AVON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES November 16, 2016

<u>I.</u> <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>

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, Speich, and Pena.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Zacchio.

- **III. PUBLIC HEARING**: None
- **IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**: None
- **V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**: None

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mrs. Maguire commented on how impressive and meaningful our Veteran's Day is here in Avon; it is a community event. She commended the Board of Education and Gary Mala, Superintendent of Schools. She noted that the veterans spend a good amount of time at the schools and come to the Town green and the people that they get to reach and talk to, educate the children in the schools, it is a great day and she thinks we do it better than anyone. She also commended Town staff for getting everything together on the Town green.

Mr. Pena commented that he also attended the Veteran's Day event; we honor our veterans throughout the year and it is a great event. He also commented on the Veteran's Day event held at the Senior Center on Monday; they had a large crowd and a very good program.

Mr. Speich thanked the Town Manager for moving the dumpsters from the curbside of Route 44 on Town Hall campus.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

16/17-15 FY 17/18 Budget: CIP Budget Presentations

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

Larry Baril, Town Engineer, made a presentation. He highlighted the Engineering Department CIP including the key factors in determining projects and priorities. The first item is the Old Farms Road Reconstruction in the amount of \$150,000. He noted that a presentation was made before Council back in July where we presented the Feasibility Study and the results indicated that relocating the road was not financially feasible. He added that Council gave direction to proceed with the idea of rehabilitating the road in place. He noted that we are working with

CRCOG to understand what monies are available and how to attack grant monies for the project. He and the Town Manager, after several meetings with CRCOG, decided to hire a design firm that is on call with CRCOG already for design and funding application assistance. He noted that with request for \$150,000 we believe that some or most of that will be reimbursable. He added that his primary goal is to have a solid buildable LOTCIP application for funding for December 2017; the only way to do that is to get a design process underway as quickly as possible. Chairman Zacchio commented that is aggressive but it is good. He noted that as has been talked about in the past no matter what we do there we would like to make sure that we maintain the rural characteristics of the road as it relates to the neighborhood and Avon Old Farms School and the character of what it looks like today. He questioned if there are any comparables in mind around what it might be like. He noted that our focus is getting it to be a safer road, but by getting rid of the curves and softening it people start to think it is going to be a speedway, a flat straight road that cuts through the woods. He commented that we would like to avoid that so as you think about those design characteristics we would like to see a rural design but also contemporary so trucks and fire engines can get through it without inviting more traffic and keep it the same kind of characteristics that it is today. Mrs. Maguire commented that when we had originally looked at this, there was a bike lane. She questioned if that is still on the table. The Town Engineer responded that he would like to see the bike lane incorporated into the design. He noted that as a means of comparison for the feasibility study we did an in-house design where we used a thirty foot wide roadway and three foot shoulder with eight foot bike path adjacent to it and that comparison still compared favorably financial to the relocation option. The Town Engineer commented that the Chairman's points are well made and the idea of keeping this rural road is the only way you are going to get the residents to buy into it. Chairman Zacchio commented that it needs work in terms of its blind spots, hills, curves, and the bridges are too narrow but you do not want it to look like Route 44, West Avon Road, or Country Club Road; it is rural and continue to have that characteristic. Mr. Speich questioned if there is a way to keep the same character because it is unique to that road and he agrees with the bike path and walkway. Chairman Zacchio commented that as we expand Fisher Meadows any way that we can get pedestrian traffic there in a safer manner would be great. Mr. Stokesbury asked for a few points how you justify the use of outside consultant for the design work rather than keeping it inhouse. The Town Engineer responded with two primary reasons, the project even with its "simpler" form there is going to be a fair amount of permitting and interaction required with agencies and we do not interact with those agencies on a frequent basis. He added that the consulting firm we picked is a CRCOG on-call, have been in the State for 90+ years and well established with multiple State agencies and being a CRCOG on-call is one of the key reasons we selected them because we have had challenges getting CRCOG to indicate what the funding options are and this will allow us to navigate that in a more efficient way. He added that the second reason is that he has a lot of other things going on and this project could consume half of his staff for a year or two years. Mr. Stokesbury commented that ties into the third point of your self-imposed deadline to have it done by next fall. Mr. Pena commented that approximately nine years ago we had a presentation and the people that were there felt very emphatic about the character of the road and the Council at that time was unified that the character of the road is so important. He reinforced the point that the character is very important, along with the bike trail.

Mr. Baril reported that the second item is the School Street Curve Reconstruction. He noted that we will soften the s-curve and Public Works is planning to do a significant amount of work, including repaying the road next spring/summer depending on the timing of the project. He

noted that \$85,000 was requested and received last year but looking further into it, without a final design which hinges upon the relocation of a utility pole and one primary abutter whose property will be affected and is not opposed about the project but wants to have a participating role in the design. He justified the \$20,000 request as materials have gone up with retaining walls and in part through conversations with the Department of Public Works. Mr. Stokesbury questioned the schedule and paving this coming spring and the budget request for FY 18. Mr. Baril responded that the paving program and reconstruction of the intersection and the s-curve are projects of the Department of Public Works but the design for the s-curve is being done through the Engineering Department. He added that the road reconstruction work has to happen before paving is done and should be paved by summer/fall. Mr. Stokesbury commented that is a matter of two fiscal years. Mr. Baril responded that it is something you probably start after school is out. Chairman Zacchio asked Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works, if that money is in his department's FY 16/17 budget. Mr. Williams responded that there is partial funding in the current year's budget. He noted that the right thing to do is correct the alignment and possible sewer extension and if those occur let the road sit a year to settle so it could lapse over two fiscal years. Mr. Pena questioned if sewers on School Street will be coordinated with the reconstruction. Mr. Baril responded yes; this is the section of School Street from Volovski down to New Road with a low pressure sewer with a 2 ½" pipe, 4 feet deep, and the impact in the area is much more insignificant and solves problems such as rebuilding the road in a much quicker fashion. He noted that assuming we do the sewer project in the early summer, then we could pave by late fall and not go through a winter season. Mr. Pena commented that there is concern with some residents about sewers and the pumps, etc. Mr. Baril responded that he will cover that when he discusses that capital project item. Mr. Speich questioned the barn at the top of Huckleberry Hill Road which has always been a visual hazard and if that problem is solved by straightening School Street. Mr. Baril responded that intersection comes in at less than 90 degrees and we will push the road over more, further away from the barn. Chairman Zacchio noted that the resident at that corner owns the lots below grade and by Planning and Zoning approvals which he was part of with the builder the road was going to be relocated much closer to his house; it has been that many years since that took place and is now not that happy about how close the road will be to his house so you solve the barn problem by pushing the road away from it.

Mr. Baril reported the third item is the Town-Wide Aerial Mapping Update. He noted that the last few years he asked for substantially more money because there was going to be effectively a town-wide program that gave him topographic contours as well as the planimetrics. He added that the State of Connecticut had a grant program managed by CRCOG, they flew the entire state this last spring and from that we will get some of the products he was looking to acquire in the past, particularly contours. He noted that he would like to update the digital mapping for other elements (roadway, parking lots, driveways, buildings, etc.) and he has received a quote from the contractor that the State used and for \$30,000 we can get town-wide update on all of those layers. Council responded that was great news. Mr. Baril noted that we have seen a lot of changes since 1984.

Mr. Baril highlighted requests in future years. One is the Box Culvert over Thompson Brook-Tillotson Road. He noted that the State of Connecticut DOT performed a screening of bridges/culverts with spans less than 20 feet, last done in 1991; then the State is going to look at particularly bad structures. He added that he met with the person who looked at the structures,

they looked at this one and the one on Cider Brook and their intent is to suggest to the DOT to do a more rigorous inspection. He added that they found that both are in pretty rough shape and there is a possibility that those bridges can get under the CT Local Bridge Program (50/50 split); it is not as good for us in terms of the Federal Local Bridge Program which is an 80/20 split but it is some State funding to help us replace those. Mr. Stokesbury questioned the order of magnitude for box culvert work. Mr. Baril responded \$250,000. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if this bridge location move at all with either the Farmington River bridge work or relocation of Old Farms Road Project. Mr. Baril responded no. Mr. Stokesbury commented that this is static.

Mr. Baril reported that the second item on the future years' list is the Replacement of Old Farms Bridge over Farmington River. He noted that the only funding that he asks for is for any additional appurtenances that we want to add to the bridge that are outside the CTDOT scope. He noted that we are very fortunate that the CTDOT took the project on as they are paying for it and doing the design but we are also at their whim relative to schedule. He added that the last conversation had last week, the bridge is 90% designed and submitted two weeks ago to CTDOT; a meeting should be held the week after Thanksgiving. He noted that they are looking for an out to bid at the end of 2017 and a spring 2018 construction start. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if the State plan includes access to the river. Mr. Baril responded yes; they are going to demolish the old bridge, take the existing road alignment at Old Farms which will then dead end, a cul-de-sac will be put in with parking and a ramp down to the river.

Mr. Baril reported that the third item on the future years' list is the Reconstruction and Drainage in Cider Brook Road and has been a request for many years. He noted that the road is going to fall apart again, it has poor drainage, it has a very limited road base and the bridge is in pretty rough condition. He added that it is important to show it as a future project, but it will not be a cheap one. Mr. Speich questioned how long we can wait. Mr. Baril responded that water comes down the hill and across the road with very limited formal drainage. He noted that we do not receive resident complaints. He added that the bridge is something we have to keep an eye on and anxious to see the report from CTDOT. He noted that next year at this time there will likely be a request to replace that bridge. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if there is any issue with the bridge at the south end. Mr. Baril responded that it is a culvert. Mr. Speich questioned the remarks about sewers. Mr. Baril responded that we had this area targeted for low pressure sewers and when he first requested money to do the drainage and road reconstruction work for this the sewer project was approved but it does not make sense to dig up the roads for sewers and leave it in a state of disrepair for however long so that money has been allocated as a sewer placeholder.

Mr. Baril reported that the final two items on the future years' list are the Arch Road to Darling Drive connector and the Replacement of Box Culvert-Thompson Road crossing Thompson Brook. He noted that the connector project is a convenience, emergency response item but does not receive a lot of requests, none from residents, and may have even fallen off the emergency services radar so he might remove this item from the capital requests unless someone has a driving interest in it. He noted that the box culvert request goes back several years ago and he does not receive requests nor had any issues; it is left on with very limited discussion as it was presented years ago by the prior Town Engineer. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if we could bundle these road projects into one road bond. The Town Manager responded yes. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we have identified a number of different items. The Town Manager responded

that the Arch Road connector is a fairly simple project; the Replacement of the Box Culvert could be approximately \$250,000. He noted that when it comes time to go to referendum for the Old Farms Road Improvement Project you may want to bundle in the Box Culvert Replacement because they are in the same area but it does not help us with Cider Brook. Mr. Stokesbury asked the Town Manager to keep an open mind to those. Mr. Speich questioned if a road bond is different than a building bond. Mr. Stokesbury responded just bonding in general. The Town Manager commented that some communities have done an \$8-9 million general obligation bond for paving projects.

Mr. Baril reported on requests for the Sewer Department/AWPCA. He highlighted the key factors in determining projects and priorities. He noted that the Sewer Facilities Plan was updated in 2006. He added that in the last two years people are becoming more and more sensitive to the idea of having their own septic system versus public sewers and have seen a much greater request for various neighborhoods asking us to look into doing public sewers in their neighborhoods. He reported the first item is the Lateral Expansion Program which is an extension of mainline sewers. He noted that we have current projects through design and bid ready for Paper Chase and Hurdle Fence, Winding Lane and Stony Corners; we have a design for School Street low pressure sewers, we have a request from folks at Highgate, and other requests from Stony Corners and Tamara Circle. He added that it exceeds our Sewer Fund's capability to fund these projects in total looking out into the future; for the current mode we are okay. He reported that the \$250,000 request for FY 17/18 is for the low pressure sewers at the western end of School Street. He noted that we try to expand sewers on a relatively conservative basis, projects less than a \$500,000 a year, we have not done a sewer project funded by the Sewer Fund with the exception of a small project on Berta Lane in some five years now; Haynes Road sewers were extended but was done by a developer with in-kind services from the Engineering Department. He noted that this year we held a public information meeting regarding School Street and explained gravity sewer would be extremely expensive and very challenging to do; overall the feedback received was that folks were in favor of it. He noted that pumps are not ideal because you have a system where if you lose your power you have a very limited amount of storage capacity in your pump system, many people go to generators in order to still pump. He added that the cost to residents could easily be half or a third of what it would cost to do gravity sewers there. Mr. Pena commented that residents understand that but if they do not have a generator then their sewer is useless. Mr. Baril responded that there is still some storage capacity within your system and just have to be diligent about what you are doing. He noted that many of those homes have well too. Mr. Pena questioned the cost of the pumps. Mr. Baril responded approximately \$4,000. Mr. Pena questioned the life span of the pump. Mr. Baril responded that manufacturers say you can expect to have no maintenance issues for ten years but have seen many cases where they go much longer than that. He noted that the system is very modular and easy to take apart. Mr. Pena commented that each resident will be required to have their own pump. Mr. Baril responded yes. He noted that many communities have low pressure systems now. Chairman Zacchio noted that most houses that are below grade of the road all have them. Mr. Stokesbury commented that it is not unique to School Street. Mr. Baril commented that we have many areas in Avon that are targeted for low pressure systems but have not had to install any at this point but will be in that mode; Cider Brook, Oxbow, the mid-southern part of New Road. Mr. Stokesbury questioned what system School Street will flow to. Mr. Baril responded Canton.

Mr. Baril reported that the second item is the Route 44 Pump Station Rehabilitation. He noted that it is an old canned system, metal silo in the ground approximately thirty-five feet, pumps are in a dry well, a wet well fills up and empties; if there is ever a problem which there are plenty of with that station it is a confined space and our Superintendent of Sanitary Sewers or contractors have to go down and work in that space. He commented that it serves a purpose but it is not a safe condition and easy to way to maintain a system. He noted that it is a gateway to Avon and make it more visually interesting and safer. Mr. Stokesbury commented that these proposals are from the Sewer Fund and just a matter of priority as to what we do next year. Mr. Baril responded that it is 100% from the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Baril reported that the third item is the Riverdale Farms Pump Station Rehabilitation. He noted that it served its purpose for as long as it has. He added that we replaced pumps there two years ago. He noted that we have had incidents where pump failures have caused Healthtrax basement to flood and cost us a fair amount of money to remedy. He noted that nobody does single phase power with pump stations; we have been working with Eversource to convert that station to three-phase power, set it up to take larger pumps. He added that with the Avon Village Center Project we will receive connection fees that will more than cover the cost of the retrofitting of the station. Chairman Zacchio commented that this is non-taxable dollars with money coming out of the Sewer Fund.

Mr. Baril reported that the fourth item is the Canton Flow Meter. He noted that there used to be a flow meter that metered the flow from Canton into Avon but was not reliable based on its current location. He added that Canton agrees that it makes sense to meter. He commented that we pay for effluent treatment on an estimated basis; the flow from Canton to us goes to Farmington and pay for that on a metered basis and the flow from Avon into Canton is also estimated; it is not in our favor the way the current estimates work.

Mr. Baril reported that the final two items on the future years' list are Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Rehabilitation and Farmington Meter Pit Rehabilitation. He noted that the I&I Study has effectively been completed with very minor items to be delivered to us. He added that the study has found leaking manholes and locations of items that we can solve and have money that was budgeted last year and the year before for rehabilitation work and have spent some of it on manhole restoration and more. He noted that the Farmington meter pit that meters the flow from Avon into Farmington is on a fairway on Farmington Woods golf course next to the brook and more than half the year is wet, in a confined space, a challenge to calibrate the meter which we have to do on a regular basis with Farmington.

b. 7:30 p.m. Secret Lake Association

Sue Anderson, Town Council Representative for the Secret Lake Association, reported we are three years into the five-year program for road improvements; we have been happy, very impressed, and the Town has done great work. Ms. Anderson noted that we have two more roads to go this year.

c. 8:00 p.m. Public Works – a power point presentation is attached and made part of these minutes

Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works and Alex Trujillo, Deputy Director of Public Works, made a presentation. Mr. Trujillo highlighted historical fleet funding keeping it around \$500,000 per year since FY 13/14. He reported on fleet items under Highway Replacement and Buildings and Grounds Replacement. He noted that with Truck #19AV the body rotted completely off and had a body from a different truck to weld on, it has structural issues with rot, and it sags at the back. Mr. Williams commented that we try to maximize its use. Chairman Zacchio commented that Public Works does a tremendous job of using our equipment until it cannot be used any longer which is admirable and what the Town would expect. He noted that Mr. Trujillo does a fantastic job getting rid of scrap through the auction process. He added that we get more use out of it if we push the life of the truck until it is really ready to go and when you sit here before us with that message we know they are really ready to go and is a feather in your cap in terms of managing the fleet the way you do and keep us out of trouble with the truck not being safe and getting the most use out of it and the Council appreciates that. Mr. Stokesbury questioned the new field mower and what the useful life is of the unit; \$10,000 per year seems to be a pretty high depreciation if we only get ten years out of it. Mr. Trujillo responded that these machines are going constantly full bore; ten years is not unusual for a full life expectancy. He noted that there are some golf courses that are half that time and using the same type of equipment. He added that to get the finished product that you expect on the athletic fields from a machine like this we maintain them to the extent that it becomes more troublesome keeping it going the same way. He noted that if the deck gets tweaked you have a scalloping effect on one side and the teams playing on our fields are looking for that pristine cut all of the time. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if the one replacement unit be sufficient for the majority of the work including the Fisher Meadows field expansion. Mr. Trujillo responded no. Mr. Stokesbury questioned what the solution is or what other machines are used. Mr. Trujillo responded that there is a request in the Recreation and Parks Department operating budget for a third machine which will cover the Fisher Meadows field expansion. He added that we have in FY 18 the replacement of the other machine that we have. Mr. Speich commented that this is all about budgeting between departments. Mr. Williams commented that the Recreation and Parks budget item is part of a potential project and normally cycle through Public Works. Chairman Zacchio commented that with our expansion at Fisher Meadows we are including a mower and it becomes part of the fleet that is maintained by Public Works. Mr. Speich questioned if Board of Education and Town fields come together. Mr. Williams responded yes, it all works really well, but moving forward there will be additional labor on our side. Chairman Zacchio commented that for Babe Ruth and American Legion over the summer the Recreation and Parks Department prepares the fields.

Mr. Williams reported on the Pavement Management Program. He noted that the roads are listed in priority order. He introduced a second alternate plan in the event that the Fisher Meadows field expansion does become a reality and moves forward in the spring time. He noted that the alternate plan roads do not have as much formal drainage and will be able to get our roads paved and allow us to work on other projects. Chairman Zacchio questioned if it is the north section of Huckleberry Hill Road. Mr. Williams responded that it runs from Deer Run at Countryside Park heading to the Canton line. He noted that Connecticut Water Company had a project they went through and we used their funds and a little bit of our money and got the complete road paved. Mr. Speich questioned that by alternate plan they are not on the list but if you get additional funding they will get done. Mr. Stokesbury responded that it is the other way; if we are pulling staff time off to do Fisher Meadows they can only do so much paving. He added that the cost of \$547,000 is a subset of the \$1,431,000. The Town Manager commented that it is \$1,431,000

plus \$265,000. Mr. Speich agreed and questioned how the \$547,000 comes into play. The Town Manager responded that is the light program for Pavement Management as there is only so much work we can do if we have other forces that are working on the Fisher Meadows field expansion project; the opportunity costs that we can get done. Chairman Zacchio questioned if we are asking for the bigger number and will have it in a capital reserve for the future. The Town Manager responded that it depends on what we can fit into it. He noted that for FY 18 we probably have approximately \$2.6 million cash CIP available for Town/Board of Education facilities equipment and unlikely we will be to fund \$1.4 million anyway. Mr. Williams noted under parking lot improvements that he broke the project for 60 West Main Street into two phases with the east side adjacent to Route 44 and just under \$100,000 and the west side (from Police Department through the back of Buildings 5/6/7/8) is the second phase at \$94,000.

Mr. Williams reported on Secret Lake Road Improvements and that Phase IV and V are on the books for the next several fiscal years. He noted that we have been fortunate to have a little bit of funds left over through the first three phases. He thinks they can take care of the remaining streets over the next fiscal year. He noted that the Engineering Department had some money left in the drainage account that we can possibly re-appropriate to this paving work. He added that if we can get the funds we can complete the work at the Association. Chairman Zacchio commented that it sounds like a good plan.

Mr. Williams reported on the Sidewalk Improvement Plan for West Avon & Country Club Road. He noted that the Town Engineer was able to work out a good deal with the water main replacement and we were able to put in concrete sidewalks on the west side.

Mr. Williams reported on Company #1 Building Improvements and the need to replace some of the glass and brick veneering in a lot of the big glass areas to make the building more energy efficient. He noted that some of the windows were replaced last fiscal year; it has been a good improvement but there is a lot more to go. Mr. Speich questioned if consideration was given to the window wall in the back as it is architecturally a piece of the whole building and if you brick that in and put windows in it will be awful. Mr. Williams responded that this money will brick that in. Mr. Speich questioned if you really want to do that from an architectural standpoint and if you can get some pretty high rated big windows like that. Mr. Williams responded not just with the efficiency but there is a lot of light coming in the conference room or training room. Mr. Speich commented about the building having certain architecture and would like to keep it if you can. Mr. Williams responded that there will be such nice new efficient glass and a doorway is going in. Chairman Zacchio commented that when we get to that project we will want to see some drawings.

Mr. Williams reported on the Facility Improvements to replace the 1973 vintage boiler plant at Fire Company #1 and to scape and paint the metal roofs on Buildings #1 and #2. He noted that Buildings #5 and #6 have been done and Building #7 had a new roof prior to the renovations. He added that the paint has held up really well.

Mr. Williams reported on the Avon Police Department Building Improvements which has been broken down into phases. He noted that it includes a small addition off the administrative section of Building #3 and renovations to the interior of Building #4. Mr. Speich questioned the last time that building was renovated. The Town Manager responded that it was in the late

1990s. He recognized Mr. Williams as the initial estimates received were much higher than expected and came up with the idea of using the EZIQC service that is available through CRCOG and gone through the numbers and we are getting a very comparable product for a price that has no comparison. He noted that with phases I and II we have funds in the current year and would like to get into it winter/spring but have some permitting issues to overcome first given the proximity to the brook and then for the remaining funds for the project probably doing a set aside over the next two fiscal years so we can pay cash.

Mr. Williams reported on the Exhaust Extraction System at Fire Company #3. He noted that the updated exhaust system in Company #1 was taken out of the Simsbury Fire Department when they renovated. Mr. Stokesbury questioned which station is Company #3. Mr. Williams responded that is West Avon. He highlighted the Department's 5-year plan. Mr. Williams commented that his presentation repeats several items every year. He asked Council what they would like to see each year. Chairman Zacchio responded that he likes the detail. He noted that we have significant capacity in CIP because we haven't borrowed for a period of time and are shifting debt service dollars to CIP; it feels a little easier right now but at the time we start to think about borrowing for whatever that might be and we start to see a little bit more of compression happening on the CIP budget that detail becomes more important, so what might feel like a mundane presentation today becomes really important for our Council or Councils after us that will want to see the details because the prioritization becomes so important because the precious dollars in CIP will come down to the decisions made here based off of these presentations. He added that he would not change the presentations as you may lose some of that ability to articulate the details. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the years do blur together but remind us and show us what we have paid for and bought would be helpful. He noted that we know we got a brand new fire truck in May and getting another one but remind him of what dump truck or aerial truck we bought; that is what we need to know and why he has asked for a spreadsheet of vehicles to know overall what we are doing and see how we are taking care of the rolling stock and we are doing a pretty good job at it. He noted that we may need some photos as we go into the budget presentations to the public to remind them of what we have done. Mr. Williams commented that Council has been very supportive in the twelve years he has been here. Chairman Zacchio commented that it took a back seat for a lot of years to infrastructure needs around building schools and kids in seats and have had a particular focus on it the last seven or eight years because we have had less debt service dollars and more capacity and this is where we choose to spend it. The Town Manager noted that to keep in mind that we do not have the same debt service dividend next year because we used some bond premium money and applied it towards debt service in FY 17 so we have a blip going up to \$40,000 in FY 18 and then a gradual decline. Mr. Stokesbury commented that hopefully the tax base moves up a little.

Council thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Trujillo for their presentation. Mr. Williams reported that they are going to revisit the Pavement Management Plan and have another five-year independent audit this fiscal year.

b. 8:30 p.m. Recreation and Parks – a power point presentation is attached and made part of these minutes

Ruth Checko, Director of Recreation and Parks, made a presentation. She highlighted the department's FY 17/18 CIP drivers. She noted that the Recreation and Parks Committee has also

voted on and approved the priorities in this presentation. She highlighted the following items: Renovations-Senior Center Community Room and Renovations-Countryside Park Building. She reported that #5 Planning and Engineering-Buckingham Recreation Area Development has been pushed up the request list because a few months ago there was discussion about looking into a recreation bond and if we were going to do a bigger bond what we would want. She and the Recreation and Parks Committee decided that this item is something that they would like to see done. She noted that they would also address sooner if not here the big hill behind the baseball field where they lose baseballs, if that is something we can do in the short term looking at a preengineered block wall at around \$40,000 to \$50,000 and if it is not in the short term to incorporate it into this process. Mr. Speich questioned where tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts would be installed. Ms. Checko responded that when you drive up the road to the right is the big parking lot and playscape, it is behind that between the trail and the parking lot. Chairman Zacchio commented that we get more complaints about that hill during baseball season than anything else because it is hard to control the weeds and foul balls head in that direction in a hurry. Mr. Speich questioned why you need parking lots lit. Ms. Checko responded that if you are improving the parking lots it is a safety issue. Mr. Speich questioned if there is any lighting up there now. Ms. Checko responded that there is a little bit but there is a pretty small parking lot that is gravel that would be improved. Chairman Zacchio commented that area was approved for athletic lighting when it was put in and you would have to put in some lighting in the parking lot and do them at the same time. Ms. Checko noted that the \$160,000 estimate was provided by an engineering firm. Mr. Stokesbury questioned what the \$160,000 would cover. Ms. Checko responded that it would cover the design.

Ms. Checko reported on the Softball/Baseball Field Sperry Park and the Avon Little League has outsmarted our planning and Mike Ryan, President of Avon Little League, is in the audience. She noted that initially this plan called for an additional softball field by the BOE Annex building but Little League came back to us and said we do need another softball field but need a baseball field with a bigger outfield to play more regulation games and playoffs and proposed building a baseball field at that site and convert one of their smaller baseball fields to the softball field that they need which is ideal and makes a lot of sense. She noted the request for bathrooms as lots of families with children are not thrilled with port-o-potties which she is hearing more and more. Mr. Stokesbury questioned how this proposal fits with the Master Recreation Plan for the re-development of the east side of Route 10. The Town Manager responded that is one of the recommendations in the Plan of Conservation and Development for discussion long-term; there may be thought given to expanding the Avon Village Center Zone to where the BOE Annex is. He noted that the BOE Annex building is an antiquated building and has been out there as a capital project item and has been discussion about selling off that property and having it incorporated into the Avon Village Center Zone and would have a significant impact on this proposal because of how far south it goes. Ms. Checko commented that the Avon Little League takes pride and ownership in that complex, have invested a lot of their own money and sweat equity and planning and has worked very closely with the Town on everything that they have done over there and this would be no different; they have looked into grant opportunities and other funding options that they would pursue with us so going forward we would like to consider this is a partnership as always with Avon Little League.

Ms. Checko reported on the Phase 2 Improvements to Sycamore Hills which would be the third year of funding. She noted that the first year funded the construction of the pools, painting at the

Senior Center, vinyl sided the pump house; last year we asked for an additional \$20,000. She noted that the pavilion has not been done and are looking into a metal roof system that would last decades and the playscape is outdated and not ADA accessible. She added that we have put a lot of money into the systems, mechanics, upgraded a lot of the technology of controlling the pools; this past week we changed out all of the filters and sands with a life expectancy of twenty years so it is looking good mechanically and aesthetically. Mr. Speich questioned the dollar amount for this request. Ms. Checko responded that she would have to get back to Council on that. The Town Manager commented that Ms. Checko and Mr. Williams did a really nice job with this and comments were received by others.

Ms. Checko reported on the AHS Synthetic Turf Lighted Field. She noted the idea of presenting it without the athletic lighting with hopes that the fundraisers would be able to help us with that endeavor. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if Fail safe is a brand name. Ms. Checko responded no, it is what the BSC engineer has dubbed it; a pad that would be laid, the turf and the crumb rubber goes on top of that and if it ever comes to fruition that the turf is deemed unsafe or fails they can vacuum out the crumb rubber and replace the existing crumb rubber with whatever is recommended by the industry without digging up the entire sub-base. Chairman Zacchio commented that we are looking at coated crumb rubber which is very different. He added that Simsbury just used it to replace theirs after 12-15 years of regular crumb rubber without any issues.

Ms. Checko reported on the Field Expansion-Fisher Meadows which covers twelve acres and give us seven fields or two fields; it is flexible enough to utilize it based on demands and sports, it adds parking, and the estimate of \$1,446,035 is the escalated estimate from the original plans over the past five to eight years. She noted that we have been calling what we have construction plans but they are not and the Director of Public Works has been doing the budget and details of this and is trying to put a number on what it would cost to do in-house and in doing so realize that a lot of the system and details are not in the plan; we should have a number fairly soon. Chairman Zacchio commented that this being a priority to ease some of the tensions we have with field space, we have a few different existing revenue funds available to us through the Fisher Meadows Fund and Open Space Fund and in a combination with some capital funding might get this done for far less of a number and from a taxpayer perspective. He added that this being our quick priority and as we talked about with the turf field we need a bundled package that is approved by the Council and Board of Education (who should have it on their next agenda) and have to do some shopping with the State and get some dollars committed before we consider how to move forward with that and is something that we can control much more easier. Mr. Speich questioned what the two possible special revenue funds are. Chairman Zacchio responded that there is the Fisher Meadows Fund which we are familiar with and the Open Space Fund is in lieu of those small trinkets of property we ask builders to donate back to us we can take money instead and can be used for Recreation and Parks types of activity. He added that we have significant dollars in those funds and depending what the new estimate is could potentially cover this whole project or some combination of some capital at our direction so we do not drain those funds completely. He noted that the Fisher Meadows Fund also covers irrigation issues, pumps, parking lot improvements, and are some recurring maintenance expenses that get paid for out of that fund so we might want to use a balance of capital to get the project done. Mr. Stokesbury commented that there are a few administrative hurdles on that. The Town Manager responded that Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning would need to approve but nothing has

been changed since the last time they approved it. Ms. Checko reported that if we expand Fisher Meadows part of the request is funding another mower. She noted that she had one of these on her inventory in the past and they are phenomenal; safety cab improvements over the years and climate controlled inside. She noted that it is in her budget is because we included it as a direct need for expanding Fisher Meadows.

Ms. Checko reported that over the last two years she has been working to understand and quantify our needs for additional fields and have charted all sports, all fields in use, number of practices needed per season, number of participants, number of teams and right now in the fall we are short twenty-nine hours of playable time that we need on a weekly basis. She added that they have charted practices, games, and fields and continue to narrow this down. She noted that they use an industry standard for field use and the way that the turf and recreation professionals measure, acceptable or ideal utilization of a turf field is by the number of hours you use that field per year. She noted that with the pie charts, green is good, yellow is okay, and red is way over She noted that with the Field Usage Summary-Current and the 32% in green Buckingham is only lacrosse and predominantly spring and have been able to reserve a game field at Fisher Meadows. She noted that by adding the seven fields to Fisher Meadows it gives us exactly what we need to have only 7% over utilized. She noted that the chart represents 6,000 hours of practice, 1,700 hours of over usage and divide it by 225 hours you want a field to be played on it shows you need 7.79 fields which is exactly what we are adding to Fisher Meadows. Chairman Zacchio commented that this is a good logical way of looking at it and based off today's usage. He added that the idea of floating a recreational bond or attacking these as individual projects with the intent to do a build out so we are done through 22,000 population which is the max number that we would have, a similar philosophy we took with the Avon High School expansion last time although limited by space there on the property and similar to the approach we took with the Library and want to apply the same logic with recreational fields. He noted that one solution to think about is not perfect for game situations but in a practice world why not consider renting portable lights for Fisher Meadows or buy them if the prices are right and we can afford about ten of them; Simsbury and other communities do it; and for Simsbury the lights illuminate the entire section of Route 315. He added that it will give us relief in terms of practice time because you are not going to lose the daytime hours and at Fisher Meadows you probably wouldn't have an issue with leaving them on for a period of time because there are no neighbors to be concerned. Mr. Stokesbury commented that they would have another capital use for the town side. Chairman Zacchio commented that we can use them for Avon Day, emergencies, fire/police situations. He does not know if you want to purchase or lease, something to put into the operating budget as a phased in approach, however you feel is appropriate; it might give you immediate relief in the fall and solve some of our problem and there are other uses for them. Mr. Speich commented on the field use standards and that they optimize not killing the fields. Ms. Checko agreed and it also takes into consideration an allowance of appropriate scheduling so a team that can practice at 4/5/6 is good but they get rained out you need a spot for them for another reschedule, there has to be flexibility with scheduling and it allows for resting a field which we are not doing. She noted that a resting period for a turf grass field is one full growing season not counting the winter and allows for turf to recover. She added that maybe we are not going to get out of Thompson Brook but can be used heavily during a season where we are resting something at Fisher Meadows. Chairman Zacchio commented that 3rd graders playing flag football on a field is a lot different than varsity soccer in high school from a wear perspective; you have opportunities to rotate the less impactful

sports to fields that are in a resting environment. Ms. Checko responded theoretically yes. Mrs. Maguire commented that we ruled out Thompson Road for a turf field but that is a lot of land in a central location and very convenient especially during tournaments and would be a great place for a few fields. Ms. Checko responded that we did keep that site in our longer range, five to ten year plan. Chairman Zacchio commented that depending on how we come up with ways in how to handle Fisher Meadows and what those prices are like we may have opportunities to do something at the Thompson Road site that way. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if the usage or available time take into consideration the flooding at Fisher Meadows. Ms. Checko responded no; she has not experienced that yet. Mrs. Maguire commented that can close down Fisher Meadows and then out of luck. Ms. Checko commented that the restrictions on the lights that are probably going to be put on the turf field does not open a lot of practice time space for us and better off putting flag football at Fisher Meadows as they are killing the Avon Middle School turf because there are grubs that we cannot treat. She noted that the turf field is an asset and we are expanding our inventory and getting to where we need to be. She added that from an operating administration standpoint that is when you start moving things around and control your use.

Chairman Zacchio commented that it likes the charts and a great way of defining what we have been talking about and would love to see it apply with the ability for portable lights at Fisher Meadows. Mr. Stokesbury questioned what the size of the new baseball field would be, a full-size little league field. Mike Ryan, Avon Little League President, responded that it would comparable to what we call Sperry Park 2 where the new press box is, the outfield fence would be 200 feet from home plate with 60 foot bases; it is not a Legion field. Mr. Speich questioned what the Plan of Conservation and Development says about the MH Rhodes property. The Town Manager responded that it keeps it fairly open, does not recommend a zone change. Chairman Zacchio commented that it is commercial/industrial but it recommends potential use for recreational open space and education so we could sell it as industrial or build a school or park there; at the time it was being done because it was being remediated from a soil perspective they were not sure when it was going to take place. Mr. Speich commented that the soil is fine there now. Chairman Zacchio responded yes. Mr. Speich questioned how far it goes back beyond the garage. The Town Manager responded the property is about 15.6 acres. Mr. Speich commented that most of it is what you see. Council thanked Ms. Checko for her presentation.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

16/17-28 Appointment: CRCOG Policy Board – Alternate (R – 12/31/2017)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 16/17-28 Appointment: CRCOG Policy Board – Alternate (R – 12/31/2017) to the December 1, 2016 meeting. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Speich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

Chairman Zacchio questioned if that is our appointment. The Town Manager responded. Chairman Zacchio commented that the Town Manager is currently the CRCOG representative and are waiting for Council to determine an alternate. The Town Manager noted that at today's CRCOG Policy Board meeting they officially accepted Richard Hines' resignation and talked about doing something special for him and will provide Council with the details.

16/17-29 Appointment: Committee on Aging (R - 12/31/2017)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 16/17-29 Appointment: Committee of Aging (R – 12/31/2017) to the December 1, 2016 meeting.

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

16/17-30 Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate (R – 12/31/2019)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 16/17-30 Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate (R – 12/31/2019) to the December 1, 2016 meeting.

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

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

The Town Manager reported that he attended the CCM Annual Convention yesterday. He noted that he shared the press conference about the 2.5% spending cap with Council.

XI. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted: **RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Stokesbury, Zacchio, Speich, and Pena voted in favor.

Attest:

Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk

Capital Budget Presentation FY 17-18 Requests



Engineering, Sewers November 16, 2016

Engineering Department

Key Factors in Determining Projects and Priorities:

- Public Safety
- Reduce Property Damage (flooding etc.)
- Environmental Protection / Quality
- Infrastructure Maintenance / Rehabilitation
- Public / Political
- Service to Residents

Engineering Projects – FY17/18

Old Farms Road Reconstruction

(17/18 request \$150k – this is to begin the design process in preparation for funding grant applications)

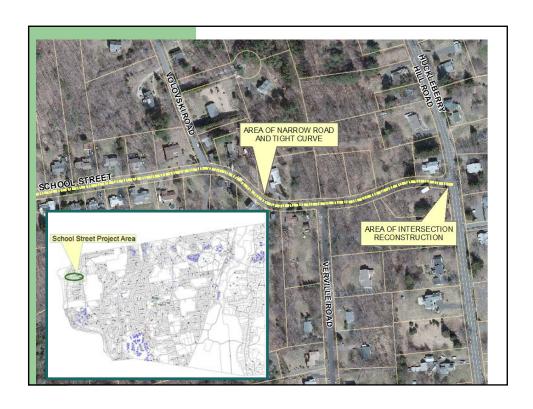
- We have selected a CRCOG prequalified funding and design firm
- Funding request is for initial design, public outreach, and consulting with key agencies

Engineering Projects – FY17/18

School Street Curve Reconstruction (17/18

Budget request \$20k to be added to the previous appropriated \$85k)

- Town has plan to pave this road FY16/17
- Town will be realigning intersection with Huckleberry Hill
- Road in the area is 17 ft wide at tight curve very difficult for two vehicles to pass by - esp. wide vehicles (e.g. school buses)
- ADPW to do mass work funds are estimated for materials and specialties (retaining wall)
- Design is not completed as we are awaiting Eversource to move a pivotal utility pole

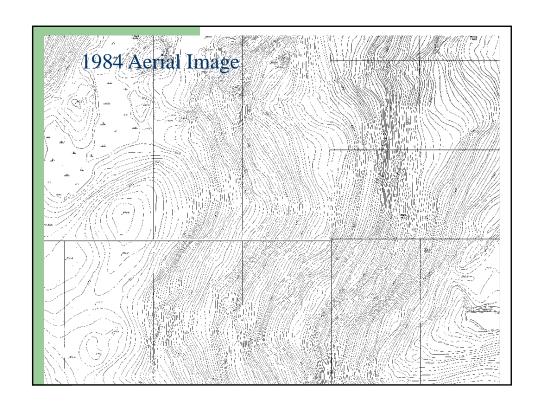


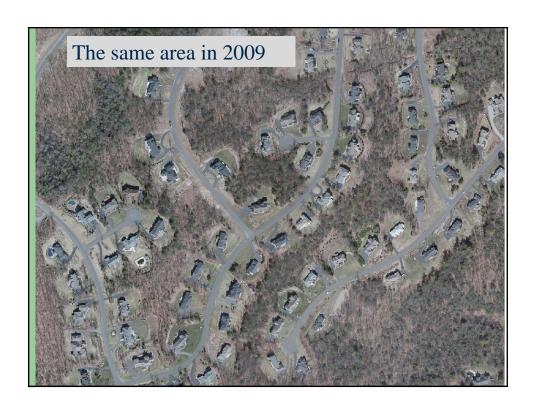
Engineering Projects – FY17/18

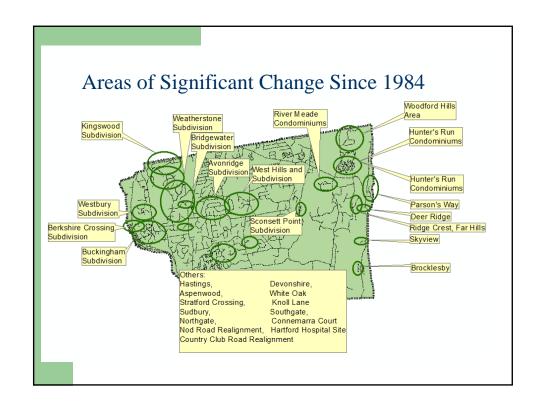
<u>Town-Wide Aerial Mapping Update</u> (17/18 Budget request \$30k for planimetric data update)

