



Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XL

April, 2013

Annual Town Meeting

This issue of the Town newsletter is devoted to the proposed budget, which will be the subject of the May 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting and the May 15, 2013 Referendum. The Annual Town Meeting is held for the purpose of presenting the Board of Finance's proposed budget to the voters; the Annual Town Meeting will not result in an increase or decrease in the budget that will be voted on at the May 15th Referendum.

The Board of Finance held its Public Hearing on April 8th. On April 10th, the Board of Finance held their budget workshop with the Board of Education and Town Council and reached their final decision on the total budget.

As approved by the Board of Finance, and if approved by the voters at referendum, the overall 2013/2014 budget will be \$81,760,417. This represents a budget increase of \$3,030,624, or 3.85%, and a tax increase of 2.60%. The associated mill rate will be 26.32 mills.

At this point in time regarding the budget process, the Board of Finance will be presenting their proposed budget at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6, 2013. The Resolution that will be presented at the Town Meeting and the Referendum is as follows:

'SHALL THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$81,760,417 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2013 BE APPROVED?'

At the conclusion of the discussion on the proposed budget, the meeting will be adjourned to a referendum vote on May 15th. Those eligible to vote include electors and taxpayers. Taxpayers are permitted to vote if they are at least 18 years of age, own property that has an assessed value of \$1,000 or more as of the October 1, 2012 Grand List, and are U.S. citizens.

Old Farms Road Project

Old Farms Road Project #04-129 - Pending CT DOT contract approval, the Town and C&C Consulting Engineers, LLC, will proceed with the necessary steps to execute the contract (10% local match) for an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the Scope of Work approved by ConnDOT on September 18, 2012. In addition to the services of C&C Consulting Engineers, LLC, the Town will be responsible to provide technical and engineering services required for the preparation of the EA. The Town anticipates that both contracts for the preparation of the EA will be approved and executed by July of 2013. The time to complete the EA is estimated to be 18 months. The first public informational meeting based on the above schedule will be held in the fall of 2013.

Old Farms Road Bridge - The Connecticut Department of Transportation is completing work for the preparation of final plans, specifications and environmental permits for the replacement of the existing bridge on Old Farms Road over the Farmington River. In addition to the replacement of the bridge, this project also includes the reconstruction of Old Farms Road between Tillotson Road and Route 10 and the construction of turning lanes at the intersection of Route 10 and Old Farms Road. ConnDOT indicated that they anticipate all necessary environmental permits will be attained by August of 2013. The anticipated date for bidding is December of 2013.

For more information, please visit the Town of Avon's website under the Engineering Department link "[Old Farms Road Project](#)."

Dog/Cat Rabies Vaccination Clinic • Avon Animal Shelter

11 Arch Road • Saturday, May 4, 2013 • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00/vaccine (**Cash Only**)

You will also be able to renew or license your dog. Cost for new license will be \$8.00 for a Spayed/Neutered dog, \$19.00 for an unaltered dog. Checks will be accepted for licenses only, made out to the "Town of Avon". For additional information you may contact Beverly LaPlume, Animal Control Officer, at (860) 409-4205.

Inside this issue:

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The Award-Winning Avon Free Public Library

Avon Free Public Library was extremely excited to learn in March that it was selected to receive the 2013 Excellence in Public Library Service award. Avon was nominated for its very popular series of programs commemorating the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Nominations were reviewed by an independent panel of out-of-state librarians who recognize two libraries; one that serves a population of under 15,000 and one over, for "an outstanding program or service to their communities." Nominations were judged on innovation, creativity, and leadership. Avon's series of programs, organized by librarians Tina Panik and Patrice Celli, not only found an electric and enthusiastic audience, but also built lasting partnerships with local community organizations and received national attention in being selected as a stop for the traveling exhibit, *Lincoln: the Constitution & the Civil War*. In addition to the recognition for the library, Patrice and Tina were also individually honored by the Connecticut Library Association for their work on this series of programs. They will be co-winners of the organization's Special Achievement Award, presented at CLA's annual conference in late April. Congratulations to Patrice, Tina, and everyone involved in this fantastic endeavor!

Tax Relief For Elderly and Disabled Homeowners

In March of 2012, the Town Council passed a two year extension of the Town's Elderly Property Tax Relief Program. Homeowners who were age 65 or older as of 12/31/12 may be eligible for up to \$2,100 for a married couple or \$1,850 for an unmarried individual in property tax relief. To be eligible, you must be 65 or older by 12/31/12, your adjusted gross income plus social security has to be \$45,000 or less, and you must have owned your home on October 1, 2012. Applications must be received by May 15, 2013. If you have any questions or feel you might be eligible, please contact the Assessor's Office at (860) 409-4335 for a confidential appointment.

New Prescription Discount Program

The Town of Avon is proud to partner with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to offer an exciting program that helps you maintain a healthy lifestyle, all while holding on to more of your hard earned money! The *Town of Avon Prescription Discount Card*, now administered by ProAct, Inc., is a FREE program that offers discount savings on the purchase of prescription drugs; and it costs NOTHING for the Town or local taxpayers! If you have not yet received your new discount card in the mail, or if you have questions on this new program, please call ProAct, Inc. toll free at 1-877-776-2285, or visit www.CTRxDiscountCard.com.

Reminders From the Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Brush Fires - While cold, snowy weather postponed the start of spring fire season this year, it's never too early to prepare. Downed trees and other storm debris can provide additional fuel for brush fires. Wind gusts and low humidity cause brush fires to quickly grow and spread. Most brush fires are started by humans – a discarded hot match or cigarette or a campfire that isn't properly extinguished. The Avon Volunteer Fire Department urges residents to take precautions. For more information about Avon's Open Burning policies and procedures, visit http://www.town.avon.ct.us/Public_Documents/AvonCT_FirePrev/Open%20Burning.

Propane Grilling - While a lot of people continue outdoor cooking on propane grills throughout the winter months, the smell of burgers and dogs on the grill is a definite sign of spring. Many gas grill fires happen when people either use a grill that has been left idle or has just had a refilled gas tank reattached. Check tubes and hoses for blockages as well as cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Protect hoses from heat, either by moving them or using a heat shield. Check for leaks – if you find one, turn off the gas. Use grills outdoors, at least 10 feet away from buildings. Keep propane containers upright and do not store spare containers under or near the grill or indoors. For more gas grill safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, visit the AVFD's Fire Safety Blog at www.avonvfd.org.

Registration is now underway for Summer Recreation Programs, including Sycamore Swim Memberships. For complete details, go to www.AvonRec.com. The Sycamore Hills Pool Opens Saturday, June 8, 2013.



Town of Avon – BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY 2011/2012	Adopted FY 2012/2013	Projected FY 2012/2013	Proposed FY 2013/2014
<u>Revenues</u>				
Property Taxes & Assessments	66,702,789	68,507,726	68,507,726	70,865,797
Intergovernmental Revenues	7,407,818*	3,925,800	3,925,800	4,581,904
Licenses, Fees and Permits	1,158,101	935,905	935,905	995,755
Charges for Services	4,399,107	4,461,898	4,461,898	4,873,808
Other Local Revenues	1,058,129	441,952	441,952	443,153
Transfers from Other Funds	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Use of Fund Balance	525,370	456,512	456,512	0
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Revenues	81,251,314	78,729,793	78,729,793	81,760,417
<u>Expenditures</u>				
General Government	2,880,633	2,907,271	2,907,271	2,956,546
Public Safety	8,600,966	8,769,877	8,769,877	8,923,180
Public Works	6,682,501*	4,392,568	4,392,568	4,977,769
Health and Welfare	434,726	435,854	435,854	461,755
Recreation & Parks	1,212,054	1,232,043	1,232,043	1,195,031
Culture & Education	1,385,570	1,411,227	1,411,227	1,420,426
Education – Town	49,292,820	50,595,100	50,595,100	52,828,986
Education - Regional School District	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Conservation & Development	547,967	577,030	577,030	600,860
Miscellaneous	232,805	337,176	337,176	316,358
Sewers	1,544,786	1,752,526	1,752,526	1,807,419
Debt Service	4,808,189	4,546,338	4,546,338	3,858,790
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	1,416,857	1,772,783	1,772,783	2,413,297
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Expenditures	79,039,874	78,729,793	78,729,793	81,760,417

* Related to unanticipated Winter Storm Alfred expenditures (Public Works) and revenues (FEMA).

Proposed 2013-14 Budget Summary

Total Estimated Expenditures	\$ 81,760,417
Less: Revenues Other Than <u>Current</u> Property Taxes	<u>\$ 10,990,500</u>
Amount to be Raised from <u>Current</u> Property Taxes (based on an estimated tax collection rate if 99%)	\$ 70,769,917

Estimated Fund Balance (Deficit) – General Fund as of July 1, 2013

General Fund Resources Available as of June 30, 2012	\$ 6,084,975
FY 2012-13 General Fund Projected Increase (Decrease) in Revenues over Expenditures	<u>\$ 525,532</u>
Estimated General Fund, fund balance (deficit) as of July 1, 2013	\$ 6,610,507

The estimates above of the proposed fiscal year 2013-14 budget represents a summary of the proposed budget. A complete detailed presentation is on file at: Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001. It can also be viewed at the following web address:
www.town.avon.ct.us.

**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 - Revenues**

PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS	ACTUAL FY 11/12	BUDGETED 12/13	PROPOSED 13/14
Gross Levy	66,136,747	68,436,946	70,769,917
Uncollectible	(665,565)	(665,565)	(635,565)
Net Levy	65,471,182	67,771,381	70,134,352
Supplemental Real Estate	95,108	85,525	85,525
Supplemental Motor Vehicle	506,028	280,920	280,920
Prior Levies	180,077	85,000	85,000
Interest & Penalties	161,608	120,000	120,000
Sewer Assessments	214,344	54,400	60,000
West Main Interest	1,081	0	0
Lakeview Water Ext. Assessments	9,987	10,500	0
Telephone Gross Receipts	63,374	100,000	100,000
TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS	66,702,789	68,507,726	70,865,797
LICENSES, FEES & PERMITS			
Police Protection	4,455	2,600	2,600
Building, Struct. and Equip.	550,089	400,000	430,000
Hunting and Fishing	83	75	75
Animal Licenses	12,184	5,500	5,500
Street and Curb	3,350	1,780	1,780
Recording & Conveyance	524,517	470,000	490,000
Conservation and Development	21,683	20,650	20,650
Sale: Maps/Publications/Copies	26,882	20,000	20,000
LOCAP Recording Fee	12,858	11,000	13,000
Sewer Permits & Inspection Fees	2,000	4,300	12,150
TOTAL LICENSES, FEES & PERMITS	1,158,101	935,905	995,755
INTERGOVERNMENTAL STATE GRANTS-IN-AID:			
Relamp Grant 09 OPM 1099AD	60,399	0	0
FEMA Reimbursement (Alfred and Irene)	1,875,219	0	0
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	1,254,193	1,232,688	1,232,688
State Library Construction Grant	1,000,000	0	0
BOE Education Program Grants	1,315,722	31,500	32,000
BOE Education Program Grants - Fund #13 Various	7,443	0	58,919
School Transportation	8,594	8,306	8,306
BOE Special Education Excess Cost	0	707,487	876,712
BOE Open Choice Attendance	0	340,812	612,000
Title II Part A Teachers	38,895	32,681	36,289
Adult Education Cooperative - Fund #13	1,482	1,482	1,987
IDEA 611 Part B - Fund #13	606,687	568,555	581,122
Title I Improving Basic Programs - Fund #13	26,913	55,288	133,773
Pre School IDEA 619 - Fund #13	19,617	18,332	18,537
Carl Perkins - Fund #13	16,425	17,426	25,183
Sheff Settlement - Fund #13	102,300	52,300	182,375
School Building Construction	194,524	68,070	0
Education Jobs - Fund #13	72,076	7,670	0
Public Library	1,245	1,200	1,200
Pilot: Grants in Lieu of Taxes	92,465	92,113	92,113
Pilot: Pequot Funds	15,034	14,251	14,251
Property Tax Relief-Elderly	86,572	95,000	90,000
Veteran Reimbursement	5,458	5,500	5,500
(LOCIP) Local Cap. Improv. Fund	106,650	93,797	93,797
Town Aid Road Fund	153,609	126,454	113,809
Cafeteria - Board of Education	115,715	131,045	147,500
Pilot: Colleges & Hospitals	3,232	3,232	3,232
Miscellaneous State Grant Receipts	47,505	7,400	7,400
Emerg. Homeland	1,739	0	0
Youth Services Grant	20,250	0	0
Judicial Branch 51-56	3,676	0	0
Manufacturing Transition- State Grant Receipts	0	213,211	213,211
Misc. Govenor's Budget Initiatives	154,179	0	0
TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	7,407,818	3,925,800	4,581,904
TOTAL THIS PAGE	75,268,708	73,369,431	76,443,456

