

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
November 2, 2017**

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 by Chairman Zacchio. Members present: Mrs. Maguire and Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Pena, and Speich.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Zacchio.

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

17/18-13 Proposed Amendments to Chapter 53 of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled Streets and Sidewalks: Article IV "Removal of Ice and Snow in the Public Way"

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Zacchio. Chairman Zacchio waived the reading of the following legal notice:

"TOWN OF AVON
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, Selectman's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, Avon, CT to consider the following:

To consider and permit all interested persons to speak on the plan of the Town Council to amend and restate Town Ordinance Chapter 53 – Streets and Sidewalks. The recommended changes will be to Article IV - Deposit of Snow and Ice in Public Way.

A copy of the proposed amendments is on file on the Avon Town Clerk's Office and open to the public for inspection during normal business hours.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 6th day of October, 2017.

Brandon L. Robertson, Town Manager"

Chairman Zacchio noted the amendments includes new warning and fines for contractors and homeowners who deposit snow from their driveway into the roadways which causes problems across the street to the public roadway or curbing and in higher snow situations creates a barrier that plows cannot get through and makes the road narrower. He added that the Town Manager suggested a change to the ordinance to give us more strength in assuring that is not happening in Avon and the Chief of Police was involved and others.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council close the public hearing.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the amendment to Chapter 53 – Streets and Sidewalks. The recommended changes will be to Article IV - Deposit of Snow and Ice in Public Way.

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

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: October 5, 2017

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the October 5, 2017 Meeting as presented.

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

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE: None

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Stokesbury referred to the 2008 Study Committee that looked at conserving economic resources and noted that Canton combined their finance arm between the Town and Board of Education and we should continue to look at it; there is a good article in the Courant earlier this week; it would save money and streamline the finance process. He commended Mrs. Maguire for leading the charge on the 4-way stop at Burnham and hopefully soon the re-alignment of the turn lanes at Country Club/West Avon Roads and for being Chairperson for Project Graduation and kicking off fundraising for the ever important year-end activity at the high school and he encourages Town employees and residents to help support it.

Mrs. Maguire reported that we have kicked off Project Graduation and have a big fundraising goal this year; the first fundraiser is on November 9th at Puerto Vallarta, an all-day event, mention you are supporting Project Graduation and 20% goes back to it and it is usually our biggest fundraiser. She reported that last week she and the Town Manager attended the bankruptcy forum at the Society Room in Hartford; two speakers went through the Detroit and Central Falls bankruptcies; very enlightening; no decision has been made but will have an impact on us; good to hear their perspectives on how things moved ahead and progressed very well. She mentioned the new 4-way stop sign and appreciates the big signs as a reminder. She noted that as we go into capital budget planning we should be looking at a light at Country Club/West Avon Roads sooner rather than later for all left turns as we see near misses and it is a scary intersection. She commented that all of the lights are on at the High School and Roaring Brook and wants to make sure that with daylight savings time ending the lights are in sequence for the events in the next coming weeks.

Mr. Pena congratulated Mrs. Maguire for being the Chairperson for Project Graduation. He attended the afternoon bankruptcy forum and found it very enlightening and a good program. He reported that a few months ago East Hartford went to having tablets for their Planning & Zoning Commission because everything is digital and found that it has saved them money and prevents from having to make copies and are able to deliver materials electronically instead of having their police deliver it and can now do their regular duties. He asked the Town Manager to look

into the possibility of doing something like this for our Planning & Zoning Commission and save us money and time. Chairman Zacchio commented that was a good idea.

Mr. Speich reflected on all of the things the Town Council has done over the last year including organizing and calling three-board meetings regarding State budget concerns, turf field workshops and engaged the stakeholders and have a shovel ready project minus State funding, Fisher Meadows expansion project with more athletic fields and to the Department of Public Works who without them would not get done, the Old Farms Road Project update with the new bridge and widening of the roads in place and public access to the Farmington River in the future will be a great thing to have; capital spending on road infrastructures, vehicles for DPW, Avon Volunteer Fire Department engines and have done that by building reserves in our capital budget; senior citizens' tax relief limits were raised and think we have some of the highest benefits in the valley; we worked with Farmington to build the burn building, sharing the costs as well as a lot of donations, a regional sourcing; the stop signs at Burnham Road are excellent and all about public safety; and we continue to look at open space opportunities and there are some active ones as mentioned in the Master Plan and the reason we have executive sessions over the past few years to discuss it; we can be really proud of what has happened over the past couple of years.

Chairman Zacchio addressed something tonight that he hasn't had to do in eighteen years, a community conversation that he would not have wanted the press to have. He commented that there was a recent democratic campaign flyer, and he means no disrespect to Mr. Pena or any candidates in the room, that made claim that there is a lack of transparency in our government, specifically the Board of Finance and the use of an executive session. He noted that executive sessions like ones often are on our agenda are used to give our boards and people who are elected to do this job an opportunity to have a private conversation in confidence on items that are governed by statute in the State of Connecticut, are often reviewed by the Town Attorney who sits here today, and recommended by the professional staff who make their living assuring that we are in compliance with what an executive session is for. He added that executive session is for potential real estate transactions where we might be talking strategy on a piece of property or how we negotiate that piece of property; for personnel issues which isn't public knowledge but between the board and their employee at that point and becomes a labor issue; pending litigation either against the Town or where the Town is the plaintiff and gives the board an opportunity to have that discussion around strategy with their attorney which is attorney-client privilege; and it could be the potential for any item that eventually becomes a public knowledge because no dollars can be spent without appropriation or no strategies for buying property are ever done as a surprise to the public and are voted on at referendum or at public hearing/meeting. He feels that insinuation insults our character and out integrity and we are the government: the five of us sitting here, the seven members of the Board of Finance, the nine members of the Board of Education and every other person who is elected or appointed who has the opportunity to sit on a board and serve the public, who has to sit in one of these sessions and has to make the hard decisions and negotiations around something that is good for the public should be insulted by the comment, "The Board of Finance hides behind executive session so that you can't see how your tax dollars are spent." He noted that it is just plain wrong. He quoted Einstein who said, "For us to remain silent really makes us complicit." He add that we are guilty of complicity to remain silent and as a leader and the person sitting in this chair elected by this board to be the leader felt compelled to set that record straight for the seven members of the Board of Finance, democrat

and republican alike, who work tirelessly in a very difficult position for the Town of Avon who have been accused of doing something improper in public. He would expect any leader in the room to do the same. He brings him no joy to have this conversation.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

14/15-20 Old Farms Road and Old Farms Road Bridge and Intersection **(State Projects # 04-129, 04-116 & 118)**

The Town Manager reported that we had a meeting with Avon Old Farms School and their consultants yesterday; it was a very positive meeting, we are working on some other design ideas that we will have for discussion with Council in December and from there able to move forward with the LOTCIP application process; we are clearly looking for the same benefit out of the project and should be very happy to see what we have come up with. Chairman Zacchio commented that it has been taking a lot of staff time and it is a very important project for us and to finally see it moving forward is to your credit.

17/18-24 FY 18/19 Budget: CIP Budget Presentations

a. 7:00 p.m. Board of Education – a power point presentation is attached and made part of these minutes

Myles Altimus, District Director of Operations, reviewed each of the summary requests for FY 18/19. Mr. Altimus highlighted that in coordination with the Department of Public Works (DPW) their pavement plan has been rolled up into DPW's pavement management plan. Chairman Zacchio questioned how the partnership with DPW worked out with the parking lot paving process this year. Mr. Altimus responded it worked out good; we finished all of Roaring Brook including the playground and got the lower parking lot of the Middle School done. Mr. Altimus highlighted the Security Upgrades (Phase I) request. He noted that this has been recommended by the Avon Police Department with two security assessments in the schools. Mr. Stokesbury questioned which schools this is for. Mr. Altimus responded all of the schools; an average of about six to eight doors per building plus two at the Central Office. Mr. Speich questioned how many years this phases through. Mr. Altimus responded all at once; Phase II is for other security requirements such as cameras and any other updates from the second security assessment. He noted that the new visitor door at Avon High School (AHS) will free up one security personnel who sits there all day to buzz in visitors. Chairman Zacchio questioned that Fire and Police will carry fobs so they all have access to the buildings. Mr. Altimus responded that if they can get into a Town building they will be able to get into our building; it is the same software system. Chairman Zacchio commented this is an outcome of the Police Department's review along with administrative staff on your team from years ago. Mr. Altimus noted that they had put in for a grant for the schools, about 30% reimbursable and find out about it at the end of the month/first part of December; in which case we will move into Phase II if we get the grant. Mr. Pena questioned where the grant is coming from. Mr. Altimus responded the Department of Homeland Security. He highlighted the AHS Fire Alarm Replacement request; do upgrades we can like Roaring Brook with the panic alarms and enhance security/lockdown aspects of it. He highlighted the AHS Air Handling/RTU Replacement (Phase I) request; they get compressor failures once in a while; we finished Pine Grove this year; it is a \$1 million project. Chairman Zacchio questioned the lifespan of fifteen years which seemed short; we got forty-three years out

of the ones at the Middle School. Mr. Altimus responded that they were probably replaced during the renovations in 1998 and have been hanging in there. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we have had issues in the past using Trane equipment with their single source replacement parts. He asked that when you do go out to bid on this be more open. Mr. Altimus responded that right now they are planning on sticking with Trane but going to put it out and get some other installers; he will discuss this with Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works. Mr. Stokesbury commented that in years past we have had comment from staff that Trane can be more expensive and difficult to work with so he questions continuing to use their product. Mr. Altimus responded that we do not use them a lot for repairs as their response is iffy at times; we do have the automation system with Trane which is proprietary. He highlighted the Districtwide-LED Lighting (Phase II) request; we are 98% done at Roaring Brook with a few rooms we didn't do because of special needs and a few circular can lights that the manufacturer went out of business and are working to find the LED lights for those; overall they like it and should start seeing savings on the electric bill; there is a ten-year warranty on the bulbs and ballasts; we have submitted for the Eversource rebate but is on hold because of the State budget situation. He noted that last year we requested \$120,000 and it came in at about \$66,000 and able to start on the Avon Middle School (AMS) at Christmas break and lowered what we asked for from the five-year plan by that amount; most AMS parking lot lights have been replaced as well.

Mr. Altimus highlighted the Field Mower Replacement request. He noted that it is used five days a week from March to November; the Town has bought about three in the timeframe that we have owned this one so it is time to replace it. Mr. Speich questioned the work split; the Town does some lawn cutting for the Board of Education at Fisher Meadows. Mr. Altimus responded that we share the striping/lining of the fields, not the mowing; the Town does it at AMS because Recreation uses it most. Chairman Zacchio commented that the Town stripes the school fields we use in the summertime but the schools still have to mow in the summer. Mr. Speich questioned if the Department of Public Works takes care of maintenance on the mowers. The Town Manager responded yes. Mr. Altimus clarified that they take the lawn equipment to a specialty shop. Chairman Zacchio commented that we share across some of the maintenance pieces but there has always been an opportunity to talk about how we maintain the fields on an ongoing basis permanently; he does not know if it means one department that does it and does not know if there is any real savings as you still need the manpower to do the mowing and need the equipment to do the mowing. He has never been an advocate, even since the matrix study years ago that he was part of that looked to shared services across the Town, this was one of the lower hanging fruit items on there but never really saved dollars but does it save any efficiency in terms of operation and thinks it is something that we should be looking closely especially when talking about nearly \$100,000 mowers and ways to effectively stretch those mowers out in terms of time and hours or find new creative ways of maintaining the fields on and off season. He asked the Town Manager to consider that with the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Stokesbury commented that last year we purchased a new piece of equipment for the baseball fields. Mr. Speich commented that as we expand Fisher Meadows there will be more to do. The Town Manager responded that there is an opportunity; about three or four years ago we looked into it and in theory it seems like a great idea but there are a lot of practical issues including dealing with the collective bargaining issues and some of the lost opportunity with the State budget that was recently adopted because CCM had made recommendations to various municipal employees relations act and collective bargaining process in statutes that would have paved the way for a lot more of these sharing initiatives and behind closed doors everybody was

