

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2024**

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: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber. 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 MEETINGS: February 1, 2024
February 5, 2024 Special Meeting
February 10, 2024 Budget Work Session

One correction to the February 1, 2024 minutes was noted as follows:

On the first page, under "Call to Order," replace "Maguire" with "Bratton" under members present.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 1, 2024 Meeting as amended.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 5, 2024 Special Meeting as drafted.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 10, 2024 Budget Work Session as drafted.

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

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE - None

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mrs. Barthel recognized Avi Gottfried, an Avon Middle School student, who built cat houses and brought them into our Animal Shelter on February 12th to keep the cats safe during the storm. She also recognized Saanika Tipnis, Avon High School student, who collaborated with the Avon Public Free Library to have kids make cards for IRIS refugees; grades 7-12 recently had a special visit from the IRIS Outreach Coordinator. She also recognized Jason Warnke from the Oak Bridge

Group who held the 2024 Best Area Pizza competition and invited members of the community, there were many entries from Avon pizza establishments and the winner was Pizzeria Da Vinci for their cheese pizza. She thanked all these individuals for adding good work to the community. She expressed an early Happy St. Patrick's Day to fellow Irish community members.

Ms. Ausiello thanked Ms. Barthel for her hard work with coordinating The Great Bakery Scavenger Hunt taking place on April 6th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., registration fee is \$15 per car load, and you can visit the following bakeries: Small State, BeanZ, Dom's, Crumbl, BuoNom, Taste by Spellbound, Cake Gypsy, Bagel Chalet, and possible Luke's; solve a riddle, try a treat and get a clue for your next bakery; register at avonrec.com.

Mr. Weber welcomed the Girl Scouts to tonight's meeting and looks forward to recognizing them.

Mrs. Bratton attended the Narragansett Bay Acapella Chorus at the Avon Free Public Library; a large numbered version of a men's Barbershop quartet; it was fun and they sounded great; shout out to one attendee who resides in Avon and is part of the Avon Sweet Adelaide, our Town's 4-person women's Barbershop quartet. She wished the Avon Volunteer Fire Department well with their recruitment open house being held on March 16th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Chairman Polhamus shared there will be a second public meeting regarding the Recreation & Parks Master Plan on March 27th at 6:30 p.m. at Company #1 on Darling Drive; survey results will be reviewed, and he encouraged all to come out and listen and participate. He noted that the FOIA training session conducted by Attorney Kari Olson was well done, he thanked staff for organizing it, and it was well attended.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council move agenda item 23/24-72 2024 Girl Scout Day Proclamation 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 there is an item on the agenda tonight to appropriate \$25,000 for the Avon Fuel Bank; some other items in the proposed projects section have found their way into the budget. In response to a question from Ms. Ausiello, the Assistant Town Manager responded that the Animal Control Officer vehicle has been removed from the list of proposed ARPA projects. The Town Manager noted that the next supplemental appropriation that will be requested is for the Classification and Compensation Study; we have identified a great consultant, will finalize costs, and should have that request ready for April.

22/23-37 Acceptance of Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

The Assistant Town Manager noted a few adjustments made to the draft Plan based on public comments received: change "urban" to "suburban" throughout the document and connectivity to the West Hartford reservoir being beyond the scope of the study and could be looked at as part of

a larger Route 44 Connectivity Study perhaps with CRCOG for funding opportunities, we referenced the comment that it warrants further study on a larger scale; some other comments received required more personal responses because they were for more specific items but not necessarily requesting changes. The Town Manager noted that he has had a few conversations with Steve Hahn, representative of the Country Club of Avon; they want to be good residents, they understand the importance of connectivity, but they do have concerns with the proximity of a potential multi-purpose trail to the golf course; we will include them in discussions going forward. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, the Town Manager responded that the Country Club of Avon is concerned about the ultimate location of the trail if it ends up being an off-road path on the north side of the road, errant golf balls potentially hitting bikers or walkers, and other technical concerns about the location of sprinkler heads and utilities.

Mrs. Bratton noted that other residents have similar concerns regarding tree removal, stone walls, and different things that they have had on their property for years. She agreed with a lot of the small, short-term projects within the Plan that seem almost ready to go. She had concerns after reading residents' concerns and asked if there is anything we can do to help the residents who have true concerns about their own property, their financial risk, potentially having new sidewalks on their property and maybe not always being able to be on top of clearing the sidewalk. She recalled Storm Alfred when we cleared private roads and made other exceptions and asked if there is anything we can do on a long-term basis that we would have to build into the price where we can help these residents. Chairman Polhamus noted a common theme with many comments received – this is a Plan for potential projects with hefty price tags that will require referendums in some cases to spend money that might be needed to act on some projects. He added that just about every case where sidewalks will run in front of residents' homes and tied to public areas will include a process of garnering feedback and having the Town Council right size the projects. Mrs. Bratton added that she worries that the residents where their property is affected is so outnumbered by those not affected that she would like to build in, for example, having first say on certain things and the way it is worded and how far they will go; even people on the same road will have a much different impact on their property versus others. She agrees with the residents' concerns. Chairman Polhamus noted that he would not want to give certain individuals veto power for projects; Council members are their advocates as well as the community's advocates; in the case where this would come to the decision making, Mrs. Bratton may advocate more towards the property owners where sidewalks may come through their yard in the future; he knows people who would have a sidewalk come through their yard who would prefer to have it to have the connectivity component; as a Council member, we are advocates for the community; we are never going to be able to advocate for everybody and you will always favor some groups more than others. Ms. Ausiello noted that this Plan is an outline moving forward; it is up to us to continue to remind people that the Plan is a framework to work with and there will be a lot of input, particularly for anyone having a concern going forward. Mrs. Bratton asked if there is a way with projects this size, even though just a Plan, to always have a smaller in scope version of the detailed plan for people to look at in terms of the Plan options. Mrs. Barthel noted that we can leave the individual frames of each street at the Library for continued access. Mr. Weber added that there have been a number of presentations made to the Town Council which is considered a public forum where people can see what we do and there have been multiple meetings along the way as well where people had input; the most concise version of the Plan was discussed at a prior Council meeting and would want to share with the public; reading the document through the lens of a resident who believes that everything in there will be done, he would probably be against the Plan as is; it is

incumbent upon us to say that this is a guiding document; just like our Recreation and Parks Master Plan, our Plan of Conservation and Development and others, there are targets that we should reach, that we will reach, and that we hope to reach; if any of those big dollar items that affect residents or would involve significant infrastructure improvements would go through the normal process that we do here, having open meetings, hearing discourse, responding to feedback, and changing it so we find a happy medium where it acceptable and right for the majority of people in Town; those concerns are valid but there are also things that we couldn't address to that level of detail in the Plan because it is not yet at the design and engineering phase. Chairman Polhamus referred to the "Executive Summary" in the Plan.

Mrs. Bratton shared that some of the meetings regarding the Master Plan were not hybrid and no interactive component if someone could not be physically present at the meeting site. She requested that, for any future projects where there are Plans, we should always have them in a hybrid format where people can speak, we can hear them, comments can be documented in the minutes versus separate emails sent to Town Council members, and the public will feel more engaged. The Assistant Town Manager noted that we currently do not have a room bigger than the Selectmen's Chamber where we can conduct a hybrid meeting; a new AV system is a future project for the Avon Senior Center, but we need to replace the HVAC system first; going forward we can make an effort to engage Nutmeg TV so there is at least a visual recording of the meeting. The Town Manager noted that the new AV system at the Avon Senior Center is listed as a proposed ARPA project (\$90,000).

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby adopts the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan as presented.

