

**TOWN OF AVON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

I. TOWN COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Heather Maguire

A Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Avon Senior Center by Chairperson Maguire. Members present: Chairperson Maguire and Messrs: Stokesbury, Pena, Speich, and Bernetich. Also in attendance: Brandon Robertson, Town Manager and Grace Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager. Chairperson Maguire led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. CITIZENS:

Mr. Stokesbury nominated Mark Zacchio to be the Moderator. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Pena.

III. MODERATOR: Mark Zacchio

Mr. Zacchio said welcome tonight. Thank you for coming out on a rainy evening for two presentations tonight on two very important projects for the Town of Avon. In accordance with the Town Charter, following introduction and discussion on the resolutions, the town meeting will adjourn to a referendum vote to be held at the Avon Senior Center on December 12, 2018 from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. For tonight's meeting, the Town Clerk will act as Clerk of the meeting, and in accordance with the Town Charter, I will ask the Clerk to read the call of the meeting. However, I may entertain a motion, and a second and a vote to waive the reading of the Town Meeting call into the minutes and to incorporate the full call text, as made available to those in attendance tonight, into the meeting minutes. If this is approved, there is no need for the Town Clerk to read the Call of the Meeting. Chairperson Maguire made a motion to waive the reading of the Call of the Town Meeting into the minutes. Mr. Stokesbury seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TOWN OF AVON
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - NOVEMBER 5, 2018
NOTICE OF REFERENDUM – DECEMBER 12, 2018**

A special town meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Avon, Connecticut, will be held at the Avon Senior Center, 635 West Avon Road in the Town of Avon, Connecticut, on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To consider and act upon a resolution,

- (a) to appropriate \$3,890,000 for costs related to the replacement of the communication system serving the Town's Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Management operations, Department of Public Works and Board of Education.

The project is contemplated to include replacement of the Town's existing conventional analog public safety radio system with a 700 MHz radio system meeting the Project 25 (P25) standard including the acquisition and installation of dispatch consoles and user devices, the installation of a new radio tower and related improvements to the existing Huckleberry Hill tower location on Kingswood Drive, site improvements to the existing tower sites on Deercliff Road and Ridgewood Road, and related work and improvements. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition and construction costs, equipment, materials, site improvements, engineering and other consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing;

(b) to authorize the issue of bonds or notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$3,890,000 to finance the appropriation for the project; to authorize the issue temporary notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$3,890,000 in anticipation of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes; to take such action to allow temporary advances of available funds which the Town reasonably expects will be reimbursed from the proceeds of borrowings; to authorize the Town Manager and the Treasurer to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes and temporary notes authorized by the resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Treasurer to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes and temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes and temporary notes;

(c) to authorize the Board of Finance to approve transfers from the Town's unappropriated General Fund Resources for the purpose of temporary cash flow needs prior to the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes, provided the transfers do not exceed eighty percent (80%) of such unappropriated balance and provided that all such transfers are repaid before the end of the fiscal year; and

(d) to authorize the Town Manager, or the Town Manager's delegee or delegees, to: (i) determine the particulars of the project, and to reduce or modify the scope of the project and expend the appropriation on the project as so reduced or modified; (ii) approve design, construction, acquisition and other expenditures for the project; (iii) contract with engineers, consultants, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the Town to complete the project; and (iv) exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project; and to authorize the Town Manager, the Treasurer, and other proper officers and officials of the Town to take any other action and execute any documents which are necessary or desirable to enable the Town to complete said project and to issue bonds or notes and temporary notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

2. To consider and act upon a resolution,

(a) to appropriate \$2,995,000 for costs related to the various improvements to athletic facilities located at Avon High School. The project is contemplated to include installation of a synthetic turf multi-purpose athletic field, an eight-lane track, and associated site improvements. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition and construction costs, equipment, materials, site improvements, engineering and other consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town anticipates applying not in excess of \$50,000 of the appropriation to reimburse the Turf Field Project capital projects account for preliminary expenditures on the project;

(b) to authorize the issue of bonds or notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$2,995,000 to finance the appropriation for the project; to authorize the issue temporary notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$2,995,000 in anticipation of such bonds or notes; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes; to take such action to allow temporary advances of available funds which the Town reasonably expects will be reimbursed from the proceeds of borrowings; to authorize the Town Manager and the Treasurer to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes and temporary notes authorized by the resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years; and to authorize the Town Manager and the Treasurer to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes and temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes and temporary notes;

(c) to authorize the Board of Finance to approve transfers from the Town's unappropriated General Fund Resources for the purpose of temporary cash flow needs prior to the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes, provided the transfers do not exceed eighty percent (80%) of such unappropriated balance and provided that all such transfers are repaid before the end of the fiscal year; and

(d) to authorize the building committee established by the Town Council from time-to-time for the project to: (i) determine the particulars of the project, and, with the approval of the Town Council, to reduce or modify the scope of the project and expend the appropriation on the project as so reduced or modified; (ii) with the approval of the Town Council, approve design, construction, acquisition and other expenditures for the project; (iii) with the approval of the Town Council, contract with engineers, consultants, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the Town to complete the project; and (iv) exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project; and to authorize the Town Manager, the Treasurer, any building committee established by the

Town Council from time-to-time for the project, and other proper officers and officials of the Town to take any other action and execute any documents which are necessary or desirable to enable the Town to complete said project and to issue bonds or notes and temporary notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

3. Pursuant to Section 10.3.2. of the Town Charter, a referendum will be held on the resolutions to be presented under items 1 and 2 of this notice on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Electors and persons qualified to vote at town meetings who are not electors will vote at the Avon Senior Center, 635 West Avon Road, Avon, Connecticut. Absentee ballots will be available at the Town Clerk's office at the Avon Town Hall, 60 West Main Street in Avon, Connecticut, beginning on the nineteenth day before the day of the referendum. Absentee ballots will be centrally counted at the Avon Senior Center. The resolutions will be placed on the ballots under the following headings, respectively:

SHALL THE TOWN OF AVON APPROPRIATE \$3,890,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE TOWN AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?"

SHALL THE TOWN OF AVON APPROPRIATE \$2,995,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE AVON HIGH SCHOOL SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD AND TRACK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?"

A vote of "YES" will be a vote for approval of a resolution, and a vote of "NO" will be a vote for disapproval the resolution.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut, this 23rd day of October, 2018.

Heather Maguire
Chairperson, Avon Town Council

Mr. Zacchio called on Town Council Chairperson Maguire to present the Resolutions for both the Town and Public Safety Communication System Replacement and AHS Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement. As previously stated, Mr. Zacchio said he would entertain a motion from Chairperson Maguire or others to waive the reading of the Resolutions into the Minutes and to incorporate the full Resolutions, as made available to those in attendance, into the Meeting Minutes. If this is approved, there will be no need for Chairperson Maguire to read the entire Resolutions. Chairperson Maguire moved to resolve that the reading of the Resolutions being presented to this Special Town Meeting as stated in the Notice be waived, and that the full text of the Resolutions, as made available to those in attendance at this meeting, be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting. Mr. Stokesbury seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Zacchio thanked Chairperson Maguire.

RESOLUTION OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**APPROPRIATING \$3,890,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE TOWN AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION**

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Avon appropriate THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,890,000) for costs related to the replacement of the communication system serving the Town's Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Management operations, Department of Public Works and Board of Education. The project is contemplated to include replacement of the Town's existing conventional analog public safety radio system with a 700 MHz radio system meeting the Project 25 (P25) standard including the acquisition and installation of dispatch consoles and user devices, the installation of a new radio tower and related improvements to the existing Huckleberry Hill tower location on Kingswood Drive, site improvements to the existing tower sites on Deercliff Road and Ridgewood Road, and related work and improvements. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition and construction costs, equipment, materials, site improvements, engineering and other consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

(b) That the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,890,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

(c) That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,890,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(d) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes and temporary notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes and temporary notes. The Treasurer shall keep a record of the bonds or notes and temporary notes. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds

or notes and temporary notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes and temporary notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes; to sell the bonds or notes and temporary notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes and temporary notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes and temporary notes.