onboard with these changes but when it came time to draft the implementer language for the budget none of it carried through so the legislature is not making it easy for us. He noted that we are interested in this and informally there is a really great amount of teamwork that happens. He added that on the Public Works (DPW) side we had an agreement in place where we can use the Board of Education's electrician which has come in really handy with respect to our lighting project on Simsbury Road and at Company #4; he is excellent, is in demand, and have taken advantage of it where we can. He noted that with respect to vehicle maintenance and over the last few years he has seen a great improvement with Mr. Altimus and Mr. Williams working hand in glove in preparing the capital budget and executing it once it's time to get the projects done; no doubt there is some opportunity there but in concept it always sounds easier than it actually is when you go to implement it. Chairman Zacchio clarified that he knows the two operations work together all of the time; every time we hear the capital budget he thinks there must be a way to be more efficient. The Town Manager questioned the cost estimate for the mower. Mr. Altimus responded approximately \$72,000 for mower and trailer. The Town Manager noted that the DPW is requesting one for \$112,000 so maybe there is some economy of scale; we will work on that. Chairman Zacchio commented that in the spirit of how we can share resources please think about that.

Mr. Altimus highlighted the Pine Grove School Water Boiler Replacement request. He noted this is the original one was installed in 1990, not 1998; a second one was replaced approximately ten years ago. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if you need both boilers if one fails. Mr. Altimus responded that they could make do with one if it fails for enough time to get a new one up and running and why it is not number one on the priority list. Mr. Altimus highlighted the Districtwide-Baseball Field Repairs (Phase I) request. He noted that the field at the Middle School is not the one at the road but back at the corner. He added that the Athletic Coordinator and Director of Recreation and Parks have requested the desire to have another baseball field there. Mr. Stokesbury clarified that this does not include Buckingham which is in pretty good shape. Mr. Altimus responded that was correct. Chairman Zacchio commented that as we expand Fisher Meadows we move a number of activities to those new fields that are probably currently taking place at, for example, the Middle School. He noted that we should think about this project with Fisher Meadows expansion and do we try to get work done at the same time; these are going to be ready and in the public eye the second we are not using those fields anymore for the purposes of using the baseball field today really you can't because you are using the outfield, particularly at the Middle School. He added that as soon as we get Fisher Meadows back up and running and expect that to be played on next year sometime these fields at the Middle School will probably return to baseball and that field needed rehabilitation when he was in high school. The Town Manager responded that with the capital budget process, unlike the operating budget, you get these presentations before he has gone through and done his thing with staff; this is in a very raw format. Chairman Zacchio noted that we are here to drop seeds.

Mr. Altimus highlighted the Thompson Brook School (TBS) – Carpet Replacement request. He noted that we are finishing up all other schools. He added that the chorus room will be replaced with carpet and not tile. He noted they do not expect to find asbestos at TBS but is a \$10,000 expense if found.

Mr. Speich asked about the refurbishment of other rooms, i.e. science rooms which are expensive and unique, and if there is a plan for those types of rooms. Mr. Altimus responded that we are up

to speed; there is a Middle School project they are still working on; the High School has not registered any needs; no major projects have been raised by the science department or other specialty areas. Mr. Stokesbury noted that the Middle School lab classroom project came in really high. The Town Manager responded that we appropriated over three capital cycles \$678,000 for that project; there was potential reimbursement through the State; Council appointed a building committee and as they worked through it they found that it was not a \$678,000 project, but more like a \$2.7 million. He added that we are still in a holding pattern but as we talk about this capital cycle we will discuss that. He heard that rather going forward full scale and need referendum approval, there has been discussion about going with a FF&E project. Mr. Altimus commented that the new Middle School principal has been on board for six months and they are re-engaging on this project starting next week and get an idea on what can be done with that amount of money that makes sense that will support the curriculum given the status of what the building is right now. Mr. Stokesbury noted that the money is there. Kenneth Birk, Board of Education member, commented that it is the Board of Education's big priority right now; they are pushing administration to pull together a structured plan for moving that money. The Town Manager noted that there is another appropriation out there without any activity and goes back five to seven years for approximately \$276,000 originally intended for the boiler replacement. Council thanked Mr. Altimus for the Board of Education's presentation.

b. 7:30 p.m. General Government

i. Town Clerk

ii. Social Services

iii. Assessor

The Town Clerk commented that as we think about capital projects for FY 19 we always consider capital and debt service as one category and operating as the third so funds shift back and forth and try to keep that static in terms of the amount of the mill rate that goes with that purpose. He noted that we have another slight reduction in debt service going into FY 19 which provides us some capacity on the capital side in the amount of approximately \$2.6 million to work with but we have well in excess of \$10 million in requests so it will be a matter of setting priorities. Chairman Zacchio commented that Mike Monts always used to say those capital projects come back every single year so you have to fund them and have to move them forward. He noted that for a number of years when the schools were growing at the rate they were we had to be tight and had other priorities. The Town Manager commented that we are in a maintenance and maintain mode.

The Town Clerk reported that we were cited by the State in 2004 regarding the vault. The Town Manager reported that in the current year we budgeted \$25,000 as seed money and the current estimate is \$500,000 to get the project completed; it is a priority. The Town Clerk noted that there is no more room in the vault and no place to put the books. Chairman Zacchio asked about the qualifications for the vault. The Town Clerk responded that it would have to be attached to the building and we are at 450 square feet and required by law to have at least 800 square feet based on our Town size but projected to go to 1,000 square feet. The Town Manager commented that it is so regulated; the footprint would need to be increased in the same location. The Town Clerk commented that the vault should be holding minutes from every Town Board/Commission meeting but only have Board of Finance and Town Council because there is not enough room for everything. Mr. Speich questioned if electronic counts. The Town Clerk

responded that we have everything electronic going back to the beginning of our land records but people want to go to the books. Chairman Zacchio commented that we have seed money and it is a start; it worked on getting Secret Lake paved and it worked well with the HVAC units and we have made tremendous progress if we just keep moving forward in little increments. The Town Manager commented that we have been put on notice and we can show that we are taking proactive steps to get it done.

The Town Manager reported that with Social Services for FY 19 there is a request for \$55,000 for the new Dial-A-Ride bus; the current bus has approximately 125,000 miles and anticipated point of replacement. The Town Manager reported that with the Assessor for FY 19 there is a request of \$125,000 for Revaluation. He noted that there is \$50,000 in current year, \$125,000 in FY 19, and \$50,000 in FY 20; this will be on the FY 18 Grand List and will impact FY 20 budget. He added that earlier this week we opened bids for the revaluation company, received four bids, and staff is reviewing now and should have a recommendation back shortly. He noted that we will also provide a timeline for the revaluation as we only do one every five years. Mr. Speich questioned if the Dial-A-Ride bus is owned by the Town. The Town Manager responded that we have a contract with Martel Transportation and we are required to provide one bus and they provide a second bus. Mr. Speich clarified that this is just for the Town of Avon. The Town Manager responded yes; there is a policy in place for how it is used, either Jennifer Bennett at the Senior Center or Alan Rosenberg in Social Services can help anybody who needs it. Mr. Stokesbury commented on the revaluation bid and making sure that language coming back to us is clear that the recommendation is based on the lowest responsible bid.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

17/18-26 Presentation: Avon Library's New Web Site

Chairman Zacchio introduced Glenn Grube, Library Director. He complimented Mr. Grube for he and staff are living up to what we always thought the Library would be when we built it and really appreciate what it has become and hope we keep going in that direction. Mr. Grube appreciates the support and kind words. He gave a brief overview of the Avon Free Public Library's new web site which is one of their most public facing tools and used by so many people, some who do not even go to the Library; the project started over a year ago and worked very closely with Jessica Palmer, Technology and Technical Services Librarian and Eric Gauvin, Board member, who is a web developer and donated his time and services to the project. He thanked both for the many hours of work to get to this site. He noted that we started in 2016 by looking at the important features and components people are looking for and how to rearrange them for the new site. He added that they did some user experiences tests with a mini web site and took feedback to improve how they laid out the components; they also held staff training because it is very different. He noted a few benefits: it is based on Wordpress, an open source content management system, they did not pay anything for the software and did pay \$35 here and there for plug-ins; we can update the web site through any internet connection anywhere; it is much more mobile friendly; and a custom plug-in was built for our events calendar without paying for additional software. Jessica Palmer highlighted some features on the web site, including rebranding the logo, making sure people can access our Library resources, events, programs by audience category, history room/local history sites, local community resources, and as a responsive site it adapts automatically to screen size. Mr. Grube noted that some features

are a saver of staff time as well. Chairman Zacchio responded and better service. The Town Manager noted that Mr. Grube has a great team at the Library and he is also the Chair of the IT Committee and also the President of his State Association so we are lucky to have him and his staff. Council thanked Mr. Grube and his staff. Chairman Zacchio commented that the Town web site is a lot better than it used to be; we have come leaps and bounds over the last three or four years; this as a leading web site in Town and extended thanks.

