

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 4, 2024**

**I. OATH OF OFFICE**

The Town Clerk gave the oath of office to the members of the Town Council: Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

The Town Clerk called the meeting 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. A quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Polhamus.

**III. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIR**

The Town Clerk called for nominations for election of Town Council Chair.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council elect Dan Polhamus as Town Council Chairman.  
Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton and Mr. Weber voted in favor. Mr. Polhamus abstained.

Chairman Polhamus thanked Council members and congratulated them on their election, including Council's newest member, Mrs. Bratton, and it is an honor to be back. He noted that this is going to be a contentious year with the presidential election and dialogue that he would not call respectful; it will be incumbent upon us to show that democrats and republicans can come together and do what's best for Avon; we may not always agree on everything but so long as we disagree respectfully it will be a great example for the Town.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Polhamus.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:** December 7, 2023

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept the minutes of the December 7, 2023 Meeting as drafted.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor. Mrs. Bratton abstained.  
Motion carried: 4-0-1.

**VII. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**

James Fitzgerald, 25 Kenington Road, thanked Council for their volunteering and congratulated all for winning their seats and to Mrs. Bratton for jumping from the Board of Finance to the Town

Council. He commented on the November 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Finance meeting that he attended in the audience and witnessed the disgusting behavior of Micah Rousey on Charles Harvell, both Board of Finance members and Mr. Harvell's subsequent resignation; quite disgusting and unbecoming of a public elected official representing not just the Board of Finance but the Town as a whole. He added that during that meeting there was a lot of confusion; the Town Manager was looking for approvals from the Board of Finance for monies (approximately \$3+ million) in terms of transactions or transfer approvals including \$1.6 million in interest income that we as taxpayers, the legislative body, have realized but would have never known because the transparency isn't there; two republicans voted against everything that night; the democrats tabled it until the next meeting for approval; from experience, he knows the Town was in the middle of having an audit done and requirements you have to satisfy to the State of Connecticut as well. He noted that the Town charter does not differ that much from the CT General State Statutes. When \$3+ million was found and not recognized the entire Board of Finance was in confusion in terms of lack of transparency; people on this side wanted to see this money run through the budget process and it wasn't; he defaults to the Town Council as well, not necessarily the current one, but you approve these measures at the request of the Town Manager and then support this to go to the Board of Finance requesting their approvals. The Town Charter, nor the CT General State Statutes, does not allow for the spending of the money without the taxpayers' approval, the legislative body, unless you are spending for the poor who might have a very serious or emergency situation; he encouraged Council to look into that. It is very undemocratic because you don't allow for the Town to have a say in the budget if it is under 9%; the last budget at the referendum was approved by the Town because of the 9% but 6% showed up and said no; this Town Council needs to take action on that as well and to repeal that part of the ordinance and put the power back to the people in this Town, if it is yes it's yes, if it's no it's no; when it came time for the bonding for the fire trucks he supported that, it was significant but that was a yes or a no and not that 9% had to show up; it is pretty significant. That \$3+ million could be going a long way for this Town in reducing the taxes; the revaluation is a significant hit to the people with property values going up anywhere from 20-38%; how is that going to play out? The Board of Finance is going to be in a tough situation to have reduce that mill rate down to an acceptable level; it would have been much easier if that money that was not transparent to the Town, the legislative body, was available and run through the budget process, not reclassified and renamed so they could use it and get ahead of roads and highways, etc.; it is very poor management and is really concerned as to whether this Town (Town Council, Board of Finance, and Town Manager) could be legally responsible for those monies back to the taxpayers in this Town; it is very disheartening because people in this Town are disenfranchised not just by the budget process but by this kind of action that is taking place behind the scenes and for the Town Manager to dismiss it and say it's not that important for the legislative body or the taxpayers, that is quite unacceptable. The Town Manager responded that he never said that, and this Council or Board of Finance and our process follows the Town Charter which is very different from what the statutes require; we are not a statutory Town, we are a Charter town; and he suggested sitting with Mr. Fitzgerald and go through the mechanics of the budget process and explain this to him; bottom line is that nothing has been appropriated yet and everything is done consistent with the Town Charter. Mr. Fitzgerald responded that he would appreciate that and noted that it wasn't mostly about the budget process; your own Board of Finance was also in agreement that it wasn't transparent or run through the process.

