

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall by Chairman Thomas Harrison. Members present: Chairman Thomas Harrison, Vice Chairman/Secretary Catherine Durdan, Margaret Bratton, Dean Hamilton, Ken Birk, Katrina Marin, and Cathy Salchert. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Catherine Durdan.

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

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:

September 23, 2019 Meeting

On a motion made by Ken Birk, seconded by Katrina Marin, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance approves the minutes of the September 23, 2019 Meeting as drafted.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton, Marin, Salchert, and Durdan voted in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

In response to an inquiry from Mrs. Marin, Mr. Robertson responded that the AWPCA is looking at options including a flow-based system and billing twice a year with one being a fixed amount and the second based on flow. It was noted the AWPCA is holding a public hearing on November 14th to get feedback. Mr. Robertson noted that any approved changes would go into effect in calendar year 2021. In response to a question from Mrs. Marin, Mr. Robertson responded that just over half of the homes in Avon are on the sewer system.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

19/20-05 Review and Discussion: FY 20/21 Budget

Mr. Robertson noted that from the CCM side, State level talks are just beginning from a budgetary perspective and from legislative proposals; the teachers' pension is going to come back around in some iteration. He noted that Town operating budget requests are coming in; CIP budget presentations will be made to Town Council. He added that State aid will likely stay stable; Grand List growth will likely be consistent with past years; the Avon Village Center Project is now moving and the goal is to have five buildings in Phase 1A up and running by end of 2020. He noted that cash capital for the next fiscal year may be in the range of \$2.5 million. In response to a question from Mr. Birk, Mr. Robertson responded that the Town has a new health and benefits consultant, Lockton, who has other surrounding towns as their clients and we will work with them to get any rebates, wellness credits, etc. possible.

In response to a question from Mrs. Marin, Mr. Robertson responded that this is the first time the Board of Education (BOE) has included a capital budget request to replace pavers at the Avon Middle School.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**A. Monthly Financial Report Summary**

Details were included in the packet report dated period ended 9/30/19 prepared and reported by Margaret Colligan. Ms. Colligan noted that we are running in line to date for % Collected and ahead for Charges for Services; we still benefit from the interest rates; we do not anticipate Fund Balance; expenditures are also running in line. She noted that for the two projects issued in December we have not yet gone to the market to issue debt for and will likely take place next spring. In response to a question from Mr. Birk, Ms. Colligan responded that our Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel has suggested going to the market early because rates are good; we cannot do any refunding on our current debt as we refinanced in 2016, paying it off fairly fast and well positioned. Mr. Robertson noted that we are looking at a potential bond authorization for paving management given the current lower rates.

B. Avon Free Public Library-HVAC Issue

Mr. Robertson provided a brief update on the current HVAC issues at the Library as a result of the geothermal heating and air conditioning system; it has not worked correctly since installation and started to fail very quickly after completion; 8 out of 21 wells have stopped working and copper piping has corroded; we received a financial settlement of \$175,000 from all parties involved and added \$200,000 through the capital budget last year; Fuss and O'Neill identified potential solutions, we went out to bid, and selected a firm to design a new system. In response to a question from Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson responded that the geothermal system was very complex and the Avon Clean Energy Commission was pushing this as a concept. In response to a question from Mrs. Marin, Mr. Robertson responded that the back-up heating coils will work

C. Miscellaneous**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS – No other items were discussed.****IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate**

On a motion made by Katrina Marin, seconded by Cathy Durdan, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance enter into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, and Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton, Durdan, Salchert, and Marin voted in favor.

Brandon Robertson-Town Manager, Margaret Colligan-Director of Finance, and Clerk attended the session.

X. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Ken Birk, seconded by Katrina Marin, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Finance adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Messrs: Harrison, Birk, Hamilton and Mmes: Bratton, Durdan, Salchert, and Marin voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Durdan, Vice Chair/Secretary

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

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