17/18-27 Approval of Real Estate Tax Refund, \$1,089.31

Chairman Zacchio clarified that the approval being requested is for a motor vehicle tax refund and not a real estate tax refund. He noted that it was paid by both the owner and the leasing company.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approves a motor vehicle tax refund to JP Morgan Chase Bank NA in the amount of \$1,089.31.

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

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager reported that with the radio system project we are looking at a P-25 system and have a very rough project cost of \$3 to \$4 million; our consultant, Federal Engineering, are trying to find any federal grants to offset the costs and working with Motorola to dial in costs, and it may be January before this comes back for discussion again. He reported that with microgrid we are working with Titan Energy and members of the Avon Clean Energy Commission and our outside engineering firm, we have a proposal from Titan, working through the details; one problem is that to make a microgrid project viable you need a large consumer, 24/7 operation, we have some of that with the Police Department but not sure we have intensity of use that will provide a reasonable payback period for Titan to finance the project, the ultimate PPA rate would be a huge upcharge versus other options for purchasing electricity; if it is a break even PPA rate then he is okay bringing it back to Council because we are not paying any more for the energy and getting other benefits like resiliency and sustainability but it looks like there is a real premium that we would have to lay out to make this work; this project is unlikely to go through but we have done a lot of important ground work and watch and see what the cadence is for the Avon Village Center, a larger user next door; Bernie Zahren is an invaluable source of energy and insight on the project; we are meeting tomorrow to discuss it further. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if we can engage neighboring private property owners; we have any number of specialized health facilities within eye sight of Town Hall and some industrial uses on the other side. The Town Manager responded that we are working on that; we talking with at least one of those facilities to see if they would be willing to take some of the energy but you have to have everything in place by the end of December to submit the application. Mr. Speich questioned what is going to happen with the State subsidies. The Town Manager responded that he thinks the State is going to try and do account sweeps wherever they can; not sure where the funding with the Green Bank, etc. wound up; he thinks the microgrid money is pretty safe as those are State bond appropriations and has been a public policy priority for the legislature and Governor, pushing it as a result of the two-storm panel a couple of years ago; there is not a lot of competition; the money is not going anywhere any time

soon and is likely to be there by the time the Avon Village Center project comes on. He added that with this project the Town is simply providing an easement to locate the facility on Town property and entering into a PPA to buy the power; they are responsible for everything; we made it simple for the Town. Mr. Speich noted that one big benefit is back-up power for emergencies. The Town Manager responded that we may be better off buying some more generators for the amount of time we are going to use the system. The Town Manager reported that the telephone system upgrade is ongoing; a bid package is out there for installation of white fence along Rails to Trails; we are doing irrigation at Fisher Meadows. He noted that we do contract out a lot of Town services; we have a bid coming up for ground maintenance services; we have very strong management rights language in our collective bargaining agreements with Public Works; we bid out for ground maintenance, custodial services, plowing, etc. He noted that we are still working on a solution for the janitorial services for the Police Department.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager reported that we are nearing the end of STEAP Phase IV on Simsbury Road. Chairman Zacchio complimented Public Works. The Assistant to the Town Manager noted that most of the light fixtures have been installed today. The Town Manager noted that Hiram Peck, Town Planner, is talking with the property owner about putting some very tasteful holiday decorations like snowflakes on the lamp posts; it would be nice. He reported that Police Department Improvements are ongoing; moving the antenna has turned out to be more complicated; as soon as Building #3 is complete, Building #4 will be started; you will likely see another capital appropriation request for this; we have \$25,000, \$250,000, and \$250,000 to date and probably see another \$250,000-\$300,000 to finish the project. He reported that Company #4 is taking some time; the Director of Public Works is working with a Committee from the AVFD to complete it. He reported that with the Fisher Meadows Expansion Project we have all necessary permits through DEEP, silt fence is up, and will start working on the parking lot shortly. He reported that at Sycamore Hills a lot of shrubs have been taken down and a new vinyl coated fence will be installed with some new shrubbery. He reported that regarding the Oak Bluff Pond dry hydrant staff has proceeded with design and permitting which was contracted out to Fuss & O'Neill and will try to get this on the Inland Wetlands Commission agenda for December. He noted that the funding source is from FEMA and Storm Alfred; an audit was done between the State Department of Homeland Security, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal FEMA and their reconciliation showed that they owe Avon another \$48,000 which was received in September and is an unbudgeted unanticipated revenue that has not been closed to Fund Balance and may be an option for supplemental appropriation or do a supplemental appropriation from Unassigned Fund Balance and like we have done with Old Farms Road and Old Wheeler Lane re-appropriate to Fund Balance in FY 19 capital budget. Chairman Zacchio commented back to 2011 we were to do the cleanup from that storm without ever hitting Unappropriated Fund Balance and did that mostly out of the operating budget and would feel differently if we had used any of the surplus money to fund the cleanup and gives him comfort to potentially use the \$48,000 for the dry hydrant and helps increase the public safety in that area, the neighbors are concerned and would like to see it happen, and would make it easier for the Fire Department to do their job and would be worth that. Mrs. Maguire commented on Sycamore Hills and the playground is looking very tired; she was thinking maybe to create a community awareness and getting people involved. A comment was also made regarding the pavilion. The Town Manager commented that there is funding left from prior appropriations for Sycamore improvements and we might have enough to do something with the pavilion. Mr. Speich commented on Company #4 improvements and questioned if the restrooms

could be done sooner as winter draws near with the possibility of firefighters staying overnight there. The Town Manager responded that we will move on it as quickly as we can.

Misc. C: State Budget Update: The Town Manager reported that we were looking at up to a \$1.4 million reduction to budgeted revenue for FY 18 but with the approved State budget the reduction is \$365,045 which is a manageable variance. He noted that there are a lot of structural deficiencies with the State budget that was adopted and not sure the revenue estimates are going to hit. He noted that this new Special Education grant was completely eliminated and legislature continued with the current formula for the Excess Cost grant. He added that we did receive some grant runs for that program and Avon could receive from \$1.1 to \$1.3 million and payments are usually made in November, spring, and the following year. He noted that CCM is suspect about the numbers calculated; we will wait and see what happens. He commented that the State budget overall is a mixed bag; the primary concern for the towns was the teacher retirement issue which will not go away – the legislature increased the contribution that the teachers will make to the plan but reduced the State’s contribution accordingly so that net amount going into the plan does not adjust. Chairman Zacchio commented that the teacher pension plan is about 54% funded but uses a DVR calculation of 8.5% so 40-something percent funded so the bucket of teachers retiring greatly exceeds their capacity today which means bad things for municipalities in the future; it is a huge burden that the State is going to have to overcome and recommend that we all fight with anyone we can in the legislature to keep that off our plates as it was never something that the Town negotiated or controlled; we have enough trouble with our own pension payments, two-thirds of the Council’s budget goes to OPEB and pension liabilities and a big piece of our budget. Mr. Speich commented about teachers paying more into the pension plan. Chairman Zacchio responded yes, but the State reduced their contribution by the same amount which isn’t fair to the teachers. The Town Manager commented that the teachers do not get taxed for a portion of their retirement income. He noted that in 2008 the State issued \$2 billion in pension obligation bonds and their OPEB liability is funded at \$0; the State will appoint a Committee to study it. Mr. Stokesbury questioned where the \$365,045 will hit. The Town Manager responded that it is a fairly small variance and we are in November so still have a lot of movement throughout the year; supplemental taxes or other revenues estimates may exceed budgets or see what kind of winter we have. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if we have to have some effort assigning between the Town and Board of Education in some manner before getting to the end of the year and burdening one side or the other more; where is the ability to work together on that. The Town Manager responded that it is so early in the year, at some point if we get into January/February we see how this rolls forward and if it looks like there is going to be a structural deficit that is where we need to have a conversation. He noted that when we look at how the unexpected revenues are shared between Town and Board Education it is usually in a proportion to the budgets, 25%/75% respectively, from the General Fund. Mr. Stokesbury commented that if you wait until the winter there are only three or four months to then deal with an uglier situation. He noted that having been on the Board of Education side and how tight money gets as you get to the end of the year, it is fair to continue an ongoing conversation. Chairman Zacchio agreed. The Town Manager commented that we have been having conversations with Heather Michaud and JeanAnn Paddyfote. Chairman Zacchio noted that as he said a few months ago we should all be on notice around being careful on spending this year because as you get closer to the end of the fiscal year it is tighter and harder to recover so an awareness of that dollar figure and potential for help in how we offset that is important so that Board has an opportunity to think through that with time in front of them. Mr. Stokesbury

