

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall by Chairman Thomas Harrison. Members present: Chairman Thomas Harrison, Vice Chairman/Secretary Thomas Gugliotti, and Margaret Bratton, Catherine Durdan, Dean Hamilton and Michael Oleyer. Jeff Bernetch was absent. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Margaret Bratton.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE
(Including Board of Education Liaison Report)

Ken Birk, liaison for the Board of Education (BOE), reported that the unexpended balance is officially published by December 31, 2017; Board of Education meeting highlights include Superintendent of Schools search with community input scheduled for 10/4, 10/11, 10/16, and 10/23 in the Avon High School Community Room at 7:00 p.m., along with an online survey of which he will provide the link to Mr. Harrison; FY 18/19 budget timeline was distributed, including community input with leadership team on 10/19 and community input with the BOE on 11/30; the BOE expects to vote on it in late December/early January after the new BOE starts. Mr. Birk noted that enrollment as of September 2017 is 3,219 compared to 3,282 last year. He noted that mediation with administrators is Thursday, 9/28 and noted that Mr. Oleyer has been in attendance; mediation with secretaries is next week and one more session with paraprofessionals prior to mediation is also next week. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Heather Michaud, District of Fiscal Affairs, responded that she and the Interim Superintendent of Schools meet on Friday to talk about budget materials and presentation.

Mr. Hamilton noted that his son, Daniel, was in the audience to earn his Citizenship in the Community merit badge. Mr. Harrison welcomed Daniel to the meeting.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

August 28, 2017 Regular Meeting

On a motion made by Michael Oleyer, seconded by Tom Gugliotti, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the August 28, 2017 Regular Meeting as drafted.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Oleyer and Mmes. Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

16/17-03 FY 17/18 Budget

Mr. Robertson noted that the recent edition of the Governing magazine has Connecticut on the cover with a story about how the richest state in the country got into such a mess. He commented we still don't know when the budget will be approved; ECS checks are supposed to go out in October but not without a budget; small towns are starting to run into cash flow issues, i.e. Scotland. He noted that it will get worse in the out years; the pension obligations will continue to grow (currently at 54% funded); and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) are at less than 1% funded by the State; COST & CCM are spending a lot of time at the Capitol; most towns like Avon are saying keep the money, just protect us from the State making us assume responsibility for their unfunded liabilities. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Mr. Robertson responded that the car tax cap does not apply to Avon as our mill rate is below 37 mills. In response to a

question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that we have no further guidance regarding the municipal spending cap and even if it does continue, the Town's adopted budget does comply with the cap.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

17/18-05 Technology Lease/Purchase Approval (Board of Education)

In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Heather Michaud, responded that Avon is looking to get to the one-to-one saturation for a chrome book or piece of technology per student. Ms. Michaud noted that chrome book carts run on a "sign out" depending on how each school configures it by class per grade and curriculum at that point; every child uses a piece of technology throughout their week and how the curriculum is being delivered now from Pre-K through 12. In response to a question from Ms. Bratton, Ms. Michaud responded she could not speak to other technology that is being used. In response to a question from Mr. Gugliotti, Ms. Michaud responded that the old equipment in salvageable shape the Technology Department redeploys it, for example, these will replace faculty laptops at the High School and many of them will be used in the elementary schools in conjunction with smart boards.

Mr. Hamilton mentioned an e-mail was sent to all Board members by Katrina Marin, Board of Finance Candidate regarding this topic. The Board did not accept this kind of statement and there was no discussion of its content.

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Michael Oleyer, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby approve a 48-month lease agreement between HPE Financial Services and Town of Avon for the Board of Education to secure 110 laptops for faculty and 50 chrome books for students at Avon High School.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Oleyer, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

17/18-06 Approve Board of Finance 2018 Meeting Schedule

On a motion made by Tom Harrison, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby approves the Board of Finance 2018 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Oleyer, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report Summary

Details were included in the packet report dated period ended 8/31/17 prepared and reported by Margaret Colligan. Under Intergovernmental, the large revenue we received a year ago was the unbudgeted stimulus funds; in FY 17/18 we have budgeted that dollar amount. Under Other Local Revenues, we increased interest income from \$100,000 to \$140,000 primarily due to interest rates; we have already received \$65,000 in FY 17/18. The 2013 revaluation tax appeals are winding down. Our capital budgets are rolled over after our onsite audit is completed in November. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Ms. Colligan responded that regarding cash our liquidity is not an issue as a result of the high collection rates; for FY 17/18 we budgeted Intergovernmental at \$2.3 million; advance collections were \$7 million (normally \$4-\$5 million); we budgeted current levy close to \$80 million; we have about \$44 million in liquid cash on the books and use of cash brings us down to \$39 million cash right now invested. Mr. Harrison thanked the Town officials for how they manage the public's funds.

B. Miscellaneous

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS – No items discussed.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate

On a motion made by Tom Harrison, seconded by Tom Gugliotti, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance go into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Oleyer, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

The Town Manager, Director of Finance, and Clerk also attended the session.

On a motion made by Tom Harrison, seconded by Dean Hamilton, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance come out of Executive Session at 7:57 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Oleyer, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

X. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Tom Gugliotti, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Gugliotti, Hamilton, Oleyer and Mmes: Bratton and Durdan voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas A. Gugliotti, Secretary

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

All referenced material is available to the public in the Town Manager's Office.