

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber as well as via GoToMeeting by Chairman Polhamus. Members present: Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Polhamus.

III. PUBLIC HEARING: None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: February 3, 2022
February 5, 2022 Budget Work Session

One correction to the February 3, 2022 minutes was noted as follows:

On page 3, under item 21/22-46, second paragraph, 26th line, insert "not" after "property line is..."

On a motion made by Mr. Indomenico, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 3, 2022 Meeting as amended.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 5, 2022 Budget Work Session as drafted.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE - None

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Ms. Ausiello commented on what was going on in Ukraine and people want to find ways to help; donating money will do the most good; Carrie Firestone is creating a list and Ms. Ausiello asked the Town Manager if we can post it somewhere to share with everyone; a few organizations are World Central Kitchen, directrelief.org, and Save the Children.

Mr. Weber echoed Ms. Ausiello's sentiments regarding Ukraine and that our thoughts and prayers as well as monetary donations will hopefully spirit the Ukrainian people; anything we can do as a town, as a state, as a nation will help them fight for sovereignty. He thanked the Town Manager's Office and Human Resource Department for putting together snack bags for the Avon Police Department and Public Works with the most recent snowstorm as a note of thanks for the hard work they put in. He noted that Bike Walk Avon continues to thank the cooperation of the Town,

specifically Public Works, for fulfilling their list of requests for repairs to the Farmington Valley Trail, one of our jewels of our Town; two dates for the calendar – May 4th for the Town Council Cinco de Mayo Bike Ride and April 23rd is Earth Day so in coordination with Bike Walk Avon and the Farmington Valley Trail group we will clean up the trail.

Mrs. Maguire thanked Ms. Ausiello for recognizing Ukraine and providing the opportunities to make a donation; it is heartbreaking. She noted that a blood drive will take place on Monday, April 7th at the Avon Senior Center and a shout out to the Lions Club, American Red Cross, and the Senior Center.

Mr. Indomenico echoed everyone's sentiments about Ukraine. He noted that it is great to be here in-person tonight; we did a great job for two years using technology to get by, but this is more the spirit of what we are supposed to be doing. He added that masks became optional in the schools this past Monday, about an 80/20 split without/with masks, and they had single digit absenteeism; we are moving in the right direction.

Chairman Polhamus echoed everyone's sentiments about Ukraine; our thoughts, prayers, and hearts go out to them. He noted that as of Monday, March 14th, masks will be optional in Town buildings; it feels like ray of light, return to normalcy is in grasp; he commended the Town and residents for taking it seriously; we were able to keep our schools open most of the time; it has been handled really well and is looking forward to putting masks behind us. He noted that he has been receiving e-mails about the State Police gun range and has reached out to Representative Exum for more information.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council move up agenda items 21/22-78 2022 Girl Scout Day Proclamation, 21/22-79 Approve Proclamation: Apraxia Awareness Day, May 14, 2022, and 21/22-80 Appointment: Town Clerk before Old Business.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Indomenico, Weber, and Polhamus voted in favor.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

21/22-28 FY 22/23 Budget Development

The Town Manager reported that we took the comments made by Council during the budget workshop and developed a list of adjustments; in the original budget that was presented we had to use an estimate for the Grand List of 1.37% in terms of required mill rate increase, or a 0.9% tax increase; with the adjustments being recommended we would be at 1.55% in terms of a mill rate increase, or a 1.16% tax increase. He noted that a lot of that has to do with Grand List growth and the motor vehicle portion of the Grand List. He and the Assistant Town Manager reviewed the adjustments with Council; one item not discussed at the budget workshop is the opportunity to select an advanced graduate student intern through the UConn Master of Public Administration for \$16,500 for the year. He noted that the Assistant Town Manager and former Assistant Town Manager went through the same program, both coming from the Town of Farmington. The Assistant Town Manager noted that regarding Office 365, it really is an increased cost versus any savings, but it will bring us efficiency and increased level of cyber security; the \$73,000 in the ARPA funding request for this project would decrease by approximately \$36,000. The Town

Manager noted that with Countryside Park, we are going to have the Recreation and Parks Committee take another look at the project as a renovation versus new construction. Chairman Polhamus noted that regarding the community event idea, we will be ironing out details soon, using it to support non-profits that are holding community events in Town, one example would be Winterfest.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council recommends the FY 22/23 Proposed Budget of \$106,248,104 to the Board of Finance as follows:

REVENUES	
Property Tax & Assessments	\$ 92,889,959
Intergovernmental	4,650,625
Licenses, Fees & Permits	1,031,470
Charges for Current Services	6,718,424
Other Local Revenues	390,047
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>567,579</u>
TOTAL	\$ 106,248,104
EXPENDITURES	
Town Operating Budget	\$ 28,353,707
School Operating Budget	66,523,018
Sewer Operating Budget	3,116,593
Capital & Debt Service Budgets:	
Debt Service	2,962,950
Capital Budget (CNREF, Facilities & Equipment)	5,291,836
<i>Subtotal: Capital & Debt Service</i>	<u>8,254,786</u>
TOTAL	\$ 106,248,104

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

Chairman Polhamus noted that the big story with this budget is that we are taking care of so many things, along with ARPA funding, and putting ourselves in a great position to keep taxes low and start tackling projects that we want to complete.

21/22-46 American Rescue Plan Act: Discussion

Chairman Polhamus noted that there has been a lot of discussion about ARPA funding and what/how to prioritize the projects. The Town Council began reviewing and discussing the priority list (which is attached and made part of these minutes). Mr. Indomenico commented that because of the nature of the ARPA funding and timing on the spending, some of the projects should be ready to go. Ms. Ausiello inquired how solid the estimates are. Chairman Polhamus noted that several projects have already been approved through the supplemental appropriation process.

Regarding the MR76 Access Points, Tom Kline noted this project is to replace older access points in the schools and add capacity for the number of devices. In response to a question from Mrs. Maguire, the Town Manager responded that process will depend on the nature of the project. Mr. Kline noted that regarding the Fiber Build Out project, the Town currently has its own fiber strung to various Town buildings; the Board of Education links the schools with leased fiber and in the

middle of a five-year deal for that; this project would put in our own fiber to link current buildings not already connected and replace the lease payment for the leased service for the school buildings; all Board of Education buildings have hardware in place, but Town buildings would all be factored into this fiber project. The Assistant Town Manager noted that we will provide a cost benefit analysis at the next meeting. The Town Manager added that it is always good to have a more robust infrastructure that you need at any given time. With regards to the BenQ Panel project, Mr. Kline noted that the District just replaced about 240 boards for this current school year; they are 70" touchscreen monitors; and this request is to complete that project. Dr. Carnemolla noted that the 240 panels were purchased as part of our Board of Education budget and part of it was utilizing some of our earlier ESSER funds; it was directly related to COVID-19 because of the dual teaching that teachers had to do. Mr. Indomenico commented that they are an important component of education but wants to see how finances play out over the next few months. Dr. Carnemolla noted that the MR76 Access Points are not in the Board of Education budget, as well as the BenQ Panels or QNAP security camera servers. She noted that if they have to prioritize other pieces, she cannot say whether or not they will come to the top of the list as they have to make the most use of the budget and grant funding. Mr. Kline noted that their requests have a link to COVID-19 as it relates to ARPA funding. Dr. Carnemolla added that these projects fit the description of how the Town can utilize the ARPA funds appropriately so they were put through for that reason; the projects will have to be done for us no matter what; they were not put in their budget for FY 23 so they would have to make changes and re-prioritize on their end and possibly take some things out of their own budget.

The Town Manager noted that with the Office 365 Implementation would be reduced by \$36,000. He added that this project needs to get done and if it's not through ARPA we will have to re-prioritize a combination of operating and capital expenditures. He noted that in some instances we may be back for more money for some projects; and if the ARPA funds are not committed by close of calendar 2024 we lose it.

Douglas Sacks, Gifts of Love, reported that the Board has decided to change its request to furnace replacement (about \$8,000) in the building at 34 East Main Street and for funds to repair their vehicles (about \$7,000) used for emergency food services' deliveries and pickups. Chairman Polhamus commented that he has gone back and forth about whether we should get into helping non-profits. We are incredibly appreciative of the Gifts of Love, but if we help one, how do we not help another; it may depend on how the funds roll out. In response to a question from Mrs. Maguire, Mr. Sacks responded that we own the building and we are asking Simsbury for help with the farm that we operate there. The Town Manager asked Mr. Sacks to send him a letter with their proposal and it will be shared with Town Council to keep them on the radar. Mr. Sacks expressed thanks.

With regards to the Multi-purpose room at Sycamore project, Mrs. Maguire noted that it is a revenue source with enhanced programming, it's great for the seniors and the community, and a great addition for the Town. Chairman Polhamus agreed. Ms. Ausiello commented on looking into options regarding green building concepts.

With regards to the Buckingham Baseball infield project, Mr. Indomenico noted additional options for helping to offset costs at Sperry Park and looking into the Middle School and Thompson Brook

for additional ball fields. Ms. Ausiello noted that Little League is committed to building a softball field at Sperry. Chairman Polhamus likes the idea of helping with spirit.

With regards to the Fisher Meadows Pavilion Replacements project, Mr. Weber commented that he is conscious of not only who uses our facilities but how it represents the Town; aside from the trail and our school facilities, Fisher Meadows is frequented by people from all over the State when soccer and lacrosse teams come in; it is jewel for our Town.

With regards to the Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Care in Avon project, Ms. Ausiello suggested that Alan Rosenberg, Director of Social Services have further conversations with the Town Manager to make sure he is asking for what he will need; Social Services is a great resource. Chairman Polhamus requested more information for further consideration; there is an urgency with this project. The Town Manager commented that he will discuss further with Mr. Rosenberg.

Town Council requested more information on some of the projects, including information for a connectivity study and a clean energy study. Chairman Polhamus noted that the clean energy study could look into where to install vehicle chargers, where to install non roof-top solar projects, or how to improve or incentivize construction through the Avon Clean Energy Commission. He noted another project to discuss is to look at the possibility of doing a playground on a piece of land that Carpionato Group is giving the Town on the east side of Climax Road as part of the Avon Village Center Project.

The Assistant Town Manager noted a comment from Maria Mozzicato regarding the need for a public cricket court for our community. Chairman Polhamus noted that a few residents wrote in with some suggestions. Discussion regarding this agenda item will continue at the next meeting.

21/22-63 Appointment: Building Code Board of Appeals (D – 12/31/2023)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 21/22-63 Appointment: Building Code Board of Appeals (D – 12/31/2023) to the April 7, 2022 meeting.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-66 Appointment: Plainville Area CATV Advisory Council - BOE Vacancy

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council remove agenda item 21/22-66 Appointment: Plainville Area CATV Advisory Council – BOE Vacancy.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-67 Appointment: Central Regional Tourism District (D – 12/31/2023)

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 21/22-67 Appointment: Central Regional Tourism District (D – 12/31/2023) to the April 7, 2022 meeting.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-70 Appointment: Town Council Representative-VNA (12/31/2023)

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

RESOLVED: That Town Council table agenda item 21/22-70 Appointment: Town Council Representative-VNA (12/31/2023) to the April 7, 2022 meeting.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-74 Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeals (D – 12/31/2025)

On a motion made by Mr. Indomenico, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 21/22-74 Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeals (D – 12/31/2025) to the April 7, 2022 meeting.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

21/22-78 2022 Girl Scout Day Proclamation

Chairman Polhamus welcomed girl scouts from Troop #66371 and #66703. He inquired about the Gold Award process and recognition. Lisa Berman responded that they will be in touch with more details. He read the proclamation.

Girl Scout Day Proclamation

A Proclamation on the Importance of the All-Girl Space Offered by Girl Scouts

WHEREAS, March 12, 2022 marks the 110th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, the largest and most successful leadership program for girls in the world; and

WHEREAS, as the world's premier leadership development organization for girls, Girl Scouts has emphasized public service, civic engagement, and fostering a sense of community in girls for over a century; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts works to champion the ambitions, cultivate the talents, and develop the skills of girls to be leaders in their own world, and in ours; and

WHEREAS, in these incredibly challenging times, Girl Scouts provides community, consistency, and connection for girls, and is a safe haven in all the uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, in the time of COVID-19, Girl Scouts offers girls skill-building digital programming and experiences girls can participate in safely from home as they continue their Girl Scouts journeys; and

WHEREAS, at a time when civics education is missing from many schools, Girl Scouts has introduced new K-12 Civics badges to bring girls more experiences that deepen their understanding of democracy and government, prepare them for a lifetime of civic engagement, and motivate them to be catalysts for change; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts offers girls 21st century programming in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); the outdoors; entrepreneurship; and beyond, helping girls develop invaluable life skills and take the lead early and often; and

WHEREAS, Gold Award Girl Scouts already take on projects that have a measureable and sustainable impact on a community by first assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 50 million women are Girl Scouts alums; and

WHEREAS, the Girl Scouts of Avon, Connecticut proudly celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts of Connecticut serves 13,258 girls across Connecticut.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dan Polhamus, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chairperson of the Town Council of Avon, Connecticut, do hereby applaud the Girl Scout Movement and Girl Scouts of Connecticut for providing girls with a safe, inclusive, all-girl space where they can hone their skills and develop leadership abilities, and I declare March 12, 2022 to be Girl Scout Day.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the 2022 Girl Scout Day Proclamation as presented.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-79 Approve Proclamation: Apraxia Awareness Day, May 14, 2022

Chairman Polhamus welcomed Speakology LLC. Jennifer Lano, Co-owner of Speakology, introduced her colleague, Nicole Matysiak. Ms. Lano shared a brief background regarding Speakology. Ms. Matysiak noted that they are grateful about the consideration for this proclamation so we can continue to raise awareness. Chairman Polhamus read the following proclamation.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

Whereas, May 14, 2022 marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Connecticut about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children.

Whereas, childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children.

Whereas, the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy, often for many years to learn to speak.

Whereas, without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia will have diminished communication skills, but are also placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills.

Whereas, that such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities and challenge the ability to become productive, contributing citizens if not resolved or improved.

Whereas, public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Connecticut is essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who support them to achieve the needed services for those learning to use their own voice.

Whereas, our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

Let it be resolved, that May 14, 2022 is “Apraxia Awareness Day” and citizens of Connecticut and surrounds are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech. Please visit www.apraxia-kids.org for more information.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Indomenico, and Polhamus voted in favor.

21/22-80 Appointment: Town Clerk

The Town Manager noted that Avon has only had four Town Clerks since 1926; his recommendation of Nick Hogan as the next Town Clerk would make him the fifth.

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager's appointment of Nick Hogan as Town Clerk.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Indomenico, Weber, and Polhamus voted in favor.

Nick Hogan introduced his family with him tonight and thanked the Town Council, the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Jennifer Worsman, Ann Clark (Registrar of Voters) and Tina Amato (P/T Assistant Town Clerk). Ann Clark swore in Nick Hogan to his duties as Town Clerk.

21/22-81 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission – Student Member

On a motion made by Mr. Indomenico, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Anagha Bhumireddy as a student member to the Avon Clean Energy Commission for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2023.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Indomenico, Polhamus, and Weber voted in favor.

