

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Maguire.

III. PUBLIC HEARING - None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: April 4, 2019

One correction to the first page: Mr. Speich was present at the April 4, 2019 meeting.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the April 4, 2019 Meeting as amended.

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

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Jamie DiPace, Town Council Representative for the AVFD, provided the following AVFD updates: SCBA training continues; training at the Fire Training Facility on May 20th; Program called 2025/fire service volunteerism issue/report through CCM; 5K road race was cancelled; International Firefighter Day is Sunday, May 5th; Engine 9 (1995 pumper at Company #4) has serious defects, approx. \$30K to fix; two Board members are leaving due to out of state job opportunities. Mr. Speich requested a copy of the CCM recruiting report when available.

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, expressed concern regarding road conditions of West Avon Road as well as local roads: Deercliff, Darling, Arch, Chevas, sections of Hollister, Juniper, and does not include arteries between east and west ends of town, i.e. Zachary. The Town needs to think about taking on debt to be proactive and aggressive with road paving rather than the capital budget. Chairperson Maguire responded that we have a pavement management system that we follow but will take a look at your list. The Town Manager noted that the Director of Public Works is working with CT DOT regarding West Avon Road; our paving schedule for this season includes Still Brook, School Street, Highwood and the Sycamore Hills Recreation Area parking lot; none of the roads Mr. Lazinsk mentioned are on the road for this season. Mr. Stokesbury asked if we have started work; the Town Manager responded that catch basins have been raised but no paving work has been started yet. The Town Manager noted that perhaps a road bond is an option. Mr. Lazinsk stated that he is familiar with the pavement management system; there needs to be serious thinking about how the Town makes these repairs which may include taking

on debt; services provided by a Town include the roads. The Town Manager added that we should be receiving a commitment to fund letter from CT DOT regarding the section of road from Thompson to Scoville for construction and design; a referendum would be needed to have appropriations authority to spend the grant down.

A group of Avon High School students studying environmental justice shared a presentation including a proposed resolution for the federal government to pass a Green New Deal; they appreciate the creation of the Avon Clean Energy Commission. Chairperson Maguire thanked them for their presentation and their passion about this topic; we will look at the proposed resolution and how it would fit Avon and any effect on surrounding communities; we all need to be environmentally aware and protect our Town, community, and State. Mr. Stokesbury thanked them for their presentation and added that the community came together and put solar panels on Avon Middle School and Avon High School and also provided a solar power option for residents of which there was some support. Mr. Speich noted that the Avon Clean Energy Commission does a great job and appreciated them being recognized. Mr. Pena suggested that the students make a presentation at a future Avon Clean Energy Commission meeting.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Speich shared with thanks that he and Chairperson Maguire participated in a field trip at the site of the Old Farms Road Bridge Project today.

Mr. Stokesbury shared that School Street work is moving along.

Mr. Pena suggested looking into going paperless, particularly with the budget books; it can be read on the computer; we could be the first town in Connecticut to go paperless; saves money and time; make it a contest with schools to name the project.

Mr. Bernetich commented that we take for granted how beautiful this Town really is; it is clean and safe, but we should be more grateful for the Town that we live in.

Chairperson Maguire attended the following events: National Day of Prayer/Holocaust Remembrance this afternoon, blood drive at the AVFD on April 19th, and American Eagle Financial Credit Union ribbon cutting ceremony on April 24th and noted that they made several donations to Avon's Special Needs Fund, Avon Historical Society, Gifts of Love, Bridges Center, and the Avon Free Public Library.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

18/19-18 FY 19/20 Budget Development

The Annual Town Budget Meeting will take place on May 6th followed by the Budget Referendum on May 15th.

18/19-61 Appointment: Building Code Board of Appeals (R – 12/31/2019)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 18/19-61 Appointment: Building Code Board of Appeals (R – 12/31/2019) to the June 6, 2019 meeting.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

18/19-63 Student Recognition for Youth Services Advisory Board Member

Suzi Alexe, Youth Services Coordinator, recognized Sarah Lazinsk, a senior at Avon High School, for her commitment and dedication over the last six years on the Youth Services Advisory Board; a valuable and consistent member, longest serving student representative to date, and extended a token of appreciation to her. Ms. Lazinsk expressed thanks to all.

18/19-64 Contract Recommendation: AHS Fire Alarm and Mass Notification System

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council award the contract to AM Electric Company, LLC of North Haven, CT in an amount not to exceed \$283,400 for the installation of a Fire Alarm and Mass Notification System at Avon High School.

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

In response to a question from Chairperson Maguire, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that the appropriation is not large enough to fund the add alternate of 38 extra buttons but can be added on at any time in the future.

18/19-65 Fall Food Truck Festival and Carnival

There was discussion regarding potential plans for a Fall Food Truck Festival and Carnival, scaled down from last year's event; there is no organization running it; volunteers will be needed; revenue will be received from the carnival/food trucks; seek artisans/non-profits for booths/tents. Chairperson Maguire thanked the Assistant to the Town Manager for her work on this. The Town Manager noted that this type of carnival event is a turn-key operation; revenue generated won't come close to covering expenses with an estimated budget of \$30,000; we need to enter into agreements soon and will then secure funding before the end of the fiscal year. There would be no parade; fireworks would be reduced; and transportation logistics amended. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that a separate insurance policy will not be issued; Travelers will underwrite the event under our existing policy. A staff committee will oversee the facilitation of the event. Mr. Stokesbury suggested holding the event in alternate/even years outside local elections and shared concern about volunteerism, more critical needs to encumber funds for based on the unknowns with the State, and how to make the event sustainable; it is a good idea for Avon. Mr. Pena agreed it doesn't need to take place every year for financial and volunteerism reasons. Mr. Speich expressed that you can participate as much or as little as you want; he was in agreement to hold the event this year. Mr. Bernetich also agreed to hold the event this year. Chairperson Maguire commented that some groundwork is already done from last year's event; there are a lot of things going on in Town. Avon Day expenses were approximately \$15,000; funding was eliminated for FY 20. The event is a nice thing for the community. Audience feedback was shared.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to enter into appropriate contracts to proceed with a Fall Food Truck Festival and Carnival on September 13-14-15, 2019. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Pena, and Bernetich voted in favor. Mr. Stokesbury voted nay. Motion carried 4-1.

18/19-66 Review, Discussion, Set Public Hearing: Sanitary Sewer Easements, 124 Winding Lane, 33 Stony Corners, and 39 Stony Corners

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council set a public hearing date to be held at their June 6, 2019 meeting to consider the acceptance of Sanitary Sewer Easements for 33 Stony Corners, 39 Stony Corners and 124 Winding Lane located in the Town of Avon and shown on the map entitled “COMPILATION PLAN, PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER EASEMENTS, STONY CORNERS AND WINDING LANE SOUTH, prepared by Town of Avon Engineering Department, dated April 20, 2018, scale 1”=20’.”

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

18/19-67 Set Public Hearing Date: Neighborhood Assistance Act

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council set a public hearing date to be held at their June 6, 2019 meeting to consider participation in the Neighborhood Assistance Act in accordance with Public Act 95-268

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

IX. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

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

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager reported that we are working on solutions for two wash out areas along the trail near the MH Rhodes property. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury relative to the turf project and saving and reusing the natural turf on one or more Town projects, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that 1,000 square feet was saved; it will be used for patching at Fisher Meadows and Sperry Park; top soil is being hauled/stored at the Transfer Station; the contractor held interviews with turf manufacturers; Building Committee meeting is next Wednesday.

The Town Manager reported that we met with Simsbury to discuss cooperation and coordination relative to the radio system improvement project; working off our core results in a higher cost for them at lower coverage; seeking assistance to better understand as we want to partner with them.

Chairperson Maguire reported that she attended the AWPCA Public Hearing; the Board did a great job addressing concerns and had good suggestions; rate increased to \$515 effective July 1, 2019 and looking at doing semi-annual payments and flow monitoring options for FY 21.

The Town Manager reported that we are working on an MOU with the State regarding the artifacts found at the site of the Old Farms Road Bridge Project; we want a representation sampling on display at the Library and to hold public information meetings. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Town Manager responded no known further excavation will be done based on the current findings.

Misc. C: Short Term Financing Plan for Projects Approved at Referendum: The Town Manager reported that Peg Colligan and her staff located funds in Fund 02 (Capital Projects Fund) to cover the short-term financing internally for the two projects approved at referendum.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pending Litigation
Real Estate
Collective Bargaining

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:
RESOLVED: That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 9:08 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Stokesbury, Pena, and Bernetich voted in favor.

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

XII. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:
RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk