

BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting by Cathy Salchert, Chair. Present: Margaret Bratton, Carl Gisnarian, Charles Harvell, Brian Loveless, Houston Putnam Lowry Ellen Retelle (arrived at 7:24 p.m.) and Cathy Salchert. A quorum was present when the meeting commenced.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

May 23, 2022 Meeting –

On a motion made by Houston Putnam Lowry, seconded by Brian Loveless, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the May 23, 2022 meeting as drafted.

Bratton, Harvell, Loveless, Lowry, Gisnarian, and Salchert voted in favor.

Motion carried 6-0-0.

III. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISC.:

Details of the Monthly Financial Report Summary were included in the packet report dated period ended 5/31/22 prepared and reported by Tom DiStasio, which were discussed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

21/22-21 American Rescue Plan Act

Town Council Updates as of June 2, 2022: www.avonct.gov/arpa

21/22-23 Discuss and Possibly Appoint a Policy Sub-Committee of the Board of Finance

The Board discussed the policies proposed by the Secretary without establishing a sub-committee. Members will provide comments to the Board Secretary and be ready to consider their adoption at the next meeting. The following points are discussed, without reaching a conclusion:

1. Whether or not a consent calendar was desirable (and how it would work).
2. Why it was not a good idea to add policies to a regular meeting agenda and vote upon them without prior notice to the public.
3. Whether or not minutes should be re-stated and re-published after corrections were made (which might create a Freedom of Information Act problem).
4. When agendas should be distributed to Board of Finance members. While the policies said Friday, the practice is presently Wednesday.
5. The differing requirements under the Freedom of Information Act for publishing a record of votes as compared to publishing minutes.
6. The differences between citizens and residents (residents who are taxpayers who can vote about tax matters even if they cannot otherwise vote in elections).

V. NEW BUSINESS:**21/22-47 Approve Suspense List, \$14,629.52
Deborah Fioretti, Collector of Revenue**

Deborah Fioretti, Collector of Revenue, provided a brief explanation to the Board about the items on the suspense list (all of which dealt with motor vehicles and not real estate). Margaret Bratton recognized Ms. Fioretti's upcoming retirement on August 1st after 25 years of service to the Town, which was echoed by other board members.

On a motion made by Houston Putnam Lowry, seconded by Margaret Bratton, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby approve the suspense list totaling \$14,629.52 as submitted by Deborah Fioretti, Collector of Revenue.

Bratton, Gismarian, Harvell, Loveless, Lowry, and Salchert voted in favor.

Motion carried 6-0-0.

**21/22-48 Old Farms Road Presentation by Town Engineer:
Old Farms Road Bridge – State Project No. 04-116
Old Farms Road Phase 1 – North/South Section – State Project No. L004-0001
Old Farms Road Phase 2 – East/West Section – State Project No. L004-0002**

Larry Baril, Town Engineer, provided a presentation (which is available on the town website and made part of these meeting minutes). The first phase of the project is substantially complete and this portion of the Avon Old Farms Road will not flood based upon 10 year storm events (meaning it will only flood in one storm every 10 years on average). Previously, it would flood on average every two years.

This project has been under consideration since the 1960s. Avon Old Farms School has been working cooperatively with the town on the project, which was appreciated by the Board members. Residents appreciate the rural character of the road, although it needs to be improved to newer standards in light of the traffic on it.

The Town Manager noted the North/South Section Project will go to referendum because it exceeds the threshold identified in the Charter, even though the project is expected to be fully paid by State of Connecticut funding. The East/West Section was also discussed. The design for this portion of the project is not as finalized as the North/South Section (which is substantially finalized). The East/West Section will likely be only partially paid by the State of Connecticut at this time, but this may change as the design is finalized.

21/22-49 Supplemental Appropriation: Avon Historical Society Schoolhouse No. 3 (ARPA), \$50,000

Terri Wilson, President, Avon Historical Society, provided a brief description of an adaptive repairs to Schoolhouse No. 3, the Town's oldest owned building. The requested funds will improve the structure, but may not be completely historically correct due to previous restorations.

On a motion made by Ellen Retelle, seconded by Margaret Bratton, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$50,000.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Town CIP-Facilities, Avon Historical Society-ARPA, Account #50-4829-53473 in the amount of \$50,000.00, for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards the Avon Historical Society for the purpose of renovating Schoolhouse No. 3.

Bratton, Gismarian, Harvell, Loveless, Lowry, Retelle and Salchert voted in favor.

Motion carried 7-0-0.

21/22-50 Supplemental Appropriation: FVHD Request (ARPA), \$77,209

Charles Harvell noted the amount being requested is *pro-rated* based upon Avon's participation in the Farmington Valley Health District based on a formula determined to be fair and equitable between the towns who share this service.

On a motion made by Charles Harvell, seconded by Ellen Retelle, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$77,209.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Regulation & Insp., FVHD Support - ARPA, Account # 50-4101-53474 in the amount of \$77,209.00, for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards supporting the Farmington Valley Health District.

Bratton, Gismarian, Harvell, Loveless, Lowry, Retelle, and Salchert voted in favor.

Motion carried 7-0-0.

21/22-51 Supplemental Appropriation: Sycamore Hills Shade Shelters (3) (ARPA), \$32,500

On a motion made by Margaret Bratton, seconded by Charles Harvell, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance hereby amends the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$32,500.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Town CIP-Facilities, Sycamore Hills Shade Shelters-ARPA, Account #50-4829-53471 in the amount of \$32,500.00, for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards the addition of shade shelters at the Sycamore Hills Recreation Area.

Bratton, Gismarian, Harvell, Loveless, Lowry, Retelle, and Salchert voted in favor.

Motion carried 7-0-0.

VI. ADJOURN:

On a motion made by Ellen Retelle, seconded by Brian Loveless, it was voted:

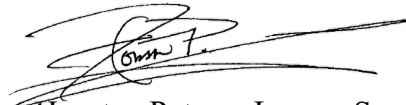
RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Bratton, Gismarian, Harvell, Loveless, Lowry, Retelle, and Salchert voted in favor.

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Minutes are official only after approval by the Board of Finance, usually at its next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Houston Putnam Lowry", written over a horizontal line.

Houston Putnam Lowry, Secretary

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Acting Clerk

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