- Takes advantage of Spring 2016 statewide aerial flight being managed by CRCOG – which will provide topographic contours
- Assist residents with FEMA Flood Insurance issues (694 properties affected within 100 yr flood zone)
- Provides mapping for town projects (sidewalks, Ciderbrook, Old Farms Rd, Chidsey Road, Landfill monitoring, etc)
- Previous resource is 1984 printed mapping
- May be a source of revenue from developers and private firms
- Potential cost sharing with local utilities (AWCo., CWC, CNG, etc.)

(Originally requested 2010/11)







Engineering Projects- Future Years

Replace Box Culvert over Thompson Brook – Tillotson Road (17/18 Budget request \$0 – cost shown is estimated)

- Structure age is unknown (over 40 years old)
- 2 sink holes occurred summer 2009, another in summer of 2010, additional patches since
- Failure will require road closure and possible motorist accident
- Above water line there is some degradation of deck support walls
- Replacement is intended to be a box culvert if ADPW does the work beyond the setting of the box, cost would be lower

NOTE: State DOT is performing screening of bridges/culverts with spans less than 20 ft – possible that this and other structure may be eligible under CT Local Bridge program

(Originally requested FY 10/11)



Engineering Projects- Future Years

Replacement of Old Farms Bridge over Farmington River (17/18 Budget request \$0k)

- The primary project is 100% paid for by the State
- Any capital request will be for amenities not covered by the State
- Anticipate determination of amenities spring/summer 2017; construction beginning spring/summer 2018

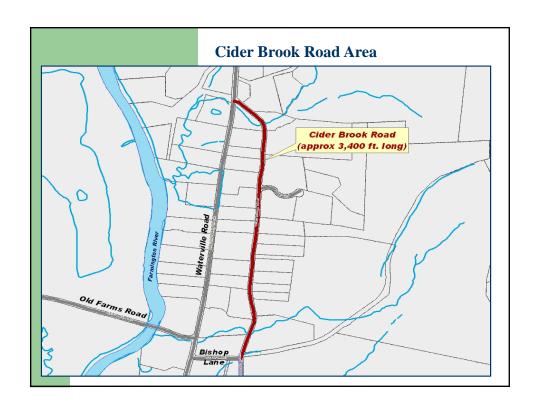
Engineering Projects- Future Years

Reconstruction and Drainage in Cider Brook

Road (17/18 Budget request \$0)

- Road is listed as poorest in TOA
- Skim coat overlay performed last year
- Was approved for sewers in 12/13 (Sewer CIP)
- The bridge there is also in need of replacement possible State Local Bridge program eligible

NOTE: State DOT is performing screening of bridges/culverts with spans less than 20 ft – possible that this and other structure may be eligible under CT Local Bridge program



Engineering Projects

Other future requests:

- Arch Road to Darling Drive connector
- Replacement of Box Culvert Thompson Road crossing Thompson Brook

Sewer Department / AWPCA

Key Factors in Determining Projects and Priorities:

- Public Safety
- Environmental Impacts
- Sewer Facilities Plan
- Development Interests
- Infrastructure Maintenance / Improvement
- Public / Political

Note: these projects do not effect the tax levy

Sewer Projects – FY17/18

<u>Lateral Expansion Program</u> (17/18 Budget \$205k) Western end of School Street LPS

- Generally we plan to expand sewers on a project and plan-based need basis – requires public outreach component
- Sewer Facilities Plan plays major role
- Priority is often combined with road reconstruction / pavement needs

Sewer Projects – FY17/18

Rte 44 Pump Station Rehabilitation

(17/18 Budget \$355k) Utilize submersible pumps on a rail system, new controls in an enclosure building

- Pump station is over 33 years old
- Difficult and dangerous to work on
- Confined space issues make rescue a significant challenge
- Station is seeing significant flow increases due to the Avon Place and Avon Mills complexes connections
- Improve the appearance of the gateway facility

(NOTE: the connection charges for <u>one</u> of these facilities has more than paid for the upgrades)

Sewer Projects – FY17/18

Riverdale Farms Pump Station Rehabilitation

(17/18 Budget \$155k) Convert to 3-phase power, new pumps, new controls, upgraded generator

- Pump station is over 35 years old
- Has seen increased flows and will likely see more with AVC project
- Has experienced pump failures due to power fluctuations, single phase power, and direct-buried line
- Controls system there is aging and experiencing downtime

(NOTE: the connection charges from AVC project will more than pay for the upgrades)

Sewer Projects – FY17/18

Canton Flow Meter

(17/18 Budget \$50,000 – for construction)

- Current flow from Canton is estimated
- Canton will also add meter to indicate flow from Avon to Canton
- Will help us evaluate I&I from Canton (which we pay for to Farmington)
- Will allow more precise cost accounting for flows vs treatment

Sewer Projects – future years

Infiltration and Inflow Rehabilitation

(17/18 Budget \$0k)

 Future years are to continue with study to refine study areas within Farmington sewershed, to study Simsbury sewershed, and placeholder funds for rehabilitation efforts

Likely fundable under CTDEEP CWF program at 55% grant reimbursement; 45% local

Sewer Projects – future years

Farmington Meter Pit Rehabilitation

(17/18 Budget \$0k)

 Funds are to rehab the existing pit that is confined space, in a wet area during much of the year, and problematic to establish and calibrate the meter settings

Department of Public Works



Capital Improvement Plan 2017/2018

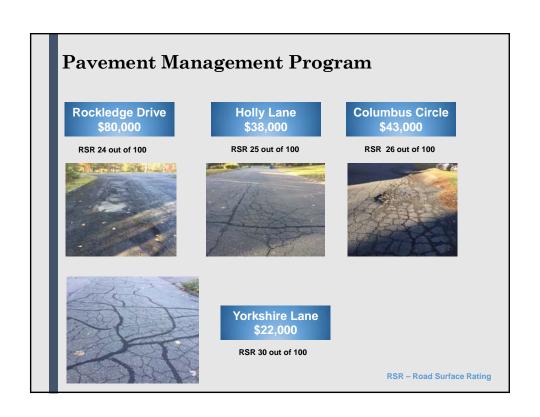
Public Works Historical Fleet Funding

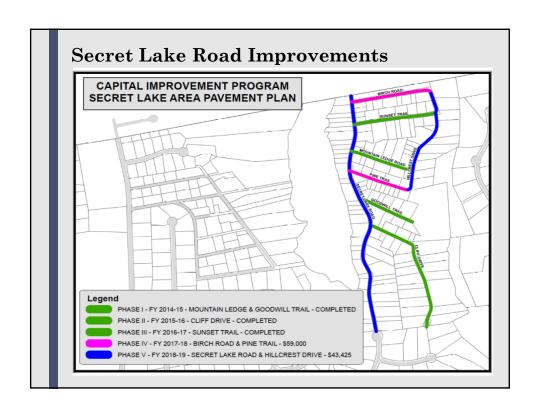
	FY 11/12	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	FY 14/15	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
Requested	\$670,000	\$840,000	\$535,000	\$520,000	\$500,000	\$460,000	\$452,000
Approved	\$0	\$310,000	\$185,000	\$520,000	\$300,000	\$200,000	
Unfunded	\$670,000	\$530,000	\$350,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$260,000	

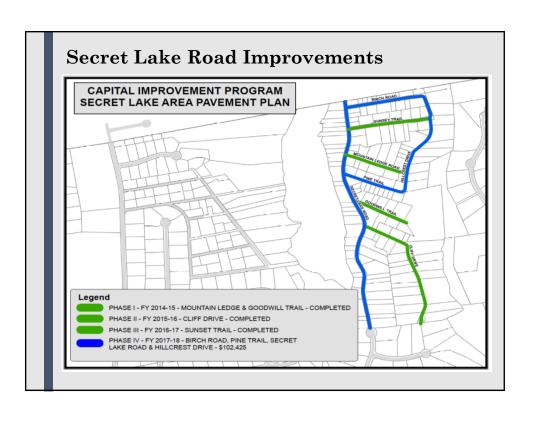




♦ Fiscal Year 17/18 Mill & Ove	erlay	\$1,431,000
Old Kings Road	Brian Lane	
Brookmoor Road	Holly Lane	
Westmont	Hemlock Road	
Cricket Lane	tet Lane Columbus Circle	
Avonridge	Brownstone Drive	
Cold Spring Road	Yorkshire Lane	
Rockledge Drive		
Pavement Manage	ement Alternate Plan	\$547,000
Huckleberry Hill Road	Columbus Circle	
Stillbrook	Hemlock Road	
Yorkshire Lane	Holly Lane	
♦ Fiscal Year 17/18 Parking Lo	ot Improvement	\$265,000
Fire Company 1 (Rear Lot)		
60 West Main Street (East	Side)	
Public Works Yard		
TOTAL Requested Fiscal year 1	7/18	\$1,696,000







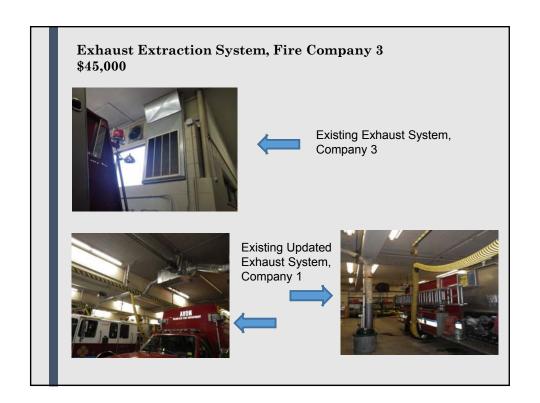








Building Improvem	ent Costs			
PHASE I - ▶ Storage Building	\$130,000			
PHASE II - ▶ Building 3	\$140,000			
PHASE III - ▶ Building 4	\$500,000			
TOTAL	\$770,000	Project Fund	Project Funding	
		FY 2015/16 FY 2016/17 Subtotal	\$ 25,000 \$250,000 \$275,00 0	
		Spent to date Current Balance	\$ 22,081 \$252,918	
		FY 2017/18 Request Total Project Cost	\$520,000 \$772.91 9	



Highway Division	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,050
Buildings & Grounds Division	\$168,000	\$112,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$280
Public Work Administration	\$34,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34
Engineering	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40
Fire Prevention	\$46,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$46
Pavement Management Program	\$1,431,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$7,031
Parking Lot Improvements	\$265,000	\$150,000	\$23,000	\$70,000	\$50,000	\$558
Secret Lake Road Improvements	\$77,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$77
Sidewalk Improvement Plan	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$125
Facility Improvements	\$952,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,077
TOTAL	\$3,288,500	\$1,962,000	\$1,698,000	\$1,695,000	\$1,675,000	\$10,318

Recreation and Parks Capital Improvement Program 2017/2018 FY Requests

NOVEMBER, 2106



17/18 FY CIP Drivers

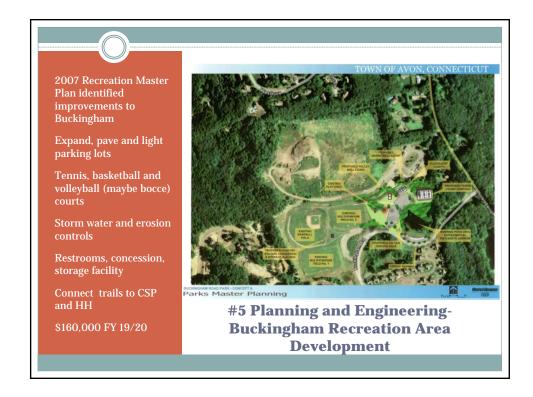
- Develop and maintain adequate recreational facilities for Avon's growing population, POCD-2006
- Recreation and Parks Master Plan- 2007
- Statement of needs for Synthetic turf field at Avon High School and Sub-Committee's recommendations -2016
- Recreation and Parks 16/17 CIP priority projects

#7 and #6

Renovations-Senior Center Community Room

- Renovations-Countryside Park Building
- 23 year old building
- Update kitchen
- Automatic folding partitions in Community Room
- Painting
- Equipment replacement
- \$150,000 FY 20/21

- 33 year old building
- Renovate Kitchen
- Moisture seal basement
- Replace deck and entry
- Roof, siding, windows
- \$100,000 FY 19/20





Construct an additional ball field

New field would accommodate larger baseball field and convert and existing baseball field to a softball field

Bathrooms

This project is a priority for Avon Little League

\$275,000 FY 18/19



#4 Softball/Baseball Field Sperry Park



Capital Funding has contributed to improvements at Sycamore Hills including major renovations on both pools.

This request would fund replacing fencing, adding shade structures, roofing of the pavilion, replacing the play scape, new carpeting and blinds in the Senior Center.



#3 Phase 2- Improvements Sycamore Hills

#2 AHS Synthetic Turf Lighted Field

Base Bid

- \$4,637,000, includes
- Fail safe synthetic turf system with coated crumb rubber for Main and North fields
- 8 land all-weather urethane track
- With out athletic lighting



