

Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XLIII April, 2014

Annual Town Meeting

This issue of the Town newsletter is devoted to the proposed budget, which will be the subject of the May 5, 2014 Annual Town Meeting and the May 14, 2014 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 May14th Referendum.

The Board of Finance held its Public Hearing on April 7th. On April 9th, 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 2014/2015 budget will be \$83,887,095. This represents a budget increase of \$2,126,678, or 2.60%, and a tax rate increase (net of revaluation) of 2.66%. The associated mill rate will be 28.32 mills. The actual mill rate change is 7.6%, but 4.94% is due to revaluation.

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 5, 2014. 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 \$83,887,095 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2014 BE APPROVED?'

At the conclusion of the discussion on the proposed budget, the meeting will be adjourned to a referendum vote on May 14th. 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, 2013 Grand List, and are U.S. citizens.

To Treat or Not to Treat (Storm Water). That's the Question!

The Town of Avon does not have a sewer treatment plant of its own. Rather, all of our sanitary sewers flow to either Simsbury, Farmington, or Canton. Avon's Sewer Budget (funded by sewer users) pays each of those towns to treat our sewage. The obvious sources of sewage in Town include residences and businesses that are connected to the system. Sources that are not as obvious include rain water and ground water – known in the industry as Infiltration and Inflow (I & I). Infiltration is groundwater that generally enters the system through pipe joints or manholes. Inflow is generally rain water that enters the system through leaking manholes or improper drain line connections.

The Sewer Department is about to begin a project to determine where I & I are entering our sewer collection system within the Farmington sewer service area. This will initially involve placing temporary meters at approximately 20 locations around the Farmington sewer shed, and monitoring the effect of rainfall events on sewage volume. Using this data, we can hone in on areas that encounter significant flow increases due to rainfall and perform additional investigations to determine the sources of the problem. The temporary meters will be installed in manholes by the Town's consultant on the project. In most cases, these manholes are located within the Town's roadway. In a few cases, the meters may be installed in manholes that are located within easements on private property. In those cases, the property owners will be contacted in advance to inform them of the work to be done.

Once sources of I & I are determined, the next steps will include development of a plan to mitigate. Among the problems we expect to find are cracked pipes, leaks in manholes, and illicit connections from sump pumps and roof leaders. Residents that have questions concerning the project can call the Engineering Department at 860.409.4322.

Inside this issue:

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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 12/31/13 may be eligible for up to \$2,125 (for a married couple) or \$1,875 (for an unmarried individual) in property tax relief. To be eligible, you must be 65 or older by 12/31/13, your adjusted gross income plus social security has to be \$45,000 or less, and you must have owned your home on October 1, 2013. Applications must be received by May 15, 2014. 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.

From the Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Live Fire Training Facility - When it comes to fire training, there's no such thing as enough. As volunteers who train to the level of career firefighters, members of the AVFD are required to recertify at least annually on numerous skills from Incident Command to Hoses and Ladders, Ventilation, and Live Fire Situations. A live fire training facility will soon be built in Farmington. For a commitment of \$500,000, the AVFD will have the opportunity to hold partial ownership in the facility, allowing members to train frequently enough to assure proficiency. In addition, the new facility will make it easier for volunteers to train with colleagues in their own fire companies as well as those in mutual aid communities. AVFD members will be able to safely practice and improve skills in a realistic setting with a reasonable time commitment, learning how to better protect themselves so they can protect the residents of Avon and their property.

The AVFD needs your help to raise this money by July 2014! For more information or to help, please contact Jamie DiPace at 860.221.5725 or visit www.avonvfd.org/livefiretraining.

Brush Fires: While cold, snowy weather has again postponed the start of spring fire season this year, it's never too early to prepare. Downed trees that fell under the weight of ice and snow as well as 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.

Attention Dog Owners!

Town Ordinance 41 requires all dogs to be leashed on public and town property. Fisher Meadows and The Huckleberry Recreation Area are leashed areas only. Violators will receive a \$48.00 infraction for the first offense and \$100.00 for the second offense. Dog owners are also required to pick up after their dogs or face a \$25.00 fine for the first offense. Owners of unleashed dogs can also face a \$92.00 infraction, per the State Statue 22-364(a); for allowing their dogs to roam. Please be a responsible dog owner and obey the rules.

Dog/Cat Rabies Vaccination Clinic ● Avon Animal Shelter
11 Arch Road • Saturday, April 26, 2014 • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20.00/vaccine (CASH ONLY)

Proof of previous rabies vaccine must be presented to receive a three year vaccine. For additional information you may contact Beverly LaPlume, Animal Control Officer, at (860) 409-4205.

\$450,000 STEAP Award

In March, the State announced that Avon would receive \$450,000 under the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) to complete the Village Center Streetscape Improvement Project started in 2008. This latest award should allow Avon to complete the project by installing granite curbing and ADA sidewalks on the south side of Route 44 to mirror improvements already made on the north side between the Town Green and Avon Old Village.

The Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for all Summer Programs. Please log onto www.avonrec.com to view programs and register!



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Town of Avon - BUDGET SUMMARY				
	Actual FY 2012/2013	Adopted FY 2013/2014	Projected FY 2013/2014	Proposed FY 2014/2015
<u>Revenues</u>				
Property Taxes & Assessments	68,869,257	70,865,797	70,865,797	72,721,955
Intergovernmental Revenues	4,701,109	4,581,904	4,581,904	4,940,842
Licenses, Fees and Permits	1,623,315	995,755	995,755	1,054,725
Charges for Services	5,259,391	4,873,808	4,873,808	4,370,778
Other Local Revenues	315,549	443,153	443,153	498,663
Transfers from Other Funds	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Use of Fund Balance	135,817	0	0	300,132
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Revenues	80,904,438	81,760,417	81,760,417	83,887,095
Expenditures				
General Government	2,932,673	2,956,546	2,956,546	3,075,949
Public Safety	8,758,633	8,923,180	8,923,180	9,061,716
Public Works	4,474,097	4,977,769	4,977,769	5,323,10
Health and Social Services	451,957	461,755	461,755	473,209
Recreation & Parks	1,232,355	1,195,031	1,195,031	1,158,004
Culture & Education	1,456,687	1,420,426	1,420,426	1,453,26
Education — Town	50,872,244	52,828,986	52,828,986	54,230,554
Education - Regional School District	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Conservation & Development	561,665	600,860	600,860	626,021
Miscellaneous	451,039	316,358	316,358	323,412
Sewers	1,668,047	1,807,419	1,807,419	1,923,732
Debt Service	4,437,321	3,858,790	3,858,790	3,647,490
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	1,772,783	2,413,297	2,413,297	2,590,637
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Expenditures	<i>7</i> 9,069,501	81,760,417	81,760,417	83,887,095

lotal Estimated Expenditures	\$ 83,887,095
Less: Revenues Other Than <u>Current</u> Property Taxes	\$11,311,020
Amount to be Raised from Current Property Taxes (based on an estimated tax collection rate if 99%)	\$ 72,576,075
Estimated Fund Balance (Deficit) — General Fund as of July 1, 2014	
General Fund Resources Available as of June 30, 2013	\$ 8,035,653

FY 2013/14 General Fund Projected Increase (Decrease) in Revenues over Expenditures

\$\frac{11,442}{8,024,211}\$

\$\frac{8,024,211}{4}\$

The estimates above of the proposed fiscal year 2014/15 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, 2015 - Revenues

PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS	ACTUAL FY 12/13	BUDGETED 13/14	PROPOSED 14/15
Gross Levy	68,516,469	70,769,91 <i>7</i>	72,576,075
Uncollectible	(665,565)	(635,565)	(585,565)
Net Levy	67,850,904	70,134,352	71,990,510
Supplemental Real Estate	139,496	85,525	85,525
Supplemental Motor Vehicle	540,168	280,920	280,920
Prior Levies	85,080	85,000	130,000
Interest & Penalties	163,115	120,000	100,000
Sewer Assessments	23,832	60,000	75,000
West Main Interest	1,086	0	0
Lakeview Water Ext. Assessments	<i>7,</i> 581	0	0
Telephone Gross Receipts	<i>57</i> ,99 <i>5</i>	100,000	60,000
TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES & ASSESSMENTS	68,869,257	70,865,797	72,721,955
LICENSES, FEES & PERMITS			
Police Protection	8,370	2,600	9,000
Building, Struct. and Equip.	828,896	430,000	475,000
Hunting and Fishing	84	75	125
Animal Licenses	13,346	5,500	1,900
Street and Curb	3,700	1,780	2,500
Recording & Conveyance	680,961	490,000	500,000
Conservation and Development	27,476	20,650	25,000
Sale: Maps/Publications/Copies	32,131	20,000	25,700
LOCAP Recording Fee	14,826	13,000	5,000
MERS Land Recording Fee	0	0	4,500
Sewer Permits & Inspection Fees	13,525	12,150	6,000
TOTAL LICENSES, FEES & PERMITS	1,623,315	995,755	1,054,725
INTERGOVERNMENTAL STATE GRANTS-IN-AID:			
FEMA Reimbursement	27,711	0	0
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	1,215,717	1,232,688	1,233,294
BOE Education Program Grants	18,537	32,000	0
BOE Education Program Grants—Fund #13 Various	149,537	58,919	58,919
School Transportation	19,676	8,306	19,684
BOE Special Education Excess Cost	950,758	876,712	1,054,197
BOE Open Choice Attendance	392,000	612,000	660,000
Title II Part A Teachers	13,951	36,289	36,289
Adult Education Cooperative—Fund #13	2,018	1,987	1,987
IDEA 611 Part B—Fund #13	456,417	581,122	523,000
Title I Improving Basic Programs—Fund #13	108,086	133,773	133,773
Pre School IDEA 619—Fund #13	18,332	18,537	15,53/
Carl Perkins—Fund #13	25,183	25,183	24,114
Sheff Settlement—Fund #13	182,375	182,375	182,375
Education Jobs—Fund #13	7,971	0	0
Avon Education Foundation	260	0	0
Public Library	1,220	1,200	1,250
Pilot: Grants in Lieu of Taxes	90,796	92,113	79,218
Pilot: Pequot Funds	13,463 83,932	14,251 90,000	14,803
Property Tax Relief-Elderly Veteran Reimbursement	5,183	5,500	85,000 5,250
(LOCIP) Local Cap. Improv. Fund	108,969	93,797	108,969
Town Aid Road Fund	155,560	113,809	310,739
Cafeteria—Board of Education	248,829	147,500	171,833
Pilot: Colleges & Hospitals	240,027	3,232	171,033
Miscellaneous State Grant Receipts	44,417	7,400	7,400
Emergency Homeland	9,879	7,400	7,400
Youth Services Grant	20,110	0	0
Judicial Branch 51-56	3,227	0	0
Manufacturing Transition-State Grant Receipts	326,995	213,211	0
Grants for Municipal Project	0	0	213,211
TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	4,701,109	4,581,904	4,940,842
TOTAL THIS PAGE	75,193,681	76,443,456	78,717,522
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Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 - Revenues

CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES	ACTUAL FY 12/13	BUDGETED 13/14	PROPOSED 14/15
PUBLIC SAFETY	05.004	5/ 007	10.000
Police Services	85,824	56,807	10,000
Accident Reports & Photos	1,151	1,200	1,300
Alarm System	3,750	5,500	1,500
Animal Pound Fee	1,880	1,500	2,000
PUBLIC WORKS	1.524.202	1 / 00 / 0 /	1 475 000
Sewer Use Charges	1,534,392	1,680,484	1,475,000
Sewer Connection Charges	655,699	239,685	62,500
Landfill (Residential) Fees	143,733	141,000	144,975
Landfill—Bulky Waste/Other	29,468	36,000	30,000
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:	25.000	00.000	05.000
Vital Statistics	25,900	20,000	25,000
RECREATION & PARKS:	27.072	20.000	24000
Organized Summer Programs	36,073	30,000	34,000
Swim Fees	48,250	65,000	62,000
Fees: Non-Reimbursable	5,618	4,000	4,200
Fees: Reimbursable	305,158	258,282	255,170
Maintenance Fees	49,993	56,175	57,900
Senior Rec. Activities	11,933	9,350	10,640
EDUCATION			
Cafeteria Sales	1,085,523	1,223,215	1,125,641
BOE Athletic Game Receipts/Pay to Play	218,115	184,995	205,995
Use of School Facilities	65,568	54,000	54,000
FINES & FORFEITS			
Courts	320	500	500
BOE Employee Bnft Contrb, Dent/Life	118,148	118,91 <i>7</i>	117,946
BOE Miscellaneous Receipts	45,836	64,625	20,388
BOE Tuition Receipts-Parent Paid (pre K Prog)	25,100	32,000	30,000
BOE TEAM Program	9,250	0	6,250
BOE Cafeteria Rent Receipts	99,573	99,573	99,573
BOE AHS Parking Fees	35,250	0	38,000
BOE Interdistrict Tuition Valley Alt. Academy	7, 500	0	0
BOE Special Education Tuition	593,835	475,000	476,300
Public Library	16,551	16,000	20,000
TOTAL CHARGES FOR CURRENT SVCS.	5,259,391	4,873,808	4,370,778
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES			
Investment Interest	72,847	101 <i>,</i> 745	90,000
Sewer Use - Interest & Liens	21,519	15,000	15,000
Sewer Assessments - Interest & Liens	100	100	100
Refunds & Reimbursements	49,042	144,342	132,075
Donations & Grants Private Source—Rec. Act.	1,515	0	0
BOE Funding School Resource Officer	0	0	76,000
Refunds & Reimbursements: Sprint Tower	51,789	46 , 554	52,000
Salvage and Demolition Sales	15,873	13,000	15,500
Interlocal Program Funding	76,130	75,600	78,300
Miscellaneous	16,443	11,812	14,688
Sale of Property	10,291	25,000	25,000
Forest, Park Mgmt. Sales	0	10,000	0
TOTAL OTHER LOCAL REVENUES	315,549	443,153	498,663
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Use of General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance	0	0	0
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance—Fund #4	2,010	0	10,000
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance—Fund #5	0	0	290,132
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance—Fund #7	130,000	0	0
Use of Unassigned Balance—Fund #15	3,807	0	0
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	135,817	0	300,132
GRAND TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUES	80,904,438		83,887,095
GRAIND TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUES	80,704,438	81,760,417	03,007,093



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Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 - Expenditures

TOWN COUNCIL	ACTUAL FY 12/13	BUDGETED 13/14	PROPOSED 14/15
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Legislative	<i>47</i> ,331	49,754	51,808
Executive	449,931	473,984	487,542
Judicial	4,289	4,500	4,750
Elections	90,465	93,652	100,468
Legal	162,730	160,000	165,000
Recording & Reporting	335,361	382,488	384,900
Town Hall	146,579	101,282	102,813
Human Resources	221,321	232,150	239,295
Finance	1,474,666	1,458,736	1,539,373
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,932,673	2,956,546	3,075,949
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police Protection	5,849,697	5,879,983	5,921,277
Fire Protection	1,751,964	1,720,019	1,780,152
Central Communications	657,758	758,182	788,486
Protective Inspection	259,228	320,071	332,678
Other Protection	239,986	244,925	239,123
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	8,758,633	8,923,180	9,061,716
PUBLIC WORKS			
Administration	361 <i>,77</i> 9	379,752	399,434
Highways	1,920,855	1,876,355	1,953,527
Sanitation	344,190	406,639	403,731
Machinery & Equipment	460,357	493,301	558,498
Buildings & Grounds	1,083,555	1,481,735	1,654,981
Engineering	303,361	339,987	352,935
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	4,474,097	4,977,769	5,323,106
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES			
Conservation of Health	117,024	131,000	131,329
Social Services	334,933	330,755	341,880
TOTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	451,957	461,755	473,209
RECREATION & PARKS			
Recreation	791,343	798,972	831,234
Parks	295,940	263,421	165,483
Senior Citizens	50,851	34,472	36,746
Community Activities	94,221	98,166	124,541
TOTAL RECREATION & PARKS	1,232,355	1,195,031	1,158,004
CULTURE & EDUCATION			
Library	1,456,687	1,420,426	1,453,265
TOTAL CULTURE & EDUCATION	1,456,687	1,420,426	1,453,265
TOTAL THIS PAGE	19,306,402	19,934,707	20,545,249



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Town of Avon - All Funds Budget Proposed to Town Meeting for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 - Expenditures

	ACTUAL FY 12/13	BUDGETED 13/14	PROPOSED 14/15
TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS PAGE	19,306,402	19,934,707	20,545,249
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT			
Planning & Zoning	412,378	438,808	<i>457,</i> 965
Conserv. Of Natural Resources	149,287	162,052	168,056
TOTAL CONSERVATION & DEV'T	561,665	600,860	626,021
MISCELLANEOUS			
Claims & Losses	199,874	15,000	1 <i>5</i> ,000
Municipal Insurance	206,184	234,858	241,912
Intergovernmental Expend.	44,775	56,500	56,500
Contingency	206	10,000	10,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	451,039	316,358	323,412
SUB-TOTAL TOWN OF AVON	20,319,106	20,851,925	21,494,682
SEWERS			
Operating Expenses	1,668,047	1,807,419	1,923,732
TOTAL SEWERS	1,668,047	1,807,419	1,923,732
CAPITAL IMPROV. DEBT SERVICE			
Bond & Anticipat. Notes	4,437,321	3,858,790	3,647,490
TOTAL CAP. IMP. DEBT SERVICE	4,437,321	3,858,790	3,647,490
CAPITAL IMPROVE. PROGRAM (CIP)			
Capital Improvement Facilities	797,783	1,607,297	1,620,637
Capital Improvement Equipment	900,000	506,000	920,000
Capital & Non-Recurr. (C.N.R.E.F.)	75,000	300,000	50,000
TOTAL CIP	1,772,783	2,413,297	2,590,637
BOARD OF EDUCATION			
Salaries	31,254,558	33,068,813	33,581,445
Employee Benefits	7,453,901	7,961,006	8,278,529
Purchased Prof & Tech Services	1,1 <i>47</i> ,1 <i>75</i>	831 <i>,</i> 71 <i>5</i>	856,534
Property Services	641,298	<i>7</i> 63,538	<i>7</i> 71,691
Other Purchased Services	4,890,441	4,940,141	5,659,251
General Supplies & Utilities	2,316,904	2,498,064	2,448,047
Equipment	663,504	244,053	257,605
Fees & Memberships	57,323	58 , 756	49,984
Cafeteria Operation	1,309,960	1,370,715	1,297,474
Facility Use	69,375	54,000	54,000
Prepaid State & Federal Grants	982,667	1,038,185	975,994
Miscellaneous	85,138	0	0
TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION	50,872,244	52,828,986	54,230,554
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	79,069,501	81,760,417	83,887,095

ISSUE XLIII April, 2014

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

Phone: (860) 409-4300 Fax: (860) 409-4368 www.town.avon.ct.us



PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID AVON, CT PERMIT No. 14

RURAL PATRON
OR
BOXHOLDER
AVON, CT—06001



IMPORTANT DATES

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 5, 2014
7:00 P.M.
AVON SENIOR CENTER
635 WEST AVON ROAD

MAY 14, 2014
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

SAVE THE DATE

Avon Senior Center
25th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, June 6, 2014
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Please call the Senior Center at (860) 675-4355 to R.S.V.P.

VFW Annual Memorial Day Parade May 26, 2014

This will be the 69th anniversary and the 69th 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.