commented that using historic formulas it could be \$250,000-\$300,000 to the Board of Education. The Town Manager agreed. He noted one bit of disappointment with the State budget is that binding arbitration form only applies to Tier 4 communities like Hartford, not the AAA municipalities. He added that for arbitration panels when calculating the ability to pay cannot consider up to the first 15% of Unassigned Fund Balance so our policy is to have about 10% so that is a good thing. Chairman Zacchio commented that the goal is to negotiate and not get to arbitration.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Real Estate
- B. Pending Claim Litigation

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 8:39 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Zacchio, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

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

XI. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Stokesbury, Zacchio, Pena, and Speich voted in favor.

Attest:

Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk

Avon Board of Education

Capital Improvement Plan
Presentation to Town Council
November 2, 2017



Summary of 2018-2019 Requests

1. District Security Upgrades (PH I)	\$265,000
2. AHS Fire Alarm Replacement	\$130,000
3. AHS Air Handling/RTU Replacement (PH I)	\$240,000
4. District-LED Light Replacement (PH II)	\$100,000
5. District Field Mower Replacement	\$ 72,000
6. PGS-Water Boiler Replacement	\$ 25,000
7. DW Baseball Field Repair (PH I)	\$ 35,000
8. TBS Carpet Replacement	\$ 35,000
TOTAL	\$902,000

Security Upgrades (PH I)

- Install electronic locks on all exterior entrance doors (40)
 - During a lockdown, all exterior doors can be secured immediately
 - Terminated employees denied access to buildings
 - If key card/fob lost/stolen, access is terminated without changing locks
- Lock system will be same as Town, facilitating access to First Responders
- Add visitor doors to AMS and AHS to control access
- Replace entrance doors at Central Office

AHS Fire Alarm Replacement

- Parts are no longer available for current system.
- Replace current Siemens system with Honeywell Systems, same as other schools, as well as Town Buildings.
- Replacement to include upgrades such as panic buttons.

AHS Air Handling/RTU Replacement (PH I)

- Equipment Lifespan is 15 years
- Equipment age is 20 years (Installed 1998)
- Phase I Academic Wing \$240,000
- Phase II Gallery/Central Area \$425,000
- Phase III Gym/Cafeteria Area \$425,000

DW - LED Lighting (PH II)

- Replacement of lights with more energy efficient LED lighting
- Eversource rebate available 10%-40%
- Future costs off set by rebates
- Project is coordinated with Town
- RBS completed this year
- Priority:
 - AMS – \$100,000
 - AHS – Out year
 - TBS – Out year
 - PGS – Out year

Field Mower Replacement

- The current mower is over 17 years old
- Requires extensive maintenance.
- Only District owned large mower
- Used to mow the athletic fields on a daily basis 3 seasons of the year.



PGS Water Boiler Replacement

- Equipment Lifespan is 20 years
- Equipment age is 27 years (Installed 1998)
- One of 2 boilers.

DW-Baseball Field Repairs (PH I)

- Requires extensive maintenance and reconditioning.
- Replace dugout benches
- Fields are used by High School and Rec teams.
- Phase I-High School
- Phase II – Middle School

TBS - Carpet Replacement

- Removal/Replacement of worn carpet with tile
- Administration Office, Chorus Room, 5 classrooms
- Does not include asbestos abatement (unknown at this time)

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