(e) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grants) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes and temporary notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(f) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes and temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes and temporary notes.

(g) That the Board of Finance may approve transfers from the Town's unappropriated General Fund Resources for the purpose of temporary cash flow needs prior to the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes, provided the transfers do not exceed eighty percent (80%) of such unappropriated balance and provided that all such transfers are repaid before the end of the fiscal year.

(h) That the Town Manager, or the Town Manager's delegee or delegees, are authorized to: (i) determine the particulars of the project, and to reduce or modify the scope of the project and expend the appropriation on the project as so reduced or modified; (ii) approve design, construction, acquisition and other expenditures for the project; (iii) contract with engineers, consultants, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the Town to complete the project; and (iv) exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project.

(i) That the Town Manager, the Treasurer, and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take any other action and execute any documents which are necessary or desirable to enable the Town to complete said project and to issue bonds or notes to defray the aforesaid appropriation.

RESOLUTION OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

APPROPRIATING \$2,995,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE AVON HIGH SCHOOL SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD AND TRACK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Avon appropriate TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,995,000) for costs related to the various improvements to athletic facilities located at Avon High School. The project is contemplated to include installation of a synthetic turf multi-purpose athletic field, an eight-lane track, and associated site improvements. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition and construction costs, equipment, materials, site improvements, engineering and other consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town anticipates applying not in excess of \$50,000 of the appropriation to reimburse the Turf Field Project capital projects account for preliminary expenditures on the project.

(b) That the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,995,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

(c) That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,995,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

(d) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes and temporary notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes and temporary notes. The Treasurer shall keep a record of the bonds or notes and temporary notes. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes and temporary notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be

certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes and temporary notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes; to sell the bonds or notes and temporary notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes and temporary notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes and temporary notes.

(e) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grants) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes and temporary notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(f) That the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes and temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes and temporary notes.

(g) That the Board of Finance may approve transfers from the Town's unappropriated General Fund Resources for the purpose of temporary cash flow needs prior to the sale of the bonds or notes and temporary notes, provided the transfers do not exceed eighty percent (80%) of such unappropriated balance and provided that all such transfers are repaid before the end of the fiscal year.

(h) That any building committee established by the Town Council from time-to-time for the project is authorized to: (i) determine the particulars of the project, and, with the approval of the Town Council, to reduce or modify the scope of the project and expend the appropriation on the project as so reduced or modified; (ii) with the approval of the Town Council, approve design, construction, acquisition and other expenditures for the project; (iii) with the approval of the Town Council, contract with engineers, consultants, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the Town to complete the project; and (iv) exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project. Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Town Council.

(i) That the Town Manager, the Treasurer, any building committee established by the Town Council from time-to-time for the project, and other proper officers and officials of the Town are authorized to take any other action and execute any documents which are necessary or desirable to enable the Town to complete said project and to issue bonds or notes to defray the aforesaid appropriation.

Mr. Zacchio said he wanted to go over a little about what you could expect tonight. There's going to be two presentations. One will be on the Communication Replacement System. That will be completed by Chairperson Maguire as well as the Town Manager, Brandon Robertson and his staff throughout that presentation. And the second will be the Turf and Track Improvement Project, and that will be handled mostly by, I think, Chairperson Maguire. And finally, after those two have been presented by the Town, Tom Harrison, Chairman of the Board of Finance (BOF) will give a brief overview of finances, how bonding works, and what the cost is to the taxpayers. After all that is said and done, I'll ask that any Town official wishing to make a comment may do so. You guys will be able to observe that conversation. Once they have made comment and are satisfied, I'll open it up to the floor and give you all a chance. For those of you who are familiar with budget hearings, this is much like the budget hearing process we have here in this room. You all have a chance tonight to respond to what you see and politic among your friends and neighbors on whether you are for or against a project. I'll remind folks that the conversation is to the public officials, not with your neighbors or in response to what your neighbor has said. Please refrain from having conversation back and forth with members in the audience. Address your comments to the Town officials if you will. So at this point, I will call on Chairperson Maguire to start the presentation on the Town and Public Safety Communication System Replacement Project.

Chairperson Maguire said good evening. Thank you Mr. Zacchio. There are two projects that we would like to talk to you about tonight. We will be providing an overview of the purpose and need for each, and go on to discuss the anticipated financial impact. We held a public information hearing regarding these projects on October 4th, and a town wide mailer was sent out in October. Now just in case you were wondering, normally in presentations such as this, we would provide handouts on the presentation. However, due to the State statutes regarding advocacy, we cannot have copies at this meeting. If you would like a copy of tonight's presentation, you may contact the Town Manager's Office, and an electronic copy will be sent to you. So the first project that we are going to discuss tonight is the Town and Public Safety Communication System Replacement Project. I would like to introduce our Town Manager, Brandon Robertson, to review the details of this project.

The Town Manager thanked Chairperson Maguire and said thank you to everyone for coming out tonight. I'm going to talk with you for a couple of minutes about the Town and Public Safety Communication System Replacement Project. I do want to recognize Grace Tiezzi, my very able Assistant in the Town Manager's Office who is going to be doing the driving tonight. First up, this project has been developing for a couple of years, and there are a number of staff and volunteers that I'd like to recognize for all of the work that they

have put into this process. There were a number of Town departments, Board of Education (BOE) and outside volunteers who helped us get to where we are. There are a few standouts. First, I'd like to recognize Chief Rinaldo and Lieutenant Walsh with the Police Department. The Police Department really took the lead on this project, and they both put a lot of time into it. I'd also like to thank Tom Kline. I don't want to embarrass Tom, but Tom is a volunteer with the Avon Volunteer Fire Department and brought a wealth of expertise to this project. He donated countless hours all as a volunteer, and I think the project greatly benefitted from his involvement. So thank you. If we go to the next slide, you'll see this is the question that you are actually going to vote on on December 12th. And quite simply, it is:

SHALL THE TOWN OF AVON APPROPRIATE \$3,890,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE TOWN AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?

I'll explain this a little more during the project presentation, but the total project cost, as you probably saw in the town wide mailer, is \$4,110,000. But we are funding some of these costs through existing capital appropriation. So costs, professional services, like legal, engineering, those are not part of the bonding authorization. Those will be paid for in cash. So this is the amount that you'll be acting on at referendum. Going to the next slide, this is intended to be a very brief overview of the Town's existing system. I'm not going to go into a lot of detail about this. If there is anybody who really has an interest on the technical aspects, I'd be happy to talk with you online or take your questions. But I think for our purposes for this presentation, you should know that it is an old system. Various parts are older than others, but I can say with certainty that it hasn't received an upgrade in about 20 years. It's a UHF system. Which is an Ultra High Frequency system. And the Town doesn't have the expertise in-house to maintain and service the system. Since about 2000, we have been working with an outside party, 3rd party vendor to do this for us. So on the next slide, I'd like to tell you a little bit about why we are here, and what we need for this project. And it is really pretty straight forward when boiled down to its simplest elements. In about 2016, our outside consultant came to us and said, the existing system would require significant investment over the next couple of years to keep it functioning. This investment, we didn't know exactly how much it would be, but the thinking was that we'd have to first replace all the UHF equipment which would cost roughly \$600,000. Again, that was just to maintain the existing system. The consultant also told us the replacement parts would become harder and harder to find. As all of us have found with the technology in our own homes and offices, there seems to be a certain amount of obsolescence that is built into the gadgets. We've certainly found that to be the case in this instance. Along with the significant capital improvement, along with the increasingly difficult task of finding replacement parts, we also have various shortcomings from an operational perspective. These include issues of coverage and functionality. Both of these I'm going to spend some more time talking about as we go through this. So this is the advice we had from the outside 3rd party. Going into this, it is one of the most important things the Town of Avon does for its residents – public safety. The cost implications could be significant. So the Chief and I had conversations about the best way to go forward would be to have a (inaudible). I can't

overestimate how important this type of system is for the community, and how many departments have a role in the proper functioning and benefit from the proper functioning of the system. A lot of it is behind the scenes, but it touches every Town department and first responders. Just the short list: the BOE, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department, the Police Department, our outside ambulance provider, the Department of Public Works, our Emergency Management function and general administrative functions. Because each of those departments have a stake in the project, and views the project in a slightly different way, we thought it would be good to get everybody together and talk about next steps. We did that, and the result was that we developed a request for proposals, with a very specific scope, to find an outside, disinterested, objective party that could look at our existing system and do two things: number one, give us advice, in terms of the ongoing (inaudible) system, in other words, is it as bad as we're told it is, and if indeed it is as bad as we're told it is, give us some ideas of how to move forward. So that we did. And we contracted with an outside 3rd party called Federal Engineering to complete that study for us. It is important to note, and I want to emphasize that this was indeed an objective 3rd party. The consultant had no connection with vendors like Motorola or any other vender in the industry. The specifications in the contract were written in such a way that they would only (inaudible) to the Town of Avon for the best professional advice. We had the problem identified, and going to the next slide, I'd like to tell you a little bit about what we considered and did not decide to pursue and ultimately what we did decide to pursue. Various options included not doing anything. Another option was to go with a regional approach to public safety, dispatching. We talked about piggy backing on the State of Connecticut's core. And we also looked at just using a basic cell phone network. We all rely on cell phones for business and personal use and knew the question would come up, and we wanted to make sure we had answers for why that wasn't going to be the correct solution for what we needed. So after we vetted out all of those options, what we finally determined the best solution would be was something called a P25 communication system. And it's not useful or helpful for me to throw a bunch of jargon at you. So I won't. But the system is referred to as P25. It is a digital system that is supported by the Department of Homeland Security. And it really seems to be, based on our research, the type of system that towns like ours that are in the market for new communication platforms are going to. There are a couple of really good examples locally that have already switched to these systems. One is Wethersfield. However, Windsor is also in the process of going through their appropriations process. And I don't want to belabor the point, but I do want to tell you that Windsor had a different consultant than the Town of Avon, and they ended up recommending the same system as Avon's consultant recommended for us. So I felt really good about that, and I felt there was sort of (inaudible) out there that I could use to verify the information that we were given. By the way, Windsor's project is on their ballot for tomorrow. So that is just some background about the project, the existing system, why we are talking about this tonight. I think this is really important to all of you, and what is important to Town Council and Town Staff, is for you all to understand how you benefit from the Town having an updated, modern communication system. Really it's very simple. The system allows first responders primarily that are out in the field to communicate back to dispatch and to communicate with each other. And if they can't do that, they certainly can't help you. And it puts their lives in danger. And later on tonight we're going to have a couple of audio files that the Chief is going to play for you and talk you through where you can actually hear examples

where officers are in the field and they can't communicate back to dispatch. Again, happy to go into this in more detail but just a couple of high level parities where this is going to be a benefit. It's going to significantly improve coverage throughout Town. There is a designation in the business called delivered audio quality, and I'm not going to throw a lot of statistics at you, and I promise not to use a lot of acronyms. But our delivered audio quality now is about 74% for in-building coverage. Now what that means in short then, is if you are inside of a building, a house, a school, etc., about 74% of the time a first responder can communicate easily inside and outside of that building with rare requirement for repetition. About 14% of the time, same setting, significant repetition is required. That's the back and forth, can't hear you, repeat, back and forth several times. And 9% of the time, the system doesn't work at all. So again, just about 75% you're pretty good, 15% it's iffy, and about 10% of the time it just doesn't work. The on street coverage outside the building is a little bit better. But clearly, I think the in-building coverage tells an important story. I'm going to tell you how this new system is going to fix that. That's the coverage. In terms of interoperability, the existing system is really quirky. As an example, right now, the Fire Department and the Police Department can't communicate directly on the radios. They can only communicate on their own channels. So they can talk as a group. So what happens is, when the Police Department wants to talk to somebody in the Fire Department, either they have to pick up their cell phone or they have to call dispatch and dispatch has to relay the message, which is terribly inefficient, number one. And number two, it ties up the dispatcher from taking phone calls from other emergencies that might be coming in. Another area where this is going to be tremendously helpful and probably from a public safety perspective, we have mutual need among our surrounding communities. The system is backward (inaudible), which means, in shorthand, it will allow us to communicate with our neighboring towns in a more effective and efficient manner. It's going to be a lot easier to use for our first responders. And I can give you an example. Right now, if you are a police officer and you are driving around, you need to know where you are and where the closest tower is. And you need to be manually switching channels on your radio to bounce off the nearest tower. We've got some audio clips that illustrate this tonight. But if you are in some kind of a pursuit, and you have to constantly be fiddling with your dial, it's not optimal. So what I'd like to do is have Chief Rinaldo and Lieutenant Walsh come up, and we have a couple of these clips we'd like to play to emphasize the point.

Chief Rinaldo said thank you Mr. Robertson. That was an excellent presentation on the problems we have. What I can say and what I will emphasize to you tonight is that we are in a critical phase with the existing system. We need to replace it, and we need to replace it as soon as possible. Hopefully December 12th will go very well. I would ask Lieutenant Walsh to read three descriptions for you. It's better than having me talk about our problems, and we can demonstrate some of the things that happen when we are on the road trying to protect and save lives.

Lieutenant Walsh said good evening. The first one I am going to read is a call from Farmington Woods. Officers were dispatched to Farmington Woods complex on a threatening complaint. Upon their arrival, it was discovered that a resident of the complex had sent a video of himself holding what appeared to be a hand gun and saying he would defend himself if approached. As this information was relayed an Avon Police Department

(APD) Sergeant located the suspect near his residence and drew his own hand gun for safety. The Sergeant attempted to contact APD dispatch and more officers at the scene by his radio several times, but no transmissions came through. The Sergeant had to resort to using his cell phone while holding his hand gun to relay the information. Chief Rinaldo then demonstrated what happened at the scene using a fake handgun as a prop. Call #1 was played for the audience. Chief Rinaldo said that is the Sergeant on scene, but you can't hear what he is saying. He is trying to give us information and tell us what's going on and none of the other officers can hear it. Officer Eric Lindell is going to demonstrate the actual tactical disadvantage he was at while on scene trying to hold an individual at gunpoint who allegedly had a gun and was going to shoot anyone who came into the house. Officer Lindell said 210 was the Sergeant on scene, he comes around the corner, sees the party that we are looking for, draws his firearm, and starts giving him verbal commands. Then what he does is attempt to radio dispatch with his lapel mic, which is right up here, and the reason that we carry this is, is it allows us to maintain visual contact with who we are talking to and all we have to do is press the button and talk into it. So he is attempting to call dispatch, and you can hear dispatch say "you are unreadable, do you need another unit," but none of the information that he was putting out in the air was going over. So what the Sergeant had to do was, go from here, find where he was keeping his cell phone, finds it on the other side of his body, the same side that his handgun is, his dominant side, because most people will put their cell phones on their dominant side since that is where they will pull it out, so then he has to switch hands, find his cell phone, take his eyes off the suspect, put in his passcode, and then find the app for calling, we generally text these days, find 911, all while he is trying to keep focused on a suspect, who may or may not have a gun, watch that suspect's hands, any movements the suspect is doing that may be dangerous to himself. So again, it starts with him coming around the corner, he sees the suspect, he starts giving him verbal commands, gets out the radio and nothing happens. So now he has to go to his tertiary form of communication, which is his cell phone, finds it, has to switch hands, go to his cell phone, take his eyes off the suspect and he switches again, and how do I hold the cell phone up and talk when I am trying to do other things with the suspect. So that is actually what he had to do when dealing with someone who possibly had a weapon and was heard saying I'm going to defend myself, etc.

Lieutenant Walsh read call #2. APD was notified by Farmington Police Department that an armed robbery had just occurred at a gas station in their town. The suspect's vehicle description was given, and responding officers were informed that the suspect was in possession of a hand gun. The vehicle was located by a lone APD officer who attempted to stop it. The vehicle refused to stop and pursuit ensued. Radio communication was lost between the pursuing officer and dispatch responding to units. It was unknown where the pursuit was headed.

Call #2 was played for the audience. Chief Rinaldo said in that situation we were in pursuit of an armed robbery suspect out of Farmington, as Lieutenant Walsh has just explained, but the critical piece there, is that the officer was heading over the Bloomfield Mountain and lost communication with our dispatch center. So as he is chasing this felon, a dangerous felon, through this community, we don't have any way to communicate back to our PD, nor do we have a way to communicate with a neighboring town. The system that we are

advocating here will give us that ability to communicate seamlessly. We'll be able to switch right over and talk to Bloomfield PD, as the case may be, and that vehicle, if you are interested, he did get away into Hartford, and I believe Farmington did make an arrest. But again, we had a solo officer chasing this car. And the other thing I wanted to explain to you is these cases we are talking about today involve police officers, but the other calls we have are medical calls. And those are extremely critical. We go to homes where people are having a heart attack or perhaps some other medical need. And we can't communicate back to our dispatch unit the nature of the type of call that we have. So it is a variety of things, it is officer safety, but it is also the safety of our residents. So again, I can't express enough that this is a critical need that we have and it is an immediate need. So thank you and I will turn it back over to Mr. Robertson. The Town Manager said thank you very much Chief Rinaldo and Lieutenant Walsh. I can't sum it up any better than the Chief did. It is a critical need. It has been a long process and we are very confident that we have the right system and that we have the right number. And as I said, I can't say it any better than the Chief did. It is of critical importance, not only so that we can provide a safe environment for our first responders and to allow departments to effectively and efficiently communicate with one another, but also, and most importantly, to provide the best service to the residents. So I think we are going to go on to the next presentation. If there is Q & A after Chairperson Maguire's presentation, I'm happy to speak further on the radios.

Chairperson Maguire said thank you for the presentations. I think we can all see how important the system is for our community. Next we are going to talk about the Synthetic Turf and Track Improvement Project at Avon High School. By way of back ground, this project has a very long history and has gone through a significant review process. I would like to recognize the Board of Education (BOE) and their staff as an important partner in this process. I would also like to thank the volunteer committee that spent a significant amount of time reviewing the project. The committee was chaired by Peter Ponziani and we are very grateful for his time. We are proud to present it to you now. This will be the referendum question: Shall the Town of Avon appropriate \$2,995,000 for the costs related to the Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project, and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance the appropriation? There are a combination of issues driving the need for this project. There's clearly a reason why most communities in our athletic conference, the Central Connecticut Conference, and across the state have these types of fields. I would also like to point out that this will be a community facility. It will be available to the public and the Town's Recreation Department. Specific to Avon, the BOE has advised that the existing facilities will require extensive renovation and replacement due to normal wear and tear. This project, including the complete renovation of the track, is anticipated to cost approximately \$450,000 and will need to be done in the very near future if the synthetic turf project is not approved. It is important to recognize that this expenditure simply replaces what is already onsite, and this facility only meets the minimum requirements of the school's program. These facilities allow for increased play ability, regardless of weather. As of mid-October, 10 events have been cancelled or rescheduled at the High School due to field conditions. It is likely that these events could have been held if a synthetic playing field was used. Third, these types of facilities require less maintenance and they can be used more often regardless of weather conditions, and they are not subject to the wear and tear of natural grass. There are short

and long term cost considerations to keep in mind. It is estimated that in the short term, maintenance and transportation costs will decrease as follows:

1. Maintenance - synthetic fields do not require mowing and lining, and importantly, they do not require chemicals to prevent weeds and pests. Naturally, they require less water than grass. BOE staff estimates it would cost about \$3,000 less per year to maintain a synthetic turf field. Keep in mind that there is a significant opportunity cost savings, as well, as staff could be engaged in other activities.
2. Transportation – the installation of synthetic turf results in the avoidance of transportation problems. Again, BOE staff estimates that we can avoid transportation costs of about \$5,000 annually.

There are long term costs associated with both synthetic turf and natural grass. Our consultant estimates that the turf carpet must be replaced at the end of 15 years use, and it is estimated to cost \$450,000. The Town is expected to get about two life cycles, about 30 years of use out of the infill materials. Keep in mind that even the natural grass surface requires significant ongoing upkeep and periodic renovation all at a cost. For the next few slides, I'm going to give you a high level overview of the project. I want to recognize that the BSC Group has served as the project architects since the initial planning stage. Jesse Harris is here with us tonight. This is an overview of what the existing track and field look like. This is the recommended layout of the facility that includes an 8 lane, instead of a 6 lane track, and the size of the field will increase by 15 feet, which will make it the preferred width for soccer and women's lacrosse. The project does not include lighting, but does include a conduit for potential future installation. Some more detail about the project. The field will be striped for 5 sports: football, field hockey, lacrosse (both boys and girls), and soccer. The appropriation includes the necessary maintenance equipment and a prefabricated storage shed. The base project cost is estimated at \$2,687,000. There are two features to this project that I would like to discuss in more detail. First, as mentioned, the project would also include an 8 lane running track. The materials were recommended by the project architect and subcommittee, a cross section is included on the slide. Both the subcommittee and the Town Council have done an extensive review of the infill that could be used for this project. In the course of this due diligence, staff spoke with in excess of 20 owners of these types of facilities. As a result, acrylic coated sand was ultimately selected as an appropriate material. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,995,000. It includes a contingency of 10% for unforeseen issues with construction. It also includes \$330,000 specifically for infill. To send this project to referendum by the end of the calendar year, and in order to keep us on track for spring 2019 ground breaking, Town Council needed to determine a bottom line appropriation for this project in September. However, the infill had not been determined at that time. An infill contingency for \$330,000 is included in the bottom line to ensure that any infill product selected will be within the appropriated amount. It was understood that many products would be far less than this contingency, but \$330,000 was included so that the Council would not be limited in its decision. Since that time, the infill material has been selected. And based on the marketing pricing, it is highly likely that the majority of the contingency will not likely have to be used. However, the appropriation amount cannot be adjusted at this time. The Board of Finance (BOF) Chairman, Mr. Tom Harrison, will spend more time discussing the financial implications of these projects. The Town of Avon is in a very favorable position, with all outstanding debt to be retired in December, 2028. Assuming these projects are approved, the Town will

prudently manage their impact on the capital and debt service budgets. These are the next steps in the process. Most importantly, please vote on December 12th. Absentee ballots will be available in the Town Clerk's Office. And assuming all goes as planned, we anticipate completion of the communication system project in spring of 2020, and the turf field in September, 2019. At this point I would like to turn the mic over to Tom Harrison, of the BOF, to talk about the impact of the appropriations.

Mr. Harrison thanked Chairperson Maguire, Mr. Robertson, Chief Rinaldo and Lieutenant Walsh. We've heard a wonderful description of two very solid projects that will make Avon a much better place to live. But what you all want to hear tonight is what is this going to cost me? So I'm going to talk about the fiscal impact. Those of you who are in my general age bracket might remember an Olivia Newton-John song from the 1970's. Let's Get Physical. Well tonight it is going to get changed to Let's Get Fiscal. (Audience laughter) Sorry, I couldn't resist. Do you know how long I've been waiting to use that? The fiscal impact is certainly a reason that everyone is in this room tonight. How much is it going to increase my taxes? How do we manage the debt? All that sort of stuff. The quick answer is yes. We can afford it, and we can manage the debt. I'm holding a coin here. And think of the two sides of this coin. One side will be the side affecting the Town of Avon, a municipal corporation, a legal entity. The Town, in that capacity, will incur some costs. The other side of the coin is what will be the impact to you and me and everyone else in this room and our fellow residents. How will this affect us through our property taxes? So let's look at each question separately. First, concerning the Town as an institution, a legal entity. Can we afford it as a town? Yes. The reasons being the way, and I am complimenting the Town Council, and all the Boards, we run an excellent, very tight ship, financially, in terms of managing our debt. We don't take on debt willy nilly, we pay off, basically, ahead of schedule. We have an AAA credit rating, which benefits us when we go to market. We pay off our debts, no muss, no fuss. We typically pay them off a little sooner than the schedule otherwise calls for. So based on our record of debt management and debt control, I have absolutely no qualms in saying from that perspective we will do very well. The credit rating will get us the lowest possible rates when we go out to market. I can't predict right now what those rates will be at that time, as they are going up a little bit, but we will get a very favorable interest rate if these projects are approved. And I can say in all confidence that if both projects are approved, or if it is one or the other, the debt service will be manageable and affordable to the Town. Now that's fine. But more of us are interested in what will it cost me? So let's look a little at that side of the coin. How will it affect the individuals? Debt service is basically a line item in the annual budget. That's the one we vote on every May, the one with operating expenses, capital expenses, what have you. And there is a debt service line. Debt service is roughly, in the current fiscal year, about \$2.8 million. Debt will rapidly reduce itself by 2027 or 2028. We will have paid off all existing debt separate and apart from this. So we are doing a good job on that. We can absorb, as a Town, in the debt service budget, we will be able to handle this. But what about that other side of the coin? For me. There will be a tax increase. But it will be a jump, singly or collectively. In the handout tonight, there are a couple of pages that show charts, typical for sets of values. There is also a nice section where you can just multiply your individual assessed value, so you will be able to figure out what this will cost you per year. For either project separately, or the two projects combined. So you will be able to figure

that out very quickly. However, there is always a “but” to these things. And this is where I mentioned a couple of storm clouds. Nothing serious, nothing that should cause panic. But you’re aware that the property tax that we’ll all pay, the mill rate and all that, relates to the grand list. The grand list is the total value of all property in Avon, developed, undeveloped. There are some exceptions, church properties, for example. But the net grand list, by State law, has to be evaluated every 5 years. This process is going on this past summer. The Assessor estimates that our grand list has declined by 2% from what it has been. The new assessments, and this is why you may not want to rush to apply those formulas from the handout, are being mailed out on Friday, I believe it is. So by the weekend, or early next week, you will have your new assessment. Many will have stayed the same, and some will have gone down because the overall grand list has declined. And you can run those numbers on the new grand list, the new assessment, and you can very quickly figure out what it will cost for the turf field, the communication system and combined. So whichever way you vote, and naturally we are hoping and recommending that you vote for both projects, because it will make us a better Town. Either way you can figure out your costs. Now we have had a decline in the grand list. The estimates are, I have the number written down, the grand list has declined by about \$1.6 million. So what that means in English is if our current grand list and the current mill rates raise “x” amount, the new grand list will raise \$1.6 million less. Now if everything else stays the same, all our other revenue streams stay the same, all of our expenditures, other than these new bond issue costs, they stay the same. And I’ll warn you, they never do. But if everything stays the same, and we had to make up that \$1.6 million shortfall, that would require a mill rate increase of just a tad over 2%, 2.04%. Now we also have tentatively, not yet officially filed or anything, the BOE and teachers’ union have negotiated a contract that will also increase BOE employment costs. The estimates that we have, and this has not been officially filed or anything yet, but if the contract, as negotiated stays the same without changes, that also to require (inaudible) for these increased salaries, that would jump the mill rate from the 2.04% increase because of the decrease in the grand list, to about 2.93%. So it would have to increase the mill rate. Many of you would be paying that mill rate on lower assessed values. So some offset there. But nonetheless, these will be an increase to the mill rate and that’s before anything else comes into play. So what’s the “anything else”? Why did I say that never happens? Because it never happens. Two things. Every other revenue stream that we have – from dog licenses, parks and recreation, landfill – if all those revenues and charges stay the same, we won’t have to do any adjusting. But if other things go up, if labor costs go up, we don’t really know how that will work out. So there is going to be a tax impact for this Town as an institution. It will not be significant. But for you and me and the other people here, we’ll probably have to pay a little bit more in taxes but not very much. The numbers on my property came out to about \$34 more per month if both of these are approved. I’m not really looking here at huge chunks of cash that we’ll have to pay out. But there will be a little bit more in the tax bill. The benefit of spending this money, of course, is to get two very well thought out, well planned, absolutely necessary projects which will make our Town a better place. So there will be a question period, and I’m happy to answer any questions. Use those charts and numbers to figure out that the cost to you will not be enormous. It will be manageable for just about all of us if you look at the benefit of those projects. I will get off this stage now. Thank you very much for your attention, and I’m happy to answer any questions. Chairperson Maguire said just to clarify the expense you

mentioned was per year? Mr. Harrison said yes, per year. Chairperson Maguire thanked Mr. Harrison.

Chairperson Maguire said so tonight you have heard about two projects that have been in the works for many years - the communication system for roughly 3 years and the synthetic turf field for roughly 11 years. Tremendous time and effort have gone into getting these projects to the community. The communication system comes down to the safety of our community. As elected officials, one of our biggest concerns is keeping the citizens of Avon safe, as well as our police, fire and first responders. This system will ensure consistent communication on routine matters and emergencies. I recognize that there are many of you in the room that support the synthetic turf field and track project, and many who do not. Many may think, why do we need this? How can we support it with increasing budgets? Why this now? I hear you. I hear you loud and clear. Really, I do. But here's why we need this. We are one of the only communities in the area that does not have a turf field. Not that we need to keep up with the Joneses but our athletes are at a distinct disadvantage not having a turf field to practice and play on. Much like technology, the standards have changed. Who would have thought, when I was growing up, that I would have a phone in my pocket that I could take pictures with and check an email. Who even heard of it? Much of the same with turf fields. It seemed like only professional athletes used AstroTurf. Who would have thought that schools would need synthetic turf fields? Consider time. Time is money. Staff and students travel to practice on other turf fields because our fields are in disrepair due to years of wear and tear on natural grass, the fields cannot be maintained in optimal condition. The track is crumbling and needs to be replaced. All of this will have to be corrected, whether or not the referendum passes. And we still will not have a field that meets the needs of our community. Avon would best be served to have one field that they can rely on in inclement weather that will hold up to multiple use. The Town Council will work tirelessly with the Town staff to minimize the impact of the increased debt on our budget. As Mr. Harrison has pointed out in his remarks tonight, the Town is in a favorable position to take on these projects. The opportunity that a turf field presents is not just for AHS students, but for the community. Youth lacrosse and youth soccer have access to this field on evenings and weekends. The track can be host for invitational meets, as well as a safe place for a walk or run. This is a community project. One that we should all be proud of. I highly encourage and ask for your support on these two very important projects. At this point, I'd like to turn the mic back over to our moderator, Mr. Zacchio.

Mr. Zacchio said thank you for the very informative presentations. I'll ask at this point if there is any other Town Official who would like to make any comment tonight before we turn the opportunity to comment over to the audience.

Jason Indomenico – 24 West Ridge Drive – Good evening folks, my name is Jason Indomenico and I am a member of the BOE. Chairperson Debra Chute could not be here tonight, but she asked me to make a few brief comments here on behalf of the turf field project. I think it is hopefully apparent to everyone in the room, but just so that it is clear, the BOE, obviously, is in support of this project. I'm not going to go through all of the reasons why we think it is necessary, some of you may have questions that hopefully we can answer tonight. Chairperson Maguire did an excellent job outlining the reasons that

this is a necessary project for our community. The project has the full support of the BOE, and again to keep it brief, I think the one thing that really resonated with me tonight listening to Mr. Harrison and Town Council is that I think all of our elected officials in Avon are taking very seriously the need to invest in our community – the communication project, the turf field, really the bottom line is that these are investments we can make to make our community better. So I encourage everyone to go out there and vote in favor of these two projects. Thank you.

Mr. Zacchio then opened up the comments to the audience. He asked that individuals wishing to speak come to the podium where there is a microphone ready for you so everyone can hear. I'll just ask that you state your name and address for the record before speaking and who would like to go first? Somebody wants to break the ice.

William Neff – 454 Country Club Road – I was going to make some lengthy comments about the field. I am not as gung ho about it as some others are. I played football many years ago in Cheshire and my son, Bill, played football and ran track in Avon. So I understand that that is a vital part. But what I'm really concerned about after hearing this final presentation is this, and I haven't heard it mentioned as part of the planning and plans that are in force. Tomorrow we are going to have a new Governor. It may be Lamont and it may be Stefanowski but popular belief is that the only way out of the State problems, and we are living in a State that is kind of teetering on the edge when it comes to obligations. Part of the comments are that our state income tax will have to go up. We can't find many ways to solve the problems of long term responsibilities. So timing in life is everything. The timing of this whole project stinks, because we don't know what is going to happen to the State's fiscal planning, and we don't know how it's going to impact Avon. What kind of monies we aren't going to get or will get from the State of Connecticut for Avon. So to put this plan in place is going to be very hypothetical until the State gets its act together. And we have been having some major problems; they are all talking about the legislature is going to do this, the Governor is going to do that. But I think no matter what happens, things are going to happen over the next 10 years, or the State is going to be in a dire situation. And maybe we table this at least for a year, so that whatever administration is going to be elected, there is some kind of a fiscal plan including Avon, Connecticut as to how we are going to fit into their big financial picture. Mr. Zacchio said thank you and asked if any Town Official wished to comment. Chairperson Maguire said thank you for your comment, and I know it is a concern. I think Avon has positioned itself pretty well, to always look at what the State is giving us. And we are always very cautious not to over expect much. And this is something that is a good concern, and fortunately hopefully we will know by tomorrow. This vote isn't until December 12th, but as Mr. Harrison said, we have the capacity to do these projects and the projects won't get any smaller, the cost of them. So at some point we have to find out what the community wants and move ahead. These have been in the works for a long time, so we really can't push it off. But I thank you for your comments. Anybody else?

Brian Mirizzi – 88 Beverly Drive – Thank you guys for all of your hard work on the communication project. It's pretty scary. First responders need good communication and it's important and it's part of my job, as well. The only question I have is that, and Mr.

Robertson touched upon it, is a State police system, which a lot of municipalities have gone on, such as Stamford and Cromwell is looking to do it. Old Saybrook, Groton and Torrington in addition. There's no maintenance cost to that system. And interoperability and mutual aid – it's pretty much in every single dispatch center in the state. It just works that way. I was just curious why that wasn't a good option for us. Obviously, \$35 per year isn't a lot of money when you get a turf field and communication system. I'm just curious why the State system wasn't an option. Thank you. Mr. Robertson said thank you, and that is an excellent question and without belaboring the point, as I was going through the presentation I mentioned all the alternatives that we talked about, and I think what you are referring to is kind of piggybacking on the State's core. This is coming from somebody who sits as a gubernatorial appointee on the E911 Commission, so we work with Bill Youell and all those folks. And as we talked about it with our local PD, AVFD, we just didn't think it was wise to throw our lot in with the State of Connecticut. And the initial savings on a \$4.1 million project was estimated to be about \$500,000, and we thought for the \$500,000, we would rather retain control, have the core located in the Town of Avon, and then look to our surrounding communities to connect to our core. And we become the regional hub. And I can tell you that the Town of Simsbury has recently retained the third party consultant that we used. They are going to be going through the same process in terms of assessing their system, and I can tell you I have already put out the red carpet to talk with them and to say, assuming our project is approved, we are hoping you are our first customer.

Brian Deslauriers – 53 Parkview Drive – I'm a new member to this Town. I just moved here 2 ½ years ago, and in regards to the digital system, P25, how does it work? By cell towers or internet? Mr. Robertson said we will have Tom Kline from the Fire Department jump in there. Mr. Kline said he is a volunteer with the AVFD for a number of years. To answer your question, P25 is the standard. So on your cell phone, on the corner, you see LTE or 4G. That is the standard that your phone is using to communicate with the tower. So P25 is the same thing. It defines the standard, the brand, per se. So the digital system requires we have our own dedicated towers. Right now on our analog system there's three towers, right across Town. That's necessary because of the topography of the town. We have the three grid lines, Deercliff Road, one that runs here, Stagecoach center of town, and Huckleberry Hill. To cover that terrain, right now, the three towers don't give us the coverage that we need. We have numerous dead spots, as the Town Manager mentioned. The new system would go onto two towers on the ends of the Town. One on Deercliff Road, WFSB, and one on Huckleberry Hill Road, where there is an existing tower now. The proposed project would provide better coverage using the two towers, as opposed to the three. Mr. Deslauriers said you answered my question regarding the importance, but I currently live in a dead zone. Are we planning on adding additional towers to make up for the dead zone in the areas that could use the towers? Mr. Kline responded we are independent of the cell phone system. We are on our own towers, and I forget the exact coverage – 95% coverage. Mr. Robertson said the coverage, you heard me talk earlier about the 74%, the 14%, the 9%, what we did was in the specification that went out to the bidders, ultimately Motorola was awarded the contract, we said 95% in building coverage, and 97% on street coverage. So those other percentages go up to 95% and 97%. Mr. Deslauriers asked where we are picking up the other 5% and 3%. I'm only asking this because I feel,

especially in this day and age, we should be at 100% because who knows if you are at a house that happens to be near a dead zone and someone is having a heart attack, as in the example you guys provided, you guys need to communicate with dispatch. How are we going to pick up the other 5% and 3% for people that have to be in the dead zone? Mr. Kline said the proposal includes improvements to both tower sites, including raising the height on the one on Huckleberry Hill. So that will raise the tower higher to give us better coverage down the line on the New Road site. Mr. Deslauriers said so we are not really sure what our coverage is? Chief Rinaldo said in answer to your question, we had our consultants look into it. You can't get 100% coverage through a radio system, and 95% is the industry standard. You will most probably be covered. If not, we are going to go back to the Motorola dealer and ask them to improve coverage. So that 95% threshold is me talking to you right now, and that will be pretty much all of Town. I can't guarantee if you are down at the river on New Road, we may not pick up somebody down there, but pretty much most of the houses (inaudible) in coverage. I think we will be able to deliver that to you. Mr. Deslauriers said and if we had to do something to the towers, that's not included in the current estimate, correct? I mean, I'm all for this system, I think you guys definitely need it, I just want to be sure that we are covering all grounds, that's all. Chief Rinaldo said these are all very good questions. And what we are doing is holding Motorola, if the referendum goes through, and we sign a contract, we are holding them to a 95% coverage. So let's say that we have to add another tower, Motorola has already answered the RFP, and they gave us a proposal and said we could do this with two towers. If they can't do it with two towers, then they will have to put up a third tower. Or make improvements so we get the 95%, 97% coverage. That's a real good number. 100%. You're just not going to get it, is what I'm told by the industry experts. But the 95%, the P25 is standard throughout the country. Mr. Deslauriers said now if these other people come onto our system, are we charging them a rate, so that we would have some revenue coming in for them? Because we are going to have increased maintenance costs, all that stuff if we are adding to it. Mr. Robertson said this is down the road, but yes. If we have, whether it is Canton or Simsbury coming online, those are all inter-municipal agreements that we would work out at that time. But yes, it would serve as a revenue stream back to Avon to offset our cost. Mr. Deslauriers said as far as the track project, now I came from Southwick, MA, right over the border, we actually just did this not too long ago. My biggest concern with it is that we ended up losing our bleachers. Now I've seen your tracks, I've run on them with my wife, and if we expand the track to add an additional two lanes – your bleachers are already right up near the track, if you try to expand toward the hill, what's the plan for that? Mr. Robertson said, Mr. Filon, I don't know if you want to jump into that, or Mr. Harris, just in terms of a brief overview of the site plan. Mr. Filon, why don't you jump in? Mr. Filon introduced himself and said he is the Athletic Director. He said you are talking about the baseball (inaudible) and Mr. Deslauriers said the track right near the street. Mr. Filon said no it's not going to be right near the street, according to Mr. Harris. It is going to be moved a little bit, but it's not going to impact bleachers on either side. We're still going to have the bleachers on either side, there is still plenty of room there, and those bleachers that are there right now are going to remain intact. Mr. Deslauriers said I just wanted to be sure because I am going to be having kids go through the system and -- Mr. Filon said everything that is there now on the main road is staying, as far as bleachers, there's no reduction and on the other side, there will still be a (inaudible) so we can put what we have there now, so

there's not going to be an impact on the bleachers. Mr. Deslauriers said in regards to the (inaudible), my wife was born and raised in this Town, went through the school system, and she is aware of some of the updates that went through, with the High School, just like every town, the high school gets all the attention, elementary and middle school, I was just wondering why we are focusing on the track instead of putting resources towards other things like textbooks, smart boards, anything to help these kids get a better education. Because sports really only concentrates on a small portion of students that are going through the system. I just heard that last year we did a lot of layoffs, actually over the last couple of years, I was just wondering why we are putting money towards a track instead of trying to better the education of kids and provide them with resources. Mr. Filon said I can't speak about past budgets, and layoffs and things of that nature, but this is a project I can tell you, I was here coaching track when the original track was put in, and we have patched it to the point that we can't patch it anymore. To be competitive, we do need to redo it. If we do, we put in the 8 lanes so that we can actually compete at a higher level. And the space for our throwing areas is depleted to the point that we have to move our throwing areas to another space because you're throwing in the grass, you're throwing a javelin in the field. (inaudible) we have one for boys, you're talking about 4 events that takes (inaudible) two, so you can run boys and girls at the same time that includes the pole vault, the jumping areas. I think our Board and staff do a great job doing what needs to be (inaudible). Yearly, we look at what we absolutely need to run our programs. Ever since I've been here, I've gone with a necessity-based view, and when we look at facilities, which is big picture based, we try to maintain, the best we can, within reasonable cost, but at some point, you look at grass nowadays, the cost is a lot if you have to redo fields. It's expensive, and as anyone can tell you, the football field itself, the field hockey fields, they are nice complexes, but they have seen their day. We've probably done repairs, and I have been here 22 years, the football fields, those are not in great shape. We are barely getting by, knowing these projects have been in the talks for years, doing what we could do to make them playable. It's come to a point now where if this does not come through, we are going to have to replace the track as-is, which is replacing what is there, not improving the local fields. So I think our Superintendent, our Board, our administrators do the best job they can putting forward our budget to make sure we are hitting the areas we need to, academically, athletically, and I don't think we are shortchanging anything at the elementary and middle schools. We look at the big picture of everything and obviously, we prioritize where we need to and this is obviously something that has been in the works for a while. So academically, I don't think we ever look to say we put textbooks behind the fields. The principals do their job with prioritizing what needs to go forward. Our Superintendent will speak to that a little more. We're not just putting this out there and telling everything else to take a back seat. Mr. Deslauriers said I am from Southwick, MA. I ran track there on rocks and stones. Mr. Filon said a cinder track? Mr. Deslauriers said yes and that is what we had, gravel. And when they finally did the project, they still kept the grass field, just like you guys were saying, in 10-15 years, there is a replacement aspect. And right now you guys have said there will be replacements in about 30 years. If your track is hurting, and I ran your track and don't think it is that bad, but if you guys feel you are not able to compete against other towns, why don't you just fix the track and leave the grass as-is. I've also watched your football players and field hockey and honestly their fields are better than what I had. Mr. Zacchio said, sir, we are going to have to move on.

There are lots of folks who have comments to make. Mr. Deslauriers said one more question, if you don't mind. This is for Mr. Harrison. You said that the property taxes will be going up 3%? Mr. Harrison said the numbers that I was referring to were partially because of the decline in the grand list and partially due to the new tentative labor contract. That gets us up to 2.93% and does not include this project. Mr. Deslauriers said I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

Francena Dwyer – 15 Goodwill Trail – I have been a homeowner here for about 22 years. I support the upgrade to the communication system. I come tonight to express a concern that comes from my heart. I appreciate the effort that's gone into the synthetic turf fields. I understand, I'm trying to understand the reasons for the upgrade, I understand the need to be competitive and the loss of playing time. But I think the one piece of information that hasn't been heard, and I wanted to record my concerns about it, are the health issues. Now I have a question, the crumb rubber was not going to be used, correct? Mr. Zacchio said yes that is correct. Could somebody just tell me, I'm so pleased, because as you know, crumb rubber, 20-40,000 crushed tires are just toxic cocktails and harming students all over the country. There is evidence to show that students are being harmed playing on crumb rubber. I know the studies are funded by different people and anyone can tear apart a study, but I have great concerns about crumb rubber so I was thrilled you had moved on to acrylic sand. But investigating acrylic sand – that has never been tested either. And I think someone mentioned, it might be Envirofill that the product has a 15-year warranty, but at the end of that, they guarantee that maybe 70% will be left. So my question is, where is the 30% going into the universe, into our kids' lungs and on and on and on. The reason I offer this is to say that in 2006 I was a very healthy person, I was a teacher, a busy grandmother, and world traveler. And I was handed a can of oil based paint and painted my cottage and inhaled toxic fumes. Twelve years later, I had to retire from my teaching position 6 years ago, I haven't driven a car in 6 years because of seizures, and I have to negotiate any place I go, and I'm sitting here with my mask on half the time. I made the decision to take it off to come up and speak. But I would like the record to show that the people who push back on synthetic turf for reasons of health, have reason to, as we're all susceptible. We can be harmed by the product that our students are playing on. So I would urge you, as you go forward with this project, I don't think we are going to stop the project, I've come to terms with that, but as we go forward, it doesn't seem to me that the fill, the infill, has been completely agreed upon. That's still in flux? Mr. Zacchio replied no, I think the Council has determined that it will use the acrylic coated sand. Ms. Dwyer said but you don't have the company. Mr. Zacchio said he would ask Council. Chairperson Maguire said we have selected the acrylic coated sand. We don't have a particular vendor or brand. There will also be a failsafe pad that will go the field. So that if there was a problem with the sand down the road, we'd be able to easily vacuum it out and replace it with another infill should the need be. We've looked at this long and hard and considered a lot of information based on access. We had a scientist actually in from Cambridge that gave an explanation on her findings with coated crumb rubber, even with that, we decided to go with something a little healthier. Ms. Dwyer said I appreciate that, but in my journey of twelve years, I've found that explanations come from all angles and people depending on the studies. Again, I appreciate all the hard work that has gone into it, and I am all in favor of upgrades. I just want to keep our children, our community safe, but I think sometimes we are seduced by

thinking that we can control nature. And I have suffered greatly from a chemical that I used that was regulated 2 years after I used it. Just for all of you out there, we are all susceptible to chemical injury. I will take comfort knowing you will be careful. Chairperson Maguire and Mr. Zacchio said thank you.

Wilhelm Gauster – 2 Templeton Court – I would like to thank the presenters for the very good presentation on the communication system, which I very strongly support. I just have a question about looking to the future, it seems to me that the P25 is the standard and way to go, is this a phase 1 or phase 2 system? I'm not an expert, but I think it has to do with extendibility to using several channels at one time. Mr. Kline said it is a phase 2 system. It is newer. Mr. Gauster said great. Thanks.

Tom Mitchell – 72 Oakengates – I watch a lot of NCIS. Are there going to be any enhancements at the officer level with regard to the communication? We had demonstrations. Mr. Zacchio said hand held radios? Mr. Kline said some of the features of the (inaudible) P25 system, they would benefit not just police and fire, but Public Works. Our (inaudible) are in such demand that radios have motion sensors in them, so if you have a lone worker in the school, that feature is enabled so if it stops for a certain amount of time it creates an alarm that notifies dispatch to contact that person. That's one feature that can be implemented by various departments. For police and fire, we have emergency buttons on the radios, so if an officer is in trouble and needs help, and either can't speak or is not in a situation to speak, a button on the radio will notify the dispatcher. Positioning the radios so (inaudible) so radios in the vehicles can be trapped. The Fire Department, we are in the process of replacing our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and the masks that go with that system have blue tooth connectivity. So on our SCBA masks, the new masks will actually blue tooth you to radio that you are carrying in your pocket. So you can hear from firefighters as they are crawling through a situation.