**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 - Revenues**

CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES	ACTUAL FY 11/12	BUDGETED 12/13	PROPOSED 13/14
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police Services	97,858	66,708	56,807
Accident Reports & Photos	1,194	1,700	1,200
Alarm System	5,925	5,500	5,500
Animal Pound Fee	1,460	2,000	1,500
PUBLIC WORKS			
Sewer Use Charges	1,514,141	1,500,000	1,680,484
Sewer Connection Charges	83,524	37,500	239,685
Sale of Materials	986	0	0
Landfill (Residential) Fees	113,131	152,000	141,000
Landfill - Bulky Waste/Other	34,616	40,000	36,000
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:			
Vital Statistics	22,691	20,000	20,000
RECREATION & PARKS:			
Organized Summer Programs	33,644	30,000	30,000
Swim Fees	54,944	68,000	65,000
Fees: Non-Reimbursable	3,495	4,000	4,000
Fees: Reimbursable	300,115	268,242	258,282
Maintenance Fees	58,533	55,738	56,175
Senior Rec. Activities	22,500	9,550	9,350
EDUCATION			
Cafeteria Sales	1,100,738	1,192,638	1,223,215
BOE Athletic Game Receipts/Pay to Play	244,624	0	0
BOE Athletic Game Receipts/Pay to Play	0	184,995	184,995
Use of School Facilities	63,297	54,000	54,000
FINES & FORFEITS			
Courts	410	500	500
BOE Employee Bnft Contrb, Dent/Life	134,787	118,380	118,917
BOE Miscellaneous Receipts	72,887	0	64,625
BOE Tuition Receipts-Parent Paid (pre K Prog)	23,200	18,150	32,000
BOE TEAM Program	7,000	7,000	0
BOE Cafeteria Rent Receipts	99,573	99,573	99,573
BOE AHS Parking Fees	38,778	35,250	0
BOE Interdistrict Tuition Valley Alt. Academy	30,000	0	0
BOE Special Education Tuition	223,681	474,474	475,000
Public Library	11,375	16,000	16,000
TOTAL CHARGES FOR CURRENT SVCS.	4,399,107	4,461,898	4,873,808
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES			
Investment Interest	33,947	105,000	101,745
Sewer Use - Interest & Liens	9,934	10,000	15,000
Sewer Use & Assessments - Interest & Liens	4,040	100	100
AFLP CP-P Energy Effic. Inc. Payment	22,169	0	0
Refunds & Reimbursements	181,967	145,826	144,342
Donations & Grants Private Sources-Rec. Act	554,202	0	0
Donations & Grants Private Source-State & Fed	37,790	0	0
Donations & Grants Private Source	18,399	0	0
Refunds & Reimbursements: Sprint Tower	50,281	46,554	46,554
Salvage and Demolition Sales	14,526	13,000	13,000
Interlocal Program Funding	77,199	72,660	75,600
Miscellaneous	6,323	11,812	11,812
Sale of Property	47,352	25,000	25,000
Forest, Park Mgmt. Sales	0	12,000	10,000
TOTAL OTHER LOCAL REVENUES	1,058,129	441,952	443,153
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance	85,370	0	0
Sewer Fund Unassigned Fund Balance	420,000	456,512	0
School Facil.-Use Unassigned Balance	20,000	0	0
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	525,370	456,512	0
GRAND TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUES	81,251,314	78,729,793	81,760,417



**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 - Expenditures**

TOWN COUNCIL	ACTUAL FY 11/12	BUDGETED 12/13	PROPOSED 13/14
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Legislative	49,867	50,782	49,754
Executive	429,314	451,510	473,984
Judicial	19,712	5,000	4,500
Elections	78,708	101,844	93,652
Legal	219,687	160,000	160,000
Recording & Reporting	340,294	360,044	382,488
Town Hall	169,011	152,873	101,282
Human Resources	215,705	225,104	232,150
Finance	1,358,335	1,400,114	1,458,736
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,880,633	2,907,271	2,956,546
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police Protection	5,607,508	5,763,034	5,879,983
Fire Protection	1,743,279	1,747,267	1,720,019
Central Communications	637,523	723,640	758,182
Protective Inspection	260,349	290,253	320,071
Other Protection	352,307	245,683	244,925
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	8,600,966	8,769,877	8,923,180
PUBLIC WORKS			
Administration	384,911	365,271	379,752
Highways	4,219,330	1,793,552	1,876,355
Sanitation	335,176	387,262	406,639
Machinery & Equipment	450,756	473,492	493,301
Buildings & Grounds	984,848	1,044,868	1,481,735
Engineering	307,480	328,123	339,987
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	6,682,501	4,392,568	4,977,769
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES			
Conservation of Health	110,399	117,024	131,000
Social Services	324,327	318,830	330,755
TOTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	434,726	435,854	461,755
RECREATION & PARKS			
Recreation	769,471	789,465	798,972
Parks	292,293	286,973	263,421
Senior Citizens	59,133	60,190	34,472
Community Activities	91,157	95,415	98,166
TOTAL RECREATION & PARKS	1,212,054	1,232,043	1,195,031
CULTURE & EDUCATION			
Library	1,385,570	1,411,227	1,420,426
TOTAL CULTURE & EDUCATION	1,385,570	1,411,227	1,420,426
TOTAL THIS PAGE	21,196,450	19,148,840	19,934,707



**Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 - Expenditures**

	ACTUAL FY 11/12	BUDGETED 12/13	PROPOSED 13/14
TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS PAGE	21,196,450	19,148,840	19,934,707
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT			
Planning & Zoning	406,957	422,047	438,808
Conserv. Of Natural Resources	141,010	154,983	162,052
TOTAL CONSERVATION & DEV'T	547,967	577,030	600,860
MISCELLANEOUS			
Claims & Losses	11,984	30,520	15,000
Municipal Insurance	174,252	225,106	234,858
Intergovernmental Expend.	46,235	56,550	56,500
Contingency	334	25,000	10,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	232,805	337,176	316,358
SUB-TOTAL TOWN OF AVON	21,977,222	20,063,046	20,851,925
SEWERS			
Operating Expenses	1,544,786	1,752,526	1,807,419
TOTAL SEWERS	1,544,786	1,752,526	1,807,419
CAPITAL IMPROV. DEBT SERVICE			
Bond & Anticipat. Notes	4,808,189	4,546,338	3,858,790
TOTAL CAP. IMP. DEBT SERVICE	4,808,189	4,546,338	3,858,790
CAPITAL IMPROVE. PROGRAM (CIP)			
Capital Improvement Facilities	1,136,297	797,783	1,607,297
Capital Improvement Equipment	200,000	900,000	506,000
Capital & Non-Recurr. (C.N.R.E.F.)	80,560	75,000	300,000
TOTAL CIP	1,416,857	1,772,783	2,413,297
BOARD OF EDUCATION			
Salaries	30,070,828	31,843,873	33,068,813
Employee Benefits	6,987,457	7,314,548	7,961,006
Purchased Prof & Tech Services	602,670	850,067	831,715
Property Services	692,260	729,110	763,538
Other Purchased Services	5,075,874	4,877,094	4,940,141
General Supplies & Utilities	2,503,089	2,450,607	2,498,064
Equipment	743,486	328,382	244,053
Fees & Memberships	58,713	70,002	58,756
Cafeteria Operation	1,334,647	1,323,683	1,370,715
Facility Use	26,754	54,000	54,000
Prepaid State & Fed. Grants	897,692	753,734	1,038,185
Athletic Program	299,350	0	0
TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION	49,292,820	50,595,100	52,828,986
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	79,039,874	78,729,793	81,760,417

ISSUE XL
April, 2013

Avon Town Council
Town of Avon
60 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001

Phone: (860) 409-4300
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www.town.avon.ct.us



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IMPORTANT DATES

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

MAY 6, 2013

7:00 P.M.

AVON SENIOR CENTER

635 WEST AVON ROAD

BUDGET REFERENDUM

MAY 15, 2013

6:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

AVON SENIOR CENTER

635 WEST AVON ROAD

Absentee Ballots will be available.

**Any questions regarding absentee ballots should be directed to the
Town Clerk's Office at (860) 409-4310**

Avon Day • Save The Date

Saturday, September 21, 2013

(rain date, Sunday, September 22nd)

The fun begins at 11:00am!

Come and join the celebration!!

[If you are interested in a booth or more information,
please go to the Town's website under "Things to do in Avon"](#)

VFW Annual Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2013

This will be the 68th anniversary and the 68th parade following the end of WWII. If you have any questions, please call Bill Samol (860) 673-0594. In case of rain, meet at the Avon Senior Center at 11:00 a.m. The **VFW POPPY DRIVE** will run from the 2nd week of May through Memorial Day. Please show your support for all the veterans.