Maria Mozzicato, 51 Fox Hollow, congratulated Town Council members on their recent election.

Amulya Cheemalapati, Avon Middle School student, read aloud her poem that was submitted to the #LoCoolGov Scholarship Contest through CCM. She was chosen as the middle school winner and received a \$1,000 prize. She was recognized at the CCM Annual Convention Dinner on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Making It Happen: Our Town's Rockstars**

In the heart of our hood, where dreams take flight,  
Local gov's the crew making everything right.  
Fixing up the block, making it all shine,  
They're like the cool squad, on cloud nine.  
Watching the roads, fixing up the view,  
Smooth paths and walkways, no need to boo.  
From the traffic's jam to the sidewalks' care,  
Local gov's vibe, showing they're there.  
Making things fair, making things true,  
They're like the law's fam, looking out for you.  
From court to cops, keeping us real,  
Local gov's the reason we can heal.  
In school and beyond, they're all about the dream,  
Helping us grow, making it a cool team.  
From class to clubs, they light the way,  
Local gov's there, brightening our day.  
Celebrating our mix, making us all feel,  
With parties and shows, they've got the deal.  
From events to gigs, they bring the cheer,  
Local gov's spirit, making life clear.  
Listening to us, they've got an open ear,  
Taking our worries, wiping every tear.  
At meetings and talks, they're our voice,  
Local gov's the reason we've got a choice.  
When things get tough, they're there in a flash,  
Helping us out, with a secret stash.  
From rough times to lending a hand,  
Local gov's there, spreading some grand.  
So cheers to our town, and the cool things they do,  
Local gov's the reason we make it through.  
With everyone together, in a chill space,  
Local gov's making our town an awesome place.

Chairman Polhamus congratulated Ms. Cheemalapati and thanked her for sharing her poem.

**VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Mrs. Barthel thanked businesses on Main Street for participating in Avon Shines 2023 and making a huge effort to decorate storefronts and their properties for the holiday season. She congratulated Dom's for winning by public vote and will hold onto the trophy for the year; and we look forward to doing it again.

Ms. Ausiello echoed Mrs. Barthel remarks regarding Avon Shines 2023; she extended kudos to Mrs. Barthel for coming up with the idea and expressed thanks to the Assistant Town Manager for promoting the event on Facebook. She attended last night's public information session regarding

the Old Farms Road Project and hopes we can have more sessions for this project and for others as they come up as it is important for residents to feel engaged.

Mrs. Bratton thanked Chairman Polhamus, the Town Manager, and Jennifer Worsman for their continued help as she begins her role with the Town Council.

Mr. Weber echoed Ms. Ausiello's remarks regarding Avon Shines 2023; what was really nice was going out and visiting the small businesses in Avon; a fun project to try and bring the Town together to open up Main Street and beautify it a bit for the holidays; and he looks forward to it again next year. He welcomed Margaret Bratton to the Town Council.

Chairman Polhamus echoed Mr. Weber's remarks regarding Avon Shines 2023; it was a great event. He shared that he received information from the America 250 CT Commission regarding a celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and they are asking municipalities to select a liaison and perhaps a group to take responsibility for the celebration; based on positive feedback received from Avon Shines 2023, we have been kicking around this idea of a "We Are Avon" public relations/marketing type of commission; he asked if we could look into finding a group to handle the America 250 CT Commission as one task of their charge of a broader commission for helping our businesses out and put Avon on the map; more to come on this. He noted that the Sycamore Hills tennis courts look great.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council add agenda items 23/24-60 Resignation: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (D – 12/31/2025) and 23/24-61 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (D – 12/31/2025) under New Business.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council move agenda item 23/24-50 Presentation by Teja Lakamraju – Eagle Scout Project: Avon Trail Enhancement up before Old Business.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **21/22-46 American Rescue Plan Act: Discussion re: Projects List**

The Town Manager noted that several projects will likely come up in the FY 25 budget process through ARPA funds. Ms. Ausiello commented on following through with ARPA funds for Recreation and Parks projects with the understanding that there is also a timeframe to comply with. The Town Manager responded that the Master Plan will not be done in time. Ms. Ausiello asked for an update regarding Sperry Park/Avon Little League. The Assistant Town Manager noted that we will be into the Fall before the Recreation and Parks Master Plan is complete. She added that ARPA funds must now be obligated/contracted before December 31, 2024. Chairman Polhamus noted that if we are going by the original intent of ARPA funds and helping those who struggled through the pandemic the most, it is the police department and public works who worked through the pandemic the most; he wants to see funding for Recreation and Parks, whether it is ARPA funds or not. Mr. Weber initially viewed ARPA as the balance between the needs of the Town

and projects on the back burner or ready to go that would alleviate the budgetary process, balancing that with opportunities for community touch points and Town residents would be able to see that benefit, i.e. Recreation and Parks; we have spent about \$1.9 million so far on those opportunities; \$1.5 million of that is roads; \$430,000 is allocated towards the Senior Center, Sycamore Hills Pool, Recreation and Parks, Gifts of Love, etc.; on the Town/BOE side we have spent about \$2.2 million so far; and of the approximately \$1.1 million that is left/proposed, about \$540,000 is towards those touch point projects; \$590,000 is towards Town/BOE. He added that whether it comes out of our normal budgetary process as a capital expenditure or do it through ARPA, it is still something that was going to be done; it has been open and transparent the entire time and Town residents have benefited from not having that tax burden put upon us to spend for this \$4.2 million in ARPA funds allocated so far which has been a huge relief for the Town; further discussion is necessary. Chairman Polhamus commented that there will be priorities that we will not be able to fund through ARPA but will keep an eye on those projects as we forward. The Town Manager added that there are a few ideas on how to spend the remaining approximate \$60,000 in ARPA funds not included in the current project list. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, the Assistant Town Manager responded that she would get a more detailed update on what is left to complete for the BOE DW Library Carpet Replacement Project. In response to a question from Ms. Ausiello, the Town Manager responded that the Public Works and Police Department vehicles listed as proposed ARPA items were not part of their capital budget presentation for FY 25.

**23/24-11     Appointment: CRCOG Regional Planning Commission (D – 12/31/2023)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council remove agenda item 23/24-11 Appointment: CRCOG Regional Planning Commission (D – 12/31/2023).

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-32     FY 24/25 Budget: Town Council Budget Work Session Schedule:**  
**Recommended Date: February 10, 2024**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the Budget Work Session Schedule for Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in a hybrid format (In-Person/GoToMeeting) as follows:

- Budget Overview
- Library
- Police Department
- Public Works
- Fire Department
- Break
- Education
- Public Safety (except Fire and Police)
- General Government
- Health & Social Services
- Recreation & Parks
- Conservation & Development
- Miscellaneous
- Engineering/Sewers
- Debt Service / Capital Improvement Program /

Special Revenue Funds

- Opportunity for Public Input
- Executive Session (Personnel) / Lunch
- Adjustments, Wrap-Up; Adjourn

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**23/24-49 Regional Juneteenth Event**

Chairman Polhamus shared that there are plans for a second regional Juneteenth event; it is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2024; last year, it included Avon, Canton, Farmington, and Simsbury; it was planned to take place at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center, but rain moved it into Simsbury High School; and it was a huge success. He noted that Granby will be joining this year. He added that Avon's fund commitment is the only one outstanding; the request is for \$2,000 in seed money, like every other participating town; total budget is \$20,000; last year, the Town's contribution came out of the Community Events Grant Program fund, and he would recommend use from the same fund this year. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, Chairman Polhamus responded that the participating towns are appropriating funds through their legislative body. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, the Assistant Town Manager responded that the deadline for Community Events Grant Program applications is tomorrow for spring to early summer events and noted that Winterfest did not happen so those previously allocated funds are also available. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, the Assistant Town Manager responded that the Community Events Grant Program has been used for soccer and lacrosse tournaments, Turkey Trot; events that typically occur in Avon. Chairman Polhamus noted that the guidelines allow for use of the funds for this type of event. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, Chairman Polhamus responded that the Town would have a greater benefit by participating in this type of regional Juneteenth event; we want to have more events that bring the Valley region together. Mrs. Bratton asked if we could share this event through the Town's web site and on Facebook. The Town Manager responded yes.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approves the Town of Avon contributing \$2,000 for the Farmington Valley Celebrates Juneteenth 2024 event planned for June 15, 2024, at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center from the Community Events Grant Program fund.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-50 Presentation by Teja Lakamraju – Eagle Scout Project: Avon Trail Enhancement**

Teja Lakamraju, Scout with Troop 274, provided a brief presentation (which is attached and made part of these minutes) regarding his Eagle Scout Project. He noted that he has been in Avon since 4<sup>th</sup> grade and been a Scout since then as well. Chairman Polhamus noted that the Town is also working on installing a pavilion in the same area. Mr. Weber added there is an additional \$7,000 in donations from a few residents as well. Chairman Polhamus thanked Mr. Lakamraju for the great work.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept, with much appreciation, the Eagle Scout Project – Avon Trail Enhancement as completed and presented by Teja Lakamraju.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-51      Resignation: Board of Finance (D – 12/31/2025)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Charles Harvell from the Board of Finance.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Weber and Polhamus voted in favor.

**23/24-52      Appointment: Board of Finance (D – 12/31/2025)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Harry Captain to the Board of Finance, to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Weber and Polhamus voted in favor.

**23/24-53      Contract Recommendation: Architectural & Engineering Services for the Renovation, Expansion & New Construction of Fire Facilities**

Jim Speich, Chairman, Renovation, Expansion & New Construction of Fire Facilities Building Committee, provided an overview. He noted that in September 2022 we received the “Plan for the Future” study from CGR and from there Town Council appointed a Building Committee and per the Charge we solicited architectural firms; nine responded to the Request for Qualifications; they were scored and top four firms were interviewed during the month of October; those interviews were scored and Tecton Architects were identified as the top candidate; based upon their qualifications, the pricing and the unanimous support of the Building Committee for this firm, we ask the Town Council to award the contract to Tecton Architects; there is funding for this work already in the budget plus additional funds have been asked by the Fire Department to supplement it should we need anything beyond that; there are optional items that could be done, to be determined at a later date. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, Mr. Speich confirmed that the \$175,000 base fee is for Phase I; the existing capital account balance of \$300,000 would fund the contract in the amount of \$175,000 and there are additional engineering investigations that we may want to do as we proceed with the process and those items would be covered by the capital account balance. Chairman Polhamus thanked Mr. Speich for leading this Building Committee and the work the group has done thus far. Mr. Weber thanked Mr. Speich for his time and taking on this project which will set the future for the Avon Volunteer Fire Department for many years to come. In response to a question from Mr. Weber, Mr. Speich responded that regarding this process you have to pick a firm that has experience building fire stations; Tecton stood out as a good architectural firm that could talk about it clearly, understood the project, would be a good representative in front of Town meetings, and of course the actual architecture itself with what they have already built; they have relationships with consultant firms that they work with. Mr. Weber is excited to watch this process move along and looks forward to updates. In response to a question from Ms. Ausiello, Mr. Speich responded that the Tecton is the architect for Bloomfield Fire Department’s new fire station and one of their consultants, H2M, is building a fire station in Norwalk between Route 1 and I-195. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, Mr. Speich responded that Task 1 in the contract may seem repetitive to what was done through the CGR

study but the work at that time was superficial and now Tecton will perform a much more detailed function; they will “test fit” everything to make sure it fits within the footprints of the plans. Mr. Speich confirmed that the plan is to assess building a new fire station across from Company #3 on West Avon Road, renovate Company #1 and look into renovating for Company #4. Council extended their appreciation to the Building Committee. Mr. Speich noted that another part of this is community involvement; we did invite residents around Company #3 to a few different meetings; we want to make sure that people understand the process and the goals and decide at what milestones we want to involve the public.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council award a contract to Tecton Architects of Hartford, CT in the amount of \$175,000 plus any additional investigations (optional fees) to complete the schematic design phase for the Renovation, Expansion & New Construction of Fire Facilities.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

### **23/24-54     Contract Extension: Insurance Agent of Record-USI**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve a contract extension with USI Insurance Services as the Town’s Insurance Agent of Record with a term to be continued for two (2) additional years through December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

### **23/24-55     Appointments**

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Mr. Polhamus, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Kathleen Johnson to the Board of Finance to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Joseph Gentile, Peter Mahoney, and appoint Jamie DiPace and Chris White for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Elaine Primeau and appoint Randall Bowers and Christine Graesser as alternate members to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Robert Breckinridge and appoint Thomas Kassin and Daniel Carvalho to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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



**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Fran Gurtman, Mildred McNeill, Norman Sondheimer, Keri Willis, Robert Yass, Jennifer Das, and appoint Brian Farrell to the Recreation and Parks Committee for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Aden Baume and appoint Drew Bloom to the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Thomas McNeill, Jr. and appoint Christy Yaros and Ruthanne Babich as alternate members to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Micah Rousey, Chibuzo Obi, Paul Magro, and appoint Russ Caudill and Gary Gianini to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Al Smith as Town Attorney for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Murtha Cullina, LLP, FordHarrison LLP, and Thomas A. Kaelin as Assistant Town Attorneys for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Tom DiStasio as Town Treasurer for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Bank of America, N.A.; Bank of New York Mellon; Charles Schwab Bank, SSB; Citizens Bank, N.A.; Connecticut State Treasury's Short-Term Investment Fund; KeyBank, N.A.; Liberty Bank; Northwest Community Bank; M&T Bank; Santander Bank, N.A.; TD Bank, N.A.; US Bank, N.A.; and Webster Bank, N.A. as the Town's Depository of Town Funds for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Paul Melanson, Chief of Police, to the North Central CT EMS Council for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Lawrence Baril – Transportation and Brandon Robertson – Municipal Services as CRCOG Committee Representatives for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Lisa Levin as a regular member – Town Council Representative and appoint Maria Mozzicato as an alternate member to the CRCOG Regional Planning Commission for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Dan Polhamus – Member, Hiram Peck – Alternate and Brandon Robertson – Alternate to the CRCOG Policy Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Paul Melanson, Chief of Police, as Town Council Representative to the CRCOG Public Safety Council for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Elaine Primeau and James Beaudoin to the Plainville Area Cable Area Television Advisory Council for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025 and table a vacancy (Board of Education) with the same term to the February 1, 2024 meeting.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Erin Dawson as the Town's representative to the Central Regional Tourism District for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Dan Polhamus – Member, and Brandon Robertson – Alternate to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Legislative Committee for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Barbara Ausiello to the Connecticut Water Customer Advisory Council for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council table the appointments (1-R 12/31/2025 and 1-D 12/31/2025) to Amplify, Inc. (North Central Regional Mental Health Board) to the February 1, 2024 meeting.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Dana Barcellos-Allen and Leonard DelGallo, Jr. as Town Constables for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That Town Council re-appoint Gary Greene – Lakeview Association, David Pena – Senior Citizen, Jim Speich – Avon Volunteer Fire Department, and Sue Anderson – Secret Lake Association as Town Council Representatives for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Erin Barthel – Town Council Representative, Brandon Robertson – Town Council Representative, Farmington Valley Health District – Avon Health Department, and Jennifer Kertanis – Director to the Farmington Valley Health District for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Alan Rosenberg as the Town's Municipal Agent for the Elderly for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Alan Rosenberg as the Town's Municipal Agent for the Veterans for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Rachel Slater as a regular member and Kenneth David Schultz as an alternate member to the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Nathalie Caso – Parent/Community Member, Deborah Sacks – Parent/Community Member, Julie Tacinelli – Parent/Community Member, Rosemary Landsberg – Parent/Community Member, Susan Alexe – Youth Services Professional, Heather Toyen – School Advisor, and Paul Melanson – Chief of Police to the Youth Services Advisory Board for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Michael Dawson, Christine Winter, Carrie Firestone, Michael Guerrero, Kim Stevenson, and appoint Venkat Anopaju and Jeffrey Landsberg to the Avon Clean Energy Commission for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.  
Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-56      Contract Recommendation: Grounds Maintenance Services**