Bruce Corbett – 171 Huckleberry Hill Road – I want to thank the Town Council and the BOE for the work that they have done in getting this program off finally, so to speak. I know we can afford this, we are an ERG-1 Town, I believe, Economic Reference Group, the concern is, and how much do we want to put on the plate for our budget? We have two programs that have been presented today and previously. And Town Council and BOE meetings spending some money. Probably a total of \$10 million dollars over the course of the time it has been spread out in the budget. And I guess my concern is, a teacher negotiation contract has recently been ratified. That's \$1 million in raises. That's another issue that we have. We have to be very careful when you consider all the issues that we have on the table, how we will afford those. In the handouts here, there is the underlying assumption that, underlying financial situations, and Mr. Neff brought up some things that may be impacting us from the State level. And I wonder what pensions are going to be like for teachers in the future and what kind of idea that we are going to have to pick up teacher pensions. I want to thank you for the work you have done. And we have a lot on the plate. But we are a rich town and maybe we can do it. Mr. Zacchio said I will say Mr. Corbett that there is good news and bad news with your comment. The good news is the State doesn't give Avon anything today in terms of financial help, so they can't take it away. The 1.5 cents we get back on a dollar from the State is not a lot of money.

Diane Hornaday – 515 Huckleberry Hill Road - To begin with, I have one questions and then just a few comments about the turf fields. My question is to the Board of Finance (BOF), would you just let us know, if this goes to referendum, when it goes to referendum, will it be the 9% minimum number of voters, or will it be a simple plurality? Mr. Harrison said the 9% rule will not apply. If 3 people turn up, and vote 2-1, the 2 have it. Ok thank you very much. That is good information to have. I am totally supportive of the safety project for the communication for the Police Department. I am totally supportive of that. I have made no secret that I am not supportive of having the artificial turf here in Town. I have done research, and I am aware that things change more quickly than I can do research. So that there may be some pieces of information I have that have been revised because of studies and things that have been done. But I am not for it for several reasons. The first is that studies have shown, that there are more injuries on artificial turf, and most especially for knees and ankles. Contrary to what teenage boys think, they are not men and they are not fully mature in their bones and the rest of it, so we are leaving that open to injury. They also get turf burns. And those burns lead to infections, and there have been studies that show that. Just as an aside, I got my information from the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, the CDC and an organization in this State that looks into these things. It is promoted as not needing maintenance. The fact is that these fields do need maintenance. They get dirt, they have to be brushed, and it's obvious as they have included a shed for the maintenance vehicles. So you know that there will be maintenance costs. Over the long run, there is no savings, if we are wanting to talk about the cost. I was surprised to read that in 2014 there was a study that said these products are not recyclable. So when we have to do the replacements for the artificial fields, all of that material goes into our landfill, and it is very expensive to do that. In the long run, it is less expensive to maintain regular, solid fields. And finally, we have been talking about this here in Town for a long time, but for an even longer time, we have been talking about the need for another fire station. And I just feel like, in terms of a community as a whole, if we are going to be investing in capital projects, a fire house is more important to me, and I think to some others, than artificial turf that a lot of people will not use. Mr. Zacchio said thank you. The Town might want to comment, or the architect in the room on the technical aspects. Mr. Harris responded in terms of the maintenance costs, I'm not sure what the Board of Education (BOE) has figured out on the numbers that were put out today. But yes, there is maintenance involved as part of the project. Staff will be trained. I think the savings is in that, you don't have to mow it twice a week, and take an hour plus or minus each time, plus the line striping before each game. The line will be permanently inlaid in the turf, they are always there. And there is also the other maintenance items: over seeding, aerating, top dressing, watering the grass to grow. Natural turf fields become unsafe when they are not kept up to a high standard, with bare spots and dirt showing, leads to more injuries than the turf sand does. So those things kind of equal out the two types. The other maintenance item – brushing and grooming – yes, that happens. That is just to redistribute the infill over time to make sure that we maintain the thickness of the turf to avoid injuries. Chairperson Maguire asked, could you talk to injuries, you mentioned putting a pad down and it has to be to an industry standard. Mr. Harris said so our specifications require eight standard testing requirements. They are based off of the Synthetic Turf Council Standards as well as FIFA. Those are GMAC, so heavy concussions, the head impact criteria, rotational resistance for knee injuries or ankle

injuries, turf toe, that's another injury that can be common to turf. There are others that are performance based. But there is standard testing that the field has to meet, requirements to pass or it will need adjustments. The pad underneath the field is there because all these alternative fills have not been on the market long enough to have that testing data, back to another person's comment earlier. They haven't been in play long enough, the new infill, so the pad is required to give us those safety requirements. The pad is included and then if the infill happens to become an issue, and I don't ever foresee it becoming an issue, but if it does, it can be removed and another product be put in. Chairperson Maguire asked do you have any information on the landfill, as far as the material being.... Mr. Harris said the great thing about the sand infill is that it is natural, it is sand, so again, we are looking at a minimum of 16 years use and warranty to that. Again, that material has not been in use long enough to understand if it can go beyond that. We are just coming up to 14 years on the first project that had that infill material, but as of right now, they are warranting it, guaranteeing it for 16 years. In terms of the turf carpet itself, it can be recycled. It can be melted down and used as other plastic products. So that is kind of the current reuse of that. And the other is the landfill option. Chairperson Maguire thanked Mr. Harris. Mr. Zacchio asked for questions.

Len DelGallo – 17 Briar Hill Road – I just wanted to make a few comments. I wanted to thank the Town Officials, the volunteers, and all of the Boards and Committees that have spent a lot of time going through all of these programs to try to find the best ones that will serve the Town, the communication system as well as the field. One of the things I wanted to bring up is property values. There has been a lot of talk about taxes and how much they will increase. From what I can see from the pamphlet that has been put out to us, it will be about \$40/year increase for a single family home of the approximate value that is put in here. How is your property value going to be affected if we're not keeping up with communication systems that will help our first responders, help everyone in Town, to make sure they are safe, and also keeping up with the schools? The competitiveness of our schools is very, very important in terms property values. And I would just like everyone to keep that in mind when you are in favor, or not in favor of either program. Of how it will affect you in the future, not just now. Thank you.

Debby Elcock – 195 Burnham Road – I understand that both of these projects have been in the works for a while. I'm just wondering if there are any other significant projects in the pipeline. Mr. Robertson said significant projects in the pipeline, so there are a couple that are maturing. One is, and for those of you that have been around for a couple of decades, you'll cringe when I say it, but the Old Farms Road Project. It's not dead yet. It's actually much further along than it's ever been. So that is something that could pop in the next couple of years. As Ms. Hornaday mentioned, there has been historically some discussion about a new fire station in the northwest area of Town. But at this point, we don't even have any land identified for that station, let alone gotten into any preliminary planning or architectural work, so that's really highly conceptual at this point. We are in the process right now of going through and updating our long term debt service projections and long term capital improvement plans. But really, in terms of projects that might require debt, those are the two that immediately come to mind. The Old Farms Road Project is sooner than the fire station. But I think you are still talking two years out. Ms. Elcock said

do you have any cost estimates for these projects? Mr. Robertson said nothing that I'd really like to throw out at this time. The fire station project, I think in our debt planning, do you remember Ms. Tiezzi, I think we are carrying about \$5 million, but very preliminary. And in terms of Old Farms Road, that's a lot more complicated because it is a function of State funding, both state and federal transportation dollars. So I would say, maybe you're looking at \$10 million at this point. But it is such a rough guess that I couldn't even give you a credible answer. Still evolving.

Stan Phillips – 171 Haynes Road – I have some prepared remarks which I'll cut short because I've learned something in being at the meeting. But just to give you a little background about me before I give you my two cents worth. I'm a 40 year resident of Avon, father of 3 children, all of whom participated in sports in Avon, in the Avon school system, graduated from AHS. I was also either the