21/22-82 Supplemental Appropriation: Senior Center HVAC System, \$140,000

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$140,000.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Town CIP-Facilities, Senior Center HVAC System-ARPA, Account #50-4829-53459 in the amount of \$140,000.00, for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards the replacement of the Senior Center's HVAC system.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-83 Transfer of Appropriation: Patrol Building Improvements, \$33,527.36

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance to amend the FY 21/22 budget by transferring appropriations in the amount of \$33,527.36 from General Fund, Roadways, Regular Full-Time, Account #01-3101-51011, to General Fund, Other Financing Uses, Interfund Transfer-Out, Account #01-8700-58000, and transferring to Capital Projects Fund, Town CIP-Facilities, Patrol Building Improvements, Account #02-4829-53082 and Capital Projects Fund, Other Financing Sources, Interfund Transfers In, Account #02-0390-43918 for the purpose of covering unanticipated accrued expenditures.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Polhamus, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-84 Supplemental Appropriation: Avon Police Department / 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Violent Crime Prevention Grant, \$20,000

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, JAG Grant, Account #01-0330-43420 in the amount of \$20,000.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Patrol Services, Equip./Maint. Other, Account #01-2107-52209 in the amount of \$20,000.00, for the purchase of pole-mounted license plate readers.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Polhamus, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-85 Supplemental Appropriation: Dial-A-Ride Coach Bus, \$74,160

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Intergovernmental, Dial a Ride CT DOT 5310, Account # 02-0330-43399 in the amount of \$74,160.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Town CIP-Equip, Dial A Ride Van, Account # 02-4837-53014 in the amount of \$74,160.00, for the purpose of purchasing a new Dial A Ride Coach Bus through the CT DOT Section 5310 program.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-86 Transfer of Appropriation: Dial-A-Ride Coach Bus, \$424

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance to amend the FY 21/22 budget by transferring appropriations in the amount of \$424.00 from General Fund, Human Services, General Service, Account #01-4203-52185, to General Fund, Other Financing Uses, Interfund Transfer-Out, Account #01-8700-58000, and transferring to Capital Projects Fund, Town CIP-Equip, Dial A Ride Van, Account #02-4837-53014 and Capital Projects Fund, Other Financing Sources, Interfund Transfers In, Account #02-0390-43918 for the purpose of purchasing a new Dial A Ride Coach Bus through the CT DOT Section 5310 program.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Polhamus, and Indomenico voted in favor.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager noted that Avon Police Department Body Worn and Dash Cameras are in and they are getting ready to deploy them; this is part of the Police Accountability legislation. Mr. Weber requested an officer to come in and show the Council what they look like and what is involved with them. The Assistant Town Manager noted that regarding the CT Green Bank Solar MAP, a presentation will be made before the Board of Education and

Town Council in the next month or so. The Town Manager noted that regarding the AVFD Master Plan, the survey to the membership has gone out and he will ask Jim Speich to attend the next meeting with an update.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager noted that with the Town Clerk's Vault, an 8-24 referral has been made to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their March meeting. The Assistant Town Manager noted that Avon Room Improvements are moving along. The Town Manager noted that the home at 503 West Avon Road has been taken down.

Misc. C: Avon Volunteer Fire Department Apparatus: The Town Manager reported that staff is researching options to bond versus lease purchase versus negotiated bank loan; working on apparatus specifications and costs; a Special Town Meeting will likely be required for approval. Joe Speich, Assistant Chief, Avon Volunteer Fire Department, noted that vendors have told them that effective May 1, 2022 there will be a price increase of 7% on apparatus and equipment.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Collective Bargaining
Pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200 6 (a) Executive Level Employment

The Town Manager reported that an update was provided to Council in their meeting packet which did not require any further discussion in Executive Session at this time.

XII. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

Supplemental Appropriation Requests 2/3/2022				
DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
DPW	Pavement Management	To be supplemented by \$1,000,000 in ARPA funding proposed in FY22/23 capital budget. Will allow DPW to begin work as soon as the pavement plants open in the spring. Anticipate improvements to Old Mill Road, Yorkshire Lane, High Ridge Road, Forge Drive, Northgate, Anvil Drive, Brownstone Drive and Wyngate Road this year (per 10/6/2021 Pavement Management Plan, prepared by the Beta Group).	CIP Request	\$ 500,000
BOE	AHS RTU Replacement - Phase II	Continuation of a FY22 project, Phase 1 funded by CIP, Eversource rebates and operating budget. Phase II includes band room, auditorium, locker room.	CIP Request	\$ 320,000
Engineering	Deepwood Drive/New Road Drainage	We have been experiencing more frequent and intense storm events over the past decade which force us to design and make immediate improvements to remedy wash outs, etc. Funding is requested to make more immediate repairs to the system that flows from Deepwood Drive to New Road to the Farmington River. This system has been problematic for over a decade.	CIP Request	\$ 275,000
Recreation	Sycamore Hills Pool Repair	Sycamore Hills Main Pool has cracks in the concrete, the stairs are starting to deteriorate and the returns no longer adjust and need to be replaced. During COVID the pool was heavily used daily. This preventative maintenance could prevent an emergency closing during the season and remove an important recreational asset that members relied on for outdoor activities.	CIP Request	\$ 100,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
General Government	Building #1 Flood Prevention	The Avon Room sustained flood damage during Hurricane Ida in August. Public Works staff have removed the carpet and the lower section of drywall throughout the space. In addition we have identified that a majority of the kitchen cabinets have delaminated and will require replacement. At this time we have placed an order for water resistant vinyl plank flooring and we have applied a sealant to the brownstone walls that were behind the sheetrock. We have also finalized the design for the kitchen area. This work is being funded through the operating budget. Thee Town engaged Fuss & O'Neill to study the brook and the Avon Room and make recommendations to prevent future flooding. The report recommends \$50K in remediation work including a flood resistant door or barrier, removal of silt from the brook itself and the installation/reconstruciton of a retaining wall.	Staff request/3rd party consultant	\$ 50,000
Recreation	Sycamore Hills Playscape Replacement	This playscape is almost 30 years old and not ADA accessible. Components have been removed and the remaining ones are deteriorating from the sun. This project would cover removal, and installation of new equipment, surfacing. Total project cost is \$75,000. Balance of \$60,000 to be contributed by State Bond Commission. Project would remove existing playscape components and replace with a modest sized ADA accessible playscape.	CIP Request	\$ 15,000
			TOTAL	\$ 1,260,000
FY23 Capital Budget - ARPA Funds				
DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
DPW	Pavement Management	Will allow DPW to begin work as soon as the pavement plants open in the spring. Anticipate improvements to Old Mill Road, Yorkshire Lane, High Ridge Road, Forge Drive, Northgate, Anvil Drive, Brownstone Drive and Wyngate Road this year (per 10/6/2021 Pavement Management Plan, prepared by the Beta Group).	CIP Request	\$ 1,000,000
			TOTAL	\$ 1,000,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Priority Projects				
DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
BOE	MR46 Access Points (Wi-Fi) - District Wide	<p>As a result of COVID, Avon Public Schools revised its strategic plan to provide every student with their own Chromebook PreK-12 instead of just grades 7-12. This allowed all students access during both remote and hybrid learning (when necessary), eliminated the sharing of devices when in-person (thus minimizing a possible method of transmitting the disease), and as a result of every student and staff member now having a device, has shifted the delivery of instruction and assessment at all levels. The increase in the number of devices online at the same time has stressed the wireless infrastructure in the schools and has resulted in very slow response times due to wireless congestion on occasion. The updated access points will allow us to expand the wireless network in the schools by updating older hardware in the most problematic areas and repurposing the older hardware to provide coverage in areas that do not currently have adequate Wi-Fi signal.</p>	Staff Request	\$ 133,701
	MR76 Access Points, Antennas, Licenses (outdoors) - District Wide	<p>Additional outdoor access points will provide schools the opportunity to utilize outdoor learning spaces during the school day. With the purchase of additional outdoor access points, each school will be able to provide students with more mask breaks. Teachers will be provided with connectivity to host hybrid lessons with students who happen to be remote due to a quarantine situation when they are teaching in an outdoor classroom space. The access points will also provide community members with Wi-Fi access after school hours when they are within the range of the school.</p>	Staff Request	\$ 12,320

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
BOE	BenQ Panel	Due to COVID restrictions, schools are unable to hold large group meetings with students and staff. BenQ panels have a broadcasting feature that allows content to be streamed to all panels in a school and across the district. This feature is extremely useful to host a school or district wide meeting to adhere to social distancing requirements. Presently, only the larger classrooms have BenQ boards, so not all staff or students would have access to the broadcast. In addition, the broadcasting feature can be used to distribute safety messages in case of an emergency situation at both the building and district levels.	Staff Request	\$ 66,000
BOE	QNAP Security Camera Server (5 servers)	Due to COVID requirements and mitigations (e.g., social distancing, mask breaks) students are moving around school buildings at times other than the scheduled passing time and utilizing outdoor spaces in order to participate in mask breaks, etc. With the increased movements of students, the servers that record the video streams can not process the high volume of data fast enough, leading to lost recordings. Adding an additional server at each school would split up the video recording data among additional hardware reducing the possibility of lost recordings. The camera recordings are used for COVID contact tracing as well as school security.	Staff Request	\$ 22,620
Information Technology	Office 365 Implementation	This is a recommendation from both our cybersecurity audit and CoopSys. It would probably make our cyber-insurance carriers happy too. The project would involve migrating all Town and PD email accounts to a cloud service run by Microsoft. CoopSys would still act as our administrator for this account, making necessary configuration changes, adding and deleting accounts, etc., but the server itself would be outside of the Town network, maintained and secured by Microsoft. \$25,000 Implementation fee plus \$4000 per month in recurring costs (phase into operating budget and out of ARPA). \$ amount listed in cost column covers a March 2022 implementation and 12 months of recurring costs from ARPA. Inclusion of certain features may better enable remote work accessibility by town employees.	Staff Request	\$ 73,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Information Technology	Technology Refresh	In the near future we should look at having CoopSys update our core technology. They own it, but swapping it out will cost money and we have two options to pay for that... Up front or amortized into our monthly payments to them. With a lump payment we can be assured our monthly costs won't go up, so if we use ARPA money for this, that is how I would suggest we do it. I don't have a firm quote on this, but the basic numbers are \$15,000 for CoopSys's time to install and configure the new hardware and transfer our data. The cost of two new hosts (physical servers) and a new SAN (storage area network--disk drives where all the stuff lives) is roughly \$60-75,000. Assuming the high end, and paying all at once, this could be a \$90,000 project.	Staff request	\$ 95,750
Information Technology	Fiber Build out	There are a number of buildings throughout town that are interconnected via fiber optic. Examples include Town Hall, Company 1, Animal Control, and DPW, and BOE Central Office. The schools are also connected via a leased fiber link. The proposed project would expand the town's network to include the Library, Senior Center, Sycamore Pools Company #3, the Transfer Station and Countryside Park. A fiber connection will allow these facilities to interconnect to the Town's phone system, and access the main document server. It will also allow us to provide a more efficient and cost effective internet connection to these facilities. For the senior center in particular, upgraded internet will benefit the seniors and will enable the Town to utilize the community room for meetings that require a livestream component which is not currently possible with the current IT configuration. Note this project is still under development and cost estimate is not final.	Staff Request	\$ 300,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Recreation	Senior Center HVAC Upgrades	<p>This project is recommended by DPW and quoted by Tradesmen of NE. It furnishes and installs 4 new YORK condensers with 4 new air handlers. Currently the units are original to the building. Average life expectancy is 15 years the units are 20+. The unit uses R-22 refrigerant which is obsolete. New 5ton Split Systems will put system up to ASHREA standards utilizes 401A refrigerant. Project scope: Demo 4 air handlers. Install 4 Air Handlers. Re- pipe Hydro Coil on AHU1. Install AC piping to units. Pressure test and vacuum units. Install new disconnects, hook up line voltage. Test 4 systems. The Community Room was used for multiple COVID Vaccination Clinics and Blood Drives. The systems often could not keep up during hot summer months. While the Senior Center was closed Recreation ran a small summer camp at the center. Good ventilation is imperative to the health of the seniors and other users of the building. 1) The Senior Center is used as a cooling center when needed. 2) The units in the exterior mechanical room and table and chair storage closets are stacked with other plumbing and fire sprinkler pipes running underneath them so important that they get done at the same time to greatly reduce the labor. Senior Center was built in 1988 and these are original units so they are all over 30 years.</p>	Staff Request	\$ 121,653
Recreation	Renovate Senior Center Bathrooms	<p>This project would renovate and update the men's and women's bathrooms at the senior. Bathrooms are original to the building and are not ADA accessible. They are heavily used by seniors and community groups using the community room. During the COVID Vaccination Clinics nurses and staff used the Senior side lavs and the public used the Community Room Lavs.</p>	Staff Request/Supported by Rec Committee	
	DESIGN/PERMITTING	Architectural drawings and Engineering (MEP) Drawings		\$ 5,000
	CONSTRUCTION			\$ 200,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Recreation	Add Multi-purpose room at Sycamore	<p>This project is to construct a multipurpose room at the Senior Center, to the east of the existing building. It would be approximately 48'x36', 1728 square feet, with a capacity of 75 people. It would be used for recreation programs, classes and small special events. Currently the Recreation Department's programming is limited to BOE buildings in the evenings and fee-based use on weekends. Before and presumably after COVID the Community Room is not always available for rec to use. Specifically when the Senior Center is open during the week and when the room is often booked by non-profit community groups, on weekends. This addition to the building would allow the Rec depart. to expand programming to all demographics. During COVID, Recreation was not allowed to use B.O.E. buildings, while the S.C. was closed to seniors, the Rec Dept. ran many small programs there. This allowed us to provide recreational opportunities and social interaction within guidelines mostly for children and some for adults. This was especially advantageous during the 5 colder months when outdoor activities were not feasible. Once the S.C. reopened 7/1/21 the Rec. Depart. was once again limited in its use of the building and again realized the constraints we are under to provide these services to our community many of whom were adversely effected by COVID. Expanding programming would positively impact the effects COVID has on mental health.</p>	Staff Request/CIP Out year/ Rec Commission Priority Project	
	DESIGN/PERMITTING	Preliminary design: \$12,500; Construction Drawings: \$31,000; Bidding \$2,500; Contract Admin. 6,500.		\$ 50,000
	CONSTRUCTION			\$ 530,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Recreation	Buckingham Baseball infield - additional funding	This project is budgeted at \$40K in FY22 capital. Based on inflated costs we do not believe this is enough funding. The project would renovate the infield which includes replacing all of the material from the sub base material up to the engineered clay. The grass infield and pitchers mound would be rebuilt, sodded and laser graded. The baselines lips and hills would be cut back laser graded and resodded as well. This will improve drainage and playability. When CIAC and State cancelled sports and closed recreation areas, baseball lost an entire season. Once restrictions were eased, leagues went to great lengths to bring back play safely. Little League's enrollment numbers skyrocketed.	CIP Request/AHS Athletic Department/Av on Little League	\$ 43,400
Recreation	Renovate Tennis Courts, Pickleball Courts and Basketball Courts at Sycamore	Sycamore Hills Tennis Court renovations are in the CIP. In addition to ripping them out and replacing them, this project adds 2 pickleball courts and relocates the basketball court to the east of the tennis courts. Tennis, pickleball and basketball were all sports that were among the first that people could safely play as guidelines allowed certain sectors to ease restrictions.	Staff Request	
	CONSTRUCTION			\$ 405,000
	ADD LIGHTS			\$ 193,000
Recreation	Shade Shelters - Various locations	This project would add 2 pavilions/shade shelter to the Sycamore Hills Pool area . More shade is frequently requested by members. During COVID the Rec Dept. implemented many strategies to provide members of the pool a safe experience at our facility. With the need for social distancing but little shade, people brought their own umbrellas. Attendance and memberships have been up the past 2 seasons.	Staff Request/CIP	\$ 30,000
Recreation	Fisher Meadows Pavilion Replacements	This project would replace 2 covered wooden pavilions each 20'x36' in Fisher Meadows. The new structures would match pavilion #3. During COVID many groups booked pavilions for meetings and gatherings because the CDC recommended outdoor activities. \$40K per pavilion	Staff Request	\$ 175,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Recreation	Lightning Protection System - Town wide	Installation of a Town-wide WXLIN Strike Guard Lightning Warning System. Transmitter would be located at AMS with siren and or strobe & solar stations at 8 parks and BOE sites. Technology employees cloud and cloud-to-ground lightning within a user-set range up to 20 miles. During programmable hours of operation the transmitter broadcasts digitally encrypted messages to activate the siren/strobe stations within 3 miles. In the interest of public safety park patrons rely on coaches, lifeguards, and each other to determine, incoming thunderstorms. This system removes the judgement all of humans and relays on science. In may parks it is not feasible to take shelter and socially distance. This system would provide timely warning systems allowing time for patrons to safely vacate the premise.	TC Member Request/ Supported by Rec Committee	\$ 65,000
Recreation	Stage for Sycamore Hills	This project would install a band shell at Sycamore Hills Recreation Area. It is a prefab-kit that would provide a shelter for outdoor concerts and entertainment for the community. Concerts are no longer held on the Town Green, due to the competing noise from traffic on RT 44. During the Pandemic, the Rec Department held some special events outdoors. They were able to continue family movie night, but also held spring egg hunts, Halloween parties and camp carnivals each of these events where full and second sittings were added. The addition of a band shell would enhance these special events and expand outdoor offerings.	Staff Request	\$ 122,200
Social Services	Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Care in Avon	During the pandemic, Avon Youth Services has fielded an increased number of calls with requests for Behavioral Health Services for youth. This request would enable Youth Services to provide services for an increased number of clients by utilizing the services of area non-profits. The request is for \$60,200 per year over two years but is scalable depending on the number of clients the Town wishes to serve.	Staff Request	\$ 120,400
BOE	VAV (Variable Air Volume Units) AHS classrooms	A variable air volume (VAV) box is a part of an HVAC system. The VAV regulates the volume of the air to the room by opening or closing the damper, thus controlling the amount of air directed to the room.	Staff Request	\$ 341,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
BOE	Library Carpet Rpl. District Wide	We are looking at replacing the carpet tile in the library spaces and think this falls under the "COVID-19 response, mitigation and preventive action" category . These older carpets (in addition to being old and worn) cannot be cleaned as well as the new carpet resulting in bacteria, viruses, etc. to collect in them. Our library spaces are where students congregate and sit on the floor, especially in grades PK-6. In the FAQ document, page 4, question 2.1 talks about support for congregate facilities including schools.	CIP Request	\$ 280,000
			TOTAL	\$ 3,385,044
Other Projects (note that many of these projects do not include cost estimates)				
DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
BOE	Expand Zoom Account to Include TOA (60 Zoom licenses and 2 Webinar licenses)	During COVID, Avon Public Schools held all their meetings remotely and continue to hold a majority of their meetings remotely. And now, in accordance with Public Act No. 21-46, Section 14, as amended by Section 390 of June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-2, effective July 1, 2021, each board of education must provide parents the option to attend parent-teacher conferences remotely. Additional Zoom licenses will allow school administrators and town officials the ability to host virtual meetings and to provide remote access for those parents wishing to attend remotely. In addition, the Zoom licenses will provide the school district and town the ability to host and better manage large group meetings virtually in a secure online platform.	Staff Request	\$ 6,780

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Engineering	Rails-to-Trails Extension over Arch Road Railroad Bridge	<p>The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, or the Farmington Valley Greenway, was constructed in Avon in 1998. Trail users heading north will find that the trail currently leaves the State's railroad right-of-way (the former New Haven-Northampton line) at the Avon Department of Public Works facility (11 Arch Road), and proceeds down the Public Works driveway to Arch Road. Users then cross Arch Road at-grade and proceed north by northwest on Security Drive, northeast on Darling Drive, across Route 44 under an existing bridge, through Avon Park North, and through Avon Park South, eventually reconnecting to the former railroad ROW at Sperry Park. The project will improve the safety of trail users by rerouting the trail out of the DPW driveway (area noted in blue on Attachment C1) which is currently used by heavy equipment and trucks on a daily basis and allow safer pedestrian and cyclist access across Arch Road via the railroad ROW and the rail bridge, rather than the at-grade crossing as it currently exists. Design funding has been requested through an application to the CT DEEP's recreational trails grant program and the Town should be alerted to the status of its application in January 2022</p>	POCD	unknown

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
		<p>One additional project that I would think would be very helpful and would involve the following justifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public safety 2. Preservation of public property, town office buildings 3. Economic development in connection with Village Center 4. Preservation of historic structures in existing Town office complex and nearby buildings. <p>The project would involve significantly broadening the study of the Nod Brook corridor as it flows through the entire Town Complex and through the abutting complex of Carpionato owned buildings to the north.</p> <p>The same stream also flows through the 20 acre property that will soon be dedicated to the Town as a new park as part of the Village center build out. This project would significantly broaden the study being undertaken by Fuss as part of current building 1 damage assessment.</p>		
Planning	Nod Brook Evaluation		Staff request	unknown
Planning	Sidewalk Planning, Design & Construction	Darling Drive to O'Neil's Chevrolet along south side of West main Street. Project should also include decorative street lights such as the ones on Simsbury Road.	POCD	unknown
Planning	Bus Shelters	Bus shelters along West Main Street (2-3 shelters). Locate at Big Y, Marshall's and near Simsbury town line.	Staff Request	unknown
Planning	Pedestrian Crossing at Darling	Pedestrian activated crossing signal at Darling Drive near new development to improve pedestrian safety crossing to get to the trail. This will become even more of a need if the 20 Security Drive development is approved.	Staff Request	unknown
Planning	Improvements to Rt.44 Underpass	Funding for the study, design and construction of the improvement to the tunnel under West Main Street. Safety improvements and lighting are needed to improve the safety for bikers and pedestrians in this area and to access Avon Village	Staff Request	unknown

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
Planning	Sidewalks extension Arch to CC Road trail head	Sidewalks should be extended from Arch to the trail head south of CC. This could facilitate people walking to the center and the brewery.	Town Council Member Request	unknown
Non-profits	Gifts of Love Exterior Building Improvements	<p>We have tight margins and many program-related costs to “cover” our existing costs and hopefully continue to grow with future expanded programming. We are currently on pace to end 2021 at a deficit. But one of our big, looming capital expenses includes our building itself. We’ve gotten a number of estimates, it looks like we have 55k worth of exterior work that needs to be done. Among other issues, we have water coming in through rotten windows and trim. Not sure if this is even in the right ballpark for ARPA, but if it is we’d be happy to pull the details together for you.</p>	Public	\$ 55,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
		<p>Per your suggestion, I would like to ask that the Town Council consider using the portion of the remaining \$2.7M toward completion of Schoolhouse No. 3 where it fits in their criteria. According to the Proposed Capital Improvement Plan we have been using since 2019, the following major items need to be completed. In order to factor in inflation and current supply problems, I added 25% to the estimates of the CIP from 2019.</p>		
		<p>WINDOWS – 11 new 12 x 12 energy efficient windows - \$21,250 EXTERIOR SIDING AND INSULATION INSTALLMENT – Siding - \$12,500 + Insulation - \$7,500 EXTERIOR DOORS with SECURITY SYSTEM – 2 energy efficient doors and installation of security and fire suppression system – Doors \$10,000 + Security and Fire Suppression - \$7,000 HVAC – energy efficient HVAC for museum storage and exhibit use, cellar and main floor – \$15,000</p> <p>TOTAL REQUEST - \$73,250</p> <p>The Avon Historical Society has \$42,550 in reserve for landscaping, flagpole, interior exhibits, and other items not appropriate for ARPA funds. In addition, the Society is willing to run a paver fundraiser in 2023 if necessary to cover additional costs.</p> <p>IF POSSIBLE, we would also like to ask that the Town consider using any funds appropriate to upgrade the electricity at Pine Grove Schoolhouse. If that could be done, then exterior uplighting would be possible including a possible security system. I do not have an estimate for this.</p>		
Non-profits	Avon Historical Society		Community member	\$ 73,250
Emergency Management	Update Emergency Operations Plan		Staff Request	\$ 18,000

DEPARTMENT	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	ORIGIN	ESTIMATE
General Government	Automated Tax Collection System	The Town's current collection system is Admins. While this system has been effective for many years and has been adjusted over time to better suit the Town's needs, the Collector of Revenue's Office notes major limitations and deficiencies in the system that are beyond the capabilities of Admins. It is the recommendation of the Collector's Office that the Town purchase and implement a new automated revenue collection system in order to more accurately and efficiently perform the necessary functions of the office.	CIP Request	\$ 84,000
Social Services	Enhancement of Dial-A-Ride Services	Additional 2 hours per day for ride reservations to ease access to transportation. Funds provide for two years of additional rides (\$13000 per year)	Staff Request	\$ 36,400
Social Services	COVID 19 Relief Fund	This fund would provide limited, one-time assistance to Avon residents adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible residents may receive assistance with rent, mortgage payments, auto expenses, utilities and food.	Staff Request	\$ 50,000
			TOTAL	\$ 323,430
Summary:				
Supplemental Appropriation Requests 2/3/2022		\$1,260,000		
FY23 Capital Budget - ARPA Funds		\$1,000,000		
Priority Projects		\$3,385,044		
Other Projects (note that many of these projects do		\$323,430		
	TOTAL	\$5,968,474		