The Assistant Town Manager noted that this contract does not include Fisher Meadows or any playing fields which are maintained by Public Works. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, the Assistant Town Manager responded that school playing fields' grounds maintenance depends on who is using the field. The Town Manager will distribute a memo to Council with the breakdown.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council award a contract to Red Line Landscapes, LLC of Moodus, CT for a three-year period beginning January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$275,160 (\$91,720 per year) for grounds maintenance services.  
Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-57      Contract Extension: Municipal Advisor**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve a contract extension with Phoenix Advisors as the Town's Municipal Advisor with a term to be continued for two (2) additional years through December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-58      Contract Extension: Bond Counsel**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve a contract extension with Robinson & Cole as Town's Bond Counsel with a term to be continued for two (2) additional years through December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-59      Approval of Real Estate Tax Refund, \$2,858.78**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve a real estate tax refund to Sarkar Madhura in the amount of \$2,858.78.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-60      Resignation: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (D – 12/31/2025)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Micah Rousey from the Avon Pollution Control Authority.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**23/24-61 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (D – 12/31/2025)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Rob Gonse to the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority, to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

**XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS**

**Misc. A: Purchasing Update:** No additional highlights were provided.

**Misc. B: Construction Update:** The Town Manager noted that with regards to the Old Farms Road Project, we had the first public information meeting last night to discuss the East/West Section; information is posted on the web site, and this will be a very interactive process. He noted that the Sycamore Hills Tennis Courts look great. He noted that with regards to Town Hall Building #2 Office Renovations, Public Works has been doing a lot of the work in-house and coming along nicely. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, the Town Manager responded that the Tillotson Bridge Project is a separate project from the Old Farms Road Project. Mrs. Bratton inquired about the Green Bank Solar MAP. The Assistant Town Manager responded that we installed additional solar panels at Avon High School and a new set of solar panels at Roaring Brook School and we are using the CT Green Bank who finances these types of programs.

The Town Manager reported that right now the story is the budget; the Town Council Budget Work Session is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> and between now and then we are pulling everything together; and the budget document should be out to Council by the last week in January.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pending Claim/Litigation – Avon Place LLC

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council enter into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

The Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney Al Smith, Assistant Town Attorney Kari Olson, and the Clerk attended the session.

**XIV. ADJOURN**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

# Avon Trail Enhancement Initiative



At Avon Bike Path on Security Dr.

Benefitting the Town of Avon

1

## Why did I choose this project?

- I am an avid biker and trail-goer, and I feel that I should give back to the trails that I use so much.
- The trail that I upgraded was not up to par with all of the others in the area, meaning it is in need of a good repair/upgrade.

2

# The Project

My Project will consist of two major elements:

- Historical and Informational Kiosk
- Avon Crossroads

3



4





5

## Acknowledgements

### Donations:

Sanford and Hawley: \$1000

Farmington Valley Trails Council: \$800

Avon Historical Society: \$100

GoFundMe: \$700

### Thanks to:

Ms. Ruth Checko

Ms. Terri Wilson

Mr. Nord Sondheimer

Ms. Diana Moody

Mr. Emery Salesky

Dr. Fran Gurtman

Mr. Charles Bell

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