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

23/24-32 FY 24/25 Budget Development

The Town Manager recalled that at the February budget workshop, the original proposed budget would have required a 3.74% tax increase; Council requested a few scenarios with options to reduce the tax increase to 3.3% or 3.23% or 3.0%. He reviewed a list of potential budget adjustments with Council. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, the Assistant Town Manager responded that the Districtwide Interior Lock Replacement is a simplification of keys. Ms. Ausiello noted that the RBS Pre-K Playground Project cost increased. The Assistant Town Manager responded that the Board of Education starts working on their capital budget so early; they have been asked to recheck pricing in January to be more accurate with their requests. In response to a question from Ms. Ausiello, the Assistant Town Manager responded that the reduction with the AHS Partial Roof Project would either be added to Phase III or create Phase IV. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, the Town Manager responded that the adjustment related to two patrol officers is a result of their replacements coming in at a lower level entry. In response to an inquiry from Mrs. Bratton, the Town Manager responded that the Animal Control Officer vehicle is still in decent shape and its replacement is not critical at this time. Mrs. Barthel noted that at the last Board of Finance meeting a member suggested that we find \$2 million in reductions; she asked where that could possibly come from. The Town Manager responded that the Board of Education operating budget would have to be part of that; there is a cash capital budget of \$3.8 million; \$2 million on the expenditure side is three-quarters of the Police

Department, so the scale of that is not possible. He noted that on the revenue side, the Board of Finance has discussed excess revenues over expenditures at the end of last year; that was primarily from interest income that we are adjusting for as we go forward, rates are going to stay that high, and increasing the estimated revenue is one of the reasons that we are able to bring in this proposed budget areas; for fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 we had fairly low budget numbers for our State grants and they came in higher than we anticipated and as a result we have increased our State grant projections by \$850,000 overall for FY 25; going forward you will see some positive variance but it won't be anything like what we've seen before; for that positive variance it allows flexibility, for example, it is the reason you have a road budget, along with the offsets to pension and OPEB and other things you are able to get ahead of. Ms. Ausiello noted that ARPA funding is also helping with getting some projects done. She noted that it was a very responsible budget to begin with and this reflects hard work trying to bring it down closer to what we had wanted but we have to consider the increased costs of everything. The Town Manager noted that most of our employees are in bargaining units and about half are not; this year he recommended and Council agreed to go with a 3.25% general wage increase for unaffiliated employees; we also increased the employee/employer contribution to the defined contribution plan and the idea was to hold them harmless for one year; 0.25% on 3.00% for unaffiliated employees is about \$15,850; what you are getting for it far outweighs the cost and aligns them with the bargaining units and the last bargaining unit to go to 8.25% with their defined contribution plan is Public Works and that will be in effect July 1, 2024.

Mrs. Bratton inquired about further adjustments and how we balance that between the Town and Board of Education. Chairman Polhamus responded that if the Board of Finance decides the proposed mill rate is unacceptable then they would kick it back to the Town and Board of Education for further reductions. He noted that we oversee the Town's operating budget and we have adjusted and presumably the Board of Education did the same with their operating budget before it came to us; we receive both capital budgets and there has been a balance of reductions. The Town Manager is not optimistic about having some revenues that he can recommend adding back that takes some pressure off the levy this year. Chairman Polhamus shared a concern about how much of the capital budget we're paying for with grant funding and year-end transfer money which will create some issues for us next year. Mrs. Bratton shared concern about it being a revaluation year; there are many people who had a large increase in their assessment. Mrs. Barthel commented that we are trying to make it not so difficult for people who are struggling and taking additional reductions could impact those services. The Town Manager clarified that the reductions totaling \$356.422 to bring the tax increase down to 3.3% is a net decrease from what was presented to Town Council at its February budget workshop. Mrs. Bratton wants to make sure we keep the ratio proportionate between the Town and Board of Education with reductions.

Chairman Polhamus noted that contract services have gone up significantly, it is a high inflation environment, and he hopes that the residents understand that looking back over the last few years we have had 2-3% tax increases which is substantially lower than inflation which means the Town is doing a pretty good job of keeping things in check. Mrs. Barthel noted that capital improvement projects have to be done or we don't have tanker trucks, police vehicles, ways to pay for new patrol officers in terms of salaries or a way of keeping substantial people in our Town because we need match salaries that other towns are offering; the Town would suffer. Mr. Weber noted that we are typically pretty early in the process versus other towns; when we start to see other towns' numbers, he thinks our Board of Education budget is going to look pretty good; other towns' Board of

Education are having to cut staff just to get it to a somewhat palatable amount; this is happening in West Hartford and Newington is at 7%. He noted that we are the beneficiary of some good fiduciary Council; some years you take the hit, and some years are really good with passing the budget.

Mrs. Bratton asked if the list of proposed budget adjustments would be posted on the Town's web site. The Town Manager responded that we would create a second budget book (March version) and incorporate the budget adjustments that Council approves; we would also distribute a summary page that shows those adjustments. Mrs. Bratton asked if there is something that can be put together for the Board of Finance based on comments from their February meeting. The Town Manager responded that you have to let it play out; if the Council moves forward with a recommendation tonight it then goes to the Board of Finance, and they will deliberate and figure out what they want to do. Mr. Weber noted that the list of proposed adjustments really gives you a sense of what \$5,000 here or there does to an operating budget and how people depend on that money to do their job effectively, so we are helping out ourselves as well. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, the Town Manager responded that historically the Council has never requested a flat percent cut from each department.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council recommends the FY 24/25 Proposed Budget of \$116,087,973 to the Board of Finance as follows:

REVENUES		
Property Tax & Assessments	\$	98,161,608
Intergovernmental		6,583,241
Licenses, Fees & Permits		1,080,625
Charges for Current Services		7,168,254
Other Local Revenues		1,206,657
Other Financing Sources		1,887,588
TOTAL	\$	116,087,973
EXPENDITURES		
Town Operating Budget	\$	31,058,502
School Operating Budget		72,280,066
Sewer Operating Budget		3,305,144
Capital & Debt Service Budgets:		
Debt Service	2,890,950	
Capital Budget (CNREF, Facilities & Equipment)	6,553,311	
<i>Subtotal: Capital & Debt Service</i>		9,444,261
TOTAL	\$	116,087,973

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

23/24-66 Appointment: Amplify, Inc. (NCR Mental Health Board) (R – 12/31/2025)

Chairman Polhamus noted that clarification is still being sought from Amplify as to whether mental health professionals can serve in this role.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 23/24-66 Appointment: Amplify, Inc. (NCR Mental Health Board) (R – 12/31/2025) to the April 4, 2024 meeting.

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

23/24-67 Appointment: Amplify, Inc. (NCR Mental Health Board) (D – 12/31/2025)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 23/24-67 Appointment: Amplify, Inc. (NCR Mental Health Board) (D – 12/31/2025) to the April 4, 2024 meeting.

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

23/24-68 Appointment: Plainville Area CATV Advisory Council (BOE Vacancy – 12/31/2025)

Chairman Polhamus noted that this appointment was filled by the Board of Education.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council remove agenda item 23/24-68 Appointment: Plainville Area CATV Advisory Council (BOE Vacancy – 12/31/2025).

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

23/24-72 2024 Girl Scout Day Proclamation

Chairman Polhamus welcomed and thanked the room full of Avon girl scouts and their troop leaders and parents. He noted that two of his daughters joined girl scouts this last year and it has been wonderful with great activities, leadership, and people. He read the proclamation.

A Proclamation on the Importance of Girl Scouts to Today's Girls

Recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 112th birthday and celebrating its legacy of providing girls with a secure, inclusive space where they can explore their world, build meaningful relationships, and have access to experiences that prepare them for a life of leadership.

WHEREAS, March 12, 2024, marks the 112th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the largest and most impactful leadership program for girls in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout movement began on March 12, 1912, when Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low, a native of Savannah, Georgia, organized a group of 18 girls and provided them with the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, social, and spiritually; and

WHEREAS, for over a century, Girls Scouts of the United States of America has advanced its mission to “build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place”; and

WHEREAS, today, more than 50 million women—trailblazers, visionaries, and leaders—are Girl Scout alums who have made the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, since its beginnings, Girl Scouts has emphasized public service and civic engagement, and has fostered a sense of community in girls; and

WHEREAS, during a time when girls are experiencing increased levels of anxiety, stress, loneliness, and depression, Girl Scouts continues to provide community, consistency, and connection for girls, and is a safe haven in all the uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, girls say that Girl Scouts supports their mental health and is an accepting, secure space where they feel free to be themselves and where leaders and other girls are sources of support during difficult times; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouting is a powerful force for social connection and creates a positive and uplifting national and global network among girls; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts plays an indispensable role in engaging girls in after school and out-of-school programming and experiences that expand their world and allow them to tap into their inner community builder, innovator, change maker, and leader; and

WHEREAS, at a time when civics education is missing from many schools, Girl Scouts engages girls of all grade levels in civics programming that deepens their understanding of community action, democracy, and government, prepares them for a lifetime of civic engagement, and motivates them to take action on issues that are important to them; 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 WHEREAS, Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Girl Scouts take on projects that have a measurable and sustainable impact on a community by assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and

WHEREAS, as a member organization of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts is part of an international sisterhood of 10 million girls and young women in 152 countries and is committed to offering girls more opportunities to engage with communities worldwide, make meaningful global connections, and explore global citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Girl Scouts of Avon, Connecticut celebrates their 102nd anniversary in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Girl Scouts of Connecticut serves more than 18,000 girls across the state of Connecticut.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dan Polhamus, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chairman of the Town Council of Avon, Connecticut and on behalf of the Avon Town Council, 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 we declare March 12, 2024 to be Girl Scout Day.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the 2024 Girl Scout Day Proclamation as presented.

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

Ms. Ausiello noted that it is also appropriate that it is Women's History Month, and this Town Council has majority of women. Chairman Polhamus noted this may be the first elected Town Council to have majority of women.

**23/24-73 Review, Discuss, Set Public Hearing: Acquisition of Property Located at
65 Nod Road**

The Town Manager noted that the purchase of this property will allow us some extra room around the pump station. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Ausiello, the Assistant Town Manager clarified that this purchase is not a leaseback. Chairman Polhamus added that if we move forward with this a public hearing will be held at Council's April regular meeting.

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

RESOLVED: that a certain Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between the Town of Avon and Blue Fox Run Golf Course LLC (the "Purchase Agreement") for the Town's acquisition of an approximately 0.87 +/- acre portion of the parcel of land known as 65 Nod Road in the Town

of Avon, now or formerly owned by Blue Fox Run Golf Course LLC, and all improvements and appurtenances thereto (collectively, the “Property”), is hereby authorized and approved; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Town Manager is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate, execute and deliver the Purchase Agreement (and any necessary amendments thereto) upon such terms and conditions as the Town Manager deems necessary and appropriate and in the best interest of the Town of Avon, and in the forms approved by the Town Attorney for form and legal sufficiency; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Town Manager is hereby authorized and empowered to take all such action and to do or cause to be done any and all other acts, necessary or convenient in carrying out the foregoing resolutions and performing the obligations undertaken by the Town of Avon in connection therewith, including but not limited to, conducting and performing certain inspections, investigations and other due diligence of the Property; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that all acts of the Town Manager which would have been authorized by the foregoing resolutions except that such acts were taken prior to adoption of these resolutions, be, and they hereby are, individually and collectively ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted as acts on behalf of the Town of Avon; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Town Council hereby refers the following items to the Town of Avon Planning and Zoning Commission (the “P&Z Commission”) for review and approval pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes: the acquisition by the Town of an approximately 0.87 acre portion of the parcel of land known as 65 Nod Road in the Town of Avon, now or formerly owned by Blue Fox Run Golf Course LLC, and all improvements and appurtenances thereto; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Town Council sets a public hearing date to be held at its April 4, 2024 meeting to consider and permit all interested persons to speak on the matter of the proposed acquisition of the aforesaid portion of the parcel of land known as 65 Nod Road. Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-74 Approve Resolution: CT DEEP Grant for Sperry Park Softball Field

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

RESOLVED, that Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, Town of Avon, is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Avon a Personal Service Agreement/Grant Contract under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with the State of Connecticut for a \$200,000 grant for the Sperry Park Softball Field; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Avon and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents for said grant with the State of Connecticut.

The undersigned further certifies that Brandon Robertson now holds the office of Town Manager and that he has held that office since January 4, 2010.

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

23/24-75 Appropriation: Pavement Management, \$200,000

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby favorably recommend to the Board of Finance, an appropriation not to exceed \$200,000, from General Fund, Other Financing Sources, Assigned to

Road Improvement, Account # 01-0390-43931 and transfer from Account # 01-8700-58000, General Fund, Other Financing Uses, Interfund Transfers Out

To

Account # 02-4831-53003, Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Town CIP-Facil/Road Overlay, Road Surface Improvements and Account # 02-0390-43918 Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip) Other Financing Sources, Interfund Transfers In, in the amount of \$200,000, for the purpose of road improvements.

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

23/24-76 Supplemental Appropriation: Avon Food Bank (ARPA), \$25,000

Mrs. Barthel asked if Avon's Department of Social Services can accept donations and match donations from individuals in the community and their companies; she has been approached by people in the community who are interested in doing that because they service people in the community and want to help; she could not locate directions on their web page. The Town Manager noted that we do receive donations for fuel assistance around the holidays. Mrs. Barthel will look further into the matching donation program and report back.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 23/24 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$25,000 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Human Services, Food Bank Support, Account #50-4203-55165, in the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards the support of the Avon Food Bank.

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

23/24-77 Approval of Real Estate Tax Refunds, \$8,389.20

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve real estate tax refunds to Northwest Community Bank in the amount of \$6,234.48 and Wells Fargo in the amount of \$2,154.72.

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

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager noted that the RFP Legal Services has been advertised; the Town Attorney appointment is made by the Town Council so Council may wish to have a liaison join Town staff through the interview process. He noted that regarding the RFP - Compensation & Classification Study, we interviewed two firms and have a great finalist that we hope to recommend a contract for in April. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel regarding the Snow Removal and Ice Control Contract, the Assistant Town Manager responded that the Town originally paid Safeside Home Services \$48,250 and we got back what we were owed and covered the cost for Public Works to clean up the mess the day of the snowstorm that was their

undoing, a settlement of \$30,000. The Assistant Town Manager noted that regarding Green Bank Solar MAP, we are currently completing the close out process; they are energized and commissioned. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, the Assistant Town Manager responded that this is the second installation of solar panels at Avon High School and there are solar panels at the Avon Middle School and Public Works facility; we have to right time these projects based on roof replacement timeframe or installation of a new roof. She noted that the EV Charging Station at the Avon Free Public Library is up and running; we set a rate of 30 cents per kilowatt hour and is mid-range for rates in the area, covers our investment and should begin to turn a profit in about five years and will cover the cost of the software system required to manage the charging station.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager noted that regarding the Public Safety Communication System Project, the tower is going up; the simulation is pretty close to what went up; the project is moving along, and the Chief of Police remains optimistic that the system will be up and running by September/October 2024. He noted that the Old Farms Road Project is making good progress; the consultant has been doing engineering work for the East/West Section and we are on track to hold another public information meeting at the end of April. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Weber regarding the Connectivity Improvements, the Assistant Town Manager responded that there will not be gateway arches and instead we would install the red stone columns similar to Old Farms Road. Town Manager noted that the Countryside Park Renovations Project is slowly but surely moving along. He noted that regarding Sperry Park-Additional Ball Field Project we have another meeting scheduled tomorrow with Avon Little League. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel regarding the Sidewalk Replacement West Avon/Scoville Project, the Town Manager responded that it includes a federal grant which is location specific for its use.

The Town Manager noted that Marketplace Park, adjacent to CVS, is not Town property; it is owned by CVS; letter of approval from 1998 includes a condition that they maintain the Park; the Planning Department has sent several letters to the property owner regarding its current condition.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council enter into Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.

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

The Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, the Town Assessor, and the Clerk attended the session.

XII. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

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

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk