted that based on the history of the project and conversations with the Army Corp of Engineers prior to doing the relocation feasibility study was that they were in significant support of rehabilitating the road in place because they felt that even though they might have a greater volume of wetland impacts the wetlands they are talking about are much lower quality and already compromised as the road is there so he doesn't expect much push back if we have to go that route. Mr. Stokesbury commented that moving forward with deliberate speed how far away are we from being in the ground on a rehabilitation option. Mr. Baril responded that the next step would be to get into a design and development mode but do not have funding in place for FY 16/17 so we could request funds for FY 17/18.

Mr. Pena questioned if the rehabilitation option includes a bike/pedestrian path. Mr. Baril responded yes for a section of the project. He shared his opinion that the Town and Avon Old Farms School would not be in favor of the relocation option.

Mrs. Maguire commented that she travels this road all of the time and her biggest concern is safety. She asked Mr. Baril's opinion if money was no object. He responded that rehabilitating the road in place is more economical and keeps the road where it is, people like where the road is. Mrs. Maguire commented that it is cost prohibitive to move the road and as long as we can rehabilitate and make it safe and she likes the bike path idea and just wishes we could do it sooner. Mr. Pena added that people like the caricature of the road so it might be easier accepted. Mr. Adams noted that the rehabilitated road will not be your existing road; it will be an improved road much safer to travel. Mrs. Maguire questioned how long the construction process will take from start to finish. Mr. Baril responded roughly one year by keeping the road open. Mr. Pena noted that we need to keep in mind the impact on other roads as a result of the construction. Mr. Speich likes the idea of the rehabilitation and adding the bike path. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the consensus is the rehabilitation option but does come with an \$8 million price tag which still needs a fair amount of review and effort with the public. Chairman Zacchio commented that we are still pretty far off. He asked the Town Manager and Town Engineer to discuss timing and whether or not FY 17/18 for design and development is the right cadence or should we go at this a different way and have discussions with the Board of Finance on how to move more swiftly if it is necessary and to make a recommendation to Town Council on how to forward. He noted that there is consensus from Council on us moving forward with the rehabilitation project. He added that we still need to work with Avon Old Farms School who has always been a good partner, who may need some crossings and continue to keep that dialogue open with them as you progress through this process as they will have interest in how we move forward as well. The Town Manager commented that he and the Town Engineer gave a similar presentation to their Board of Directors and their reaction was very much the same as what he is hearing here. He noted that to really appreciate the length of time this project has been out there and the trajectory it has taken this is a big deal, a major decision point in the life of this project because going back to the 1968 Conservation and Development depicts the same illustration seen tonight. Mr. Pena suggested to physically invite us to see the site.

Mr. Baril commented that Mr. Adams has created this draft report on the relocation option and his request is to let Mr. Adams finish it unless there are other comments to make on it. The Town Manager reported that he read the report cover to cover. Chairman Zacchio commented that he would yield to Town staff's expertise on that. Mr. Baril thanked the Council. Council expressed their thanks.

14/15-43 Fire Training Center-Use of Fund Equity from Fire Apparatus Project

Chairman Zacchio reported that we have dollars sitting in reserve for both the new fire engines coming in and allocated extra dollars for fire apparatus that we had given the Avon Volunteer Fire Department the go ahead on the Fire Training Center with the caveat that if they needed to tap into some of those capital dollars in order to move forward with the project or finish it that we would make those dollars available to them and still have enough to purchase the two fire engines that are coming this year and the remaining dollars, approximately \$186,000, to the Fire Training Center that is currently underway with the Avon and Farmington Fire Departments.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to use equity in the capital account for fire apparatus replacement in an amount not to exceed \$186,871 for costs related for the construction of the Fire Training Center.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Speich, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

Mr. Stokesbury noted that he spoke to the Town Manager and requested a running total so we see that project as it develops. Mr. Speich questioned if the running total would include any donations that have come in. Mr. Stokesbury responded yes.

15/16-25 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (R - 12/31/2018)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-25 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (R – 12/31/2018) to the July 7, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

15/16-42 Appointment: Wild & Scenic River Study Committee (R – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-42 Appointment: Wild & Scenic River Study Committee (R – 12/31/2017) to the July 7, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

15/16-43 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-43 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017) to the July 7, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

15/16-66 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (R – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-66 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (R – 12/31/2017) to the July 7, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Speich, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

15/16-78 Presentation: Plan of Conservation and Development

Steve Kushner, Special Projects Manager, made a presentation (a copy of which is included and made part of these minutes). He reported that we are about 85% through the update to the 10-year Plan of Conservation and Development. He noted that the State statute requires that the Planning and Zoning Commission review and update this Plan every 10 years and the last one was adopted in 2006 so we are right on target. He noted that he and the Planning and Zoning

Commission have been working on this for eleven months and meet again later this month and hope to have final draft near the end of the month and hold a public hearing to adopt the Plan in September/October 2016.

Mr. Kushner reported that what was distributed to Council was selected pages to the Plan of Conservation and Development. He noted that we have 14,454 land of acres in Town and about 14% is in private ownership, undeveloped. He added that not every town in the State had a Plan in the 1950s; some towns did not have zoning regulations until the 1970-80s.

Mr. Kushner noted that the updates in the Plan recommend additional opportunities to maintain the same ratio of single and multi-family homes in Town. Chairman Zacchio questioned how much leverage the Town has with the Plan of Conservation and Development such as this one around State and/or Federal loops holes that allow higher density developments to happen on parcels that would not qualify under our own regulations but are popping up, qualify and we do not have local control. Mr. Kushner responded that the Housing Chapter talks about affordable housing and there is a provision under State law, H30g, which permits a private real estate developer if they are proposing an affordable housing development has to meet certain criteria, 20% of the housing units have to be sold or rented to families that are at or below the median family income for the Capital Region and if any development like that is proposed it can be done so with the developer writing their own rules. He noted that Old Farms Crossing was an affordable housing project which was initially denied, the Planning and Zoning Commission's concern was public safety, it ended up in Supreme Court, and the reason for denying the project need to be more compelling than the need to provide affordable housing. He added that in Chapter 7 – Housing we want to create pathways that might provide opportunities to create some more moderately priced housing, multi-family rentals and condominiums and he has identified about twenty-five properties that might have potential in that area. He noted that the State has set a goal that every town have 10% of their housing in the affordable housing category and Avon is at about 3% and if the goal is met the town is exempt from that affordable housing legislation.

Mr. Kushner noted that the Commission undertook a survey in December 2015 and surveyed 250 residents through a professional research firm and found that people are very satisfied with the community the way it is. He noted that the Commission is aware that there will be some modest changes as we move into the next 10-year planning period and beyond.

Mr. Kushner noted that many rules and regulations were fairly controversial when adopted because any time you adopt new rules you are limiting personal property owners as to what they can or cannot do with their property. He noted that under Chapter 4 - Natural Resources there are recommendations to tweak the relative regulations to make some improvement in each of those areas. He discussed Low Impact Development (LID) and noted that by concentrating in man-made structures and discharging water at a higher velocity without filtering out any pollutants before entering the wetlands or brook may not be as good as LID where you can try to discharge the water into the ground. He added that we may introduce some of these techniques in the Avon Village Center Project on private land in connection with private infrastructure and burden the private development community to maintain those in accordance with an agreed upon schedule. He noted that the grant we wrote in 2005 paved the way for the Avon Village Center Study and led to the creation of the mixed use zone and was funded by DEEP because we were

trying to create a mixed use walkable environment which checks a lot of boxes for Avon but at the same time will create a more urban environment and create more runoff and we need to think of creative ways to manage storm water and led to discussion on LID.

Mr. Kushner noted under Chapter 5 – Open Space and Recreation that the average resident believes think that open space is forever and is not forever in some cases as the parcel may be used for some other purpose. He used the Haynes Road/Staffordshire construction that was recently approved and able to work out an arrangement with the Avon Land Trust to exchange a more valuable parcel of land from a natural resource that the Avon Land Trust was deeded from Sunlight Construction off Chidsey Road.

Mr. Stokesbury questioned under Chapter 9 – Business and Industry what the Commission looked at regarding the east side of Route 10 North (Board of Education, old school property); is it exempt because it is Town owned? He noted that it is an important bridge between one of our oldest neighborhoods and our most exciting project. Mr. Kushner responded that it is missing from the Plan and he would like to talk to the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, and Director of Recreation and Parks as we have had different plans for that property in the past. He noted that the Board of Education is talking about making some upgrades their school administrative offices possibly expanding where they are currently at; the Recreation and Parks Master Recreation Plan shows improvements to that property including expanded parking, and in 2006 when we wrote the POCD we had a landscape architect do a preliminary design that talked about the Town possibly selling off a portion of that land for commercial development and if the Avon Village Center got up and running it may be a valuable asset for the Town to receive dollars from the sale and holds true to the Town Center Project.

Mr. Kushner noted under Chapter 10 – Transportation a decision was made by the Commission to not encourage the formation of sidewalks in front of newer developments as the interest wasn't there as it is today, there was great concern over the cost of maintaining those sidewalks and the infrastructure, and there was a real concern had the Town transitioned from a rural to less rural place to a more suburban place. He noted that we have made some improvements over the last ten years. He noted that with regards to bicycles the discussion is much the same. He makes a recommendation to the Commission to conduct an additional study to see how we can make this work.

Chairman Zacchio questioned the timeframe for completion and the process that the POCD goes through or adoption. He thanked Mr. Kushner's for his work on this, his history here has been a huge difference and willingness to stay on after departing will have a major impact on this for years into the future. Mr. Kushner responded that we are hoping to have the final draft completed by the end of June/beginning of July, and by State law the Commission has to refer to Town Council at least 65 days in advance of the public hearing, a referral has to be made to CRCOG to review it for consistency with the Regional POCD, and hope to have a public hearing to start the adoption in early fall, probably October. Council thanked Mr. Kushner for the presentation.

Chairman Zacchio acknowledged that members of the Avon Historical Society were in the audience to speak about the Derrin House fire.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:
RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-open Item V – Communication from Audience.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

15/16-79 Review, Discussion & Approval: Agreement: UCONN EMS Services

Mark Rinaldo, Chief of Police, reported that the agreement with UCONN is only for six months as it is unsure that they will be in business after that as there has been talk about disbanding their fire department but not certain at this time. Mr. Speich questioned how often we use their services. Chief Rinaldo responded not as much as we used to because AMR has a dedicated ambulance in Avon. He noted that they respond if AMR is not available and for larger incidents. Mr. Speich questioned which service is better for the residents of the Town. Chief Rinaldo responded that they are both important right now. He noted that UCONN cut their agreement cost in half from the previous fiscal year from \$56,000 to \$27,000 and part of that was because they did not come to Town as often. He added that AMR goes first, if they have an ALS unit heading to a heart attack and a second heart attack occurs we send either a second AMR ambulance or UCONN comes out. Chairman Zacchio noted that the UCONN agreement gets us through December and we will reassess based on if they are still in business and what we think the need will be. Chief Rinaldo responded that we do not know what the State is going to do. Chairman Zacchio questioned if there were any changes from the current service model. Chief Rinaldo responded no. It was noted that the recommendation by the Town Manager was to execute the both the UCONN and AMR agreements.

On a motion made by Mr. Speich, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:
RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to execute the agreement with UCONN for paramedic services for a period of six months from July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

15/16-80 Review, Discussion & Approval: Agreement: AMR Ambulance Services

Chairman Zacchio commented that this agreement is for the full fiscal year. He noted that the recommendation is to continue with the agreement as it is. He added that the Chief is working with them on their response and use of sirens that is non-related to this and more policy related. Chief Rinaldo commented that it is an AMR policy and they are dispatched under EMT protocols and he has asked AMR to look at that but it looks like it probably won't change. Chairman Zacchio commented that we had a resident concerned about the early morning sirens going off and whether or not they are necessary and whether we should be asking emergency services not to use those and does not think that the Town wants to get in between what the policy is, what the statutes recommend, and what the drivers will make as a determination of what is safe and not safe and it is not the person that is not on the road but the person that does not hear them. He noted that there were some suggestions and the Chief is reviewing with AMR. Chief Rinaldo commented that you are operating as an emergency vehicle only if you are using lights and sirens and cannot go over the speed limit unless you are operating these utilities per State statute.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to execute the agreement with American Medical Response (AMR) for ambulance services for a period of one year from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

15/16-81 Fire Training Center-Contract Award with Nosal Builders for Concrete Work

Chairman Zacchio reported that we are executing this as we are a partner and co-owner of the facility with Farmington and asked us to co-sign and falls within the provisions of dollars that the Council has to approve to move forward. The Town Manager reported that Farmington is running the entire purchasing purchase. He noted that because it is in excess of 1/10 of 1% of the current year tax levy he requires Council approval to execute the agreement. He noted that the same applies to the second contract award. Mr. Speich noted that when we add the two contracts together it totals \$326,000 and we approved \$186,000; where does the rest of the funding come from. The Town Manager responded that the two contracts are shared with Farmington. Mr. Speich commented that 50% of that comes to us. The Town Manager responded that he is not sure yet and will find out as next week's meeting. Mr. Stokesbury commented that they are still within the context to be expected costs. The Town Manager responded no. Jamie DiPace, Town Council Representative for Avon Volunteer Fire Department, commented that these prices are at a lot lower than we initially had. The Town Manager added this is the result of the re-bid.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to execute the agreement with Nosal Builders, in partnership with the Town of Farmington, for concrete work related to the Fire Training Center.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

15/16-82 Fire Training Center-Contract Award with Al Rose Construction, LLC for building erection

Chairman Zacchio commented that this item has the same caveats mentioned under item 15/16-81 with shared costs with Farmington.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to execute the agreement with Al Rose Construction, LLC, in partnership with the Town of Farmington, to erect the Fire Training Center.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

Mr. DiPace reported that the building is arriving on Monday, June 6th. He noted that Avon Public Works did a fantastic job at the site. The Town Manager commented that Avon Public Works spent a significant amount of time at the site and as a result our road projects have suffered a little bit but to date tracking our in-kind services we are up to approximately \$83,000 and counts towards our match. Chairman Zacchio questioned if we are in any danger of missing the season for paving. The Town Manager responded no, we are on target.

15/16-83 Sign Tax Warrant (Rate Bill)

Chairman Zacchio commented that it is the Town Council's responsibility to give the Tax Collector the authority to collect taxes. All Council members signed the Tax Warrant/Rate Bill.

15/16-84 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (D – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-84 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (D – 12/31/2017) to the July 7, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Speich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager reported that yesterday the Town Planner, Town Engineer and himself spent the day interviewing candidates to provide on-call Peer Review Services for the Avon Village Center Project; professionals that will be available to interface with the developers' consultants on the Town's behalf. He noted that we have an ordinance in place to charge the developer and applicant for these services. He added that we have some very good firms that responded. Mr. Speich questioned that this is typical for a large project like that. The Town Manager responded yes; the first time around we were in a difficult transition period because the original Avon Village Center application came in the first week in July last year but it was right at the time that Steve Kushner was retiring and bringing Hiram Peck onboard so we did contract with a firm to help us with that initial phase. He added that we wanted to go out and test the market again; we have more experience with the applicant and application. He noted that it is very common.

The Town Manager reported that we expect the new Engine 11 to arrive next week. He added that we have begun work in the basement of Company #4 to get ready for some renovation and a project to strengthen the floor to make sure that it will hold the truck's weight. Mr. Stokesbury questioned where the new engine will be until then. The Town Manager responded that it will be parked in Company #1.

The Town Manager reported that the Director of Public Works is continuing to work on the cost estimates for the Avon Police Department Renovation Project and working with EZIQC. He noted that there was some sticker shock looking at the initial project costs given the scope at over \$2 million and should have a good result.

The Town Manager reported that there are bids in preparation for the installation of sidewalks on the east side of Simsbury Road. He noted that he, the Town Planner, and Town Engineer met with the Avon Meadow homeowner's association last night to answer questions about granting easements in front of their properties so we can have the connection all the way through Avon and with the new development that is going in Simsbury they will be extending sidewalk there as well.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager reported that he spoke to the Director of Public Works today about the road improvement schedule and noted that we will be starting at

Kingsbridge/Copplestone/Hammersmith. He added that we did lose a significant amount of time at the front end of the season but we are confident that we will make good time once we get started.

The Town Manager reported that Old Wheeler Lane Bridge Project will be ready as soon as school gets out, it is well posted, and notices have gone out to residents on the street.

The Town Manager reported that with Sycamore Hills the pavilion is on the list of projects to take care of in FY 2016/2017. He noted that we are going to have move the opening for the pool back about one week as we ran into some unfavorable weather which delayed the painting; a notice was sent out through her department to let people know and in the interim they have come up with an arrangement with Canton so Avon residents can use the Canton pool at Canton rates. The Town Manager reported that one of the tennis courts at Sycamore Hills will be used for pickle ball.

Misc. C: High School Synthetic Turf Field Recreation and Parks Sub-Committee/Fisher field Expansion: The Town Manager reported that the Sub-Committee had a meeting on May 23rd with another meeting scheduled for June 13th. He noted that BSC Group talking about all of the decision points, different types of turf, different choices that communities have made with infill material; the Sub-Committee is doing a lot of in-take, they are on track and will probably see a recommendation from them by the end of summer. He noted that a question was raised at the last meeting about the status of funding and planning going forward and he told them that at this point other than funds that have been appropriated for design and development there is no funding available for construction and in our debt modeling we looked at \$1.5 million for athletic field and facility improvements and once the design and development process is complete and Council has a recommendation that is the point at which we talk more about local funding, private dollars through fundraising and some participation from the State as they have been very generous in funding other communities with these types of projects. He added that it is important to keep in mind that as we go through this design and development process and debt modeling going forward we still do have a need for more athletic fields. He asked the Director of Recreation and Parks to spend time quantifying that and prepared a memo that he asked Council to review. He noted that the Fisher Meadows Field Project would go a long way in closing that gap and setting ourselves up for the full build out of Avon. He noted that just as we built out the Library in anticipation of that we should be thinking about our athletic facilities in the same way. Chairman Zacchio commented that we are getting so close to that build out number and makes sense to package together what the needs are and do it once just like we did with the Library and High School so the methodology has been used before with success. Mr. Pena questioned the time of the meetings. The Town Manager responded 7:00 a.m. Mr. Pena commented that he has heard from folks who cannot attend due to the early meeting time. The Town Manager responded that for the Sub-Committee members this seems to be the time that works best for them but will bring that to their attention.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Pending Claim/Litigation

The Town Manager reported that information was given to Council in their packet but does not have an update at this time.

XII. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:
RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

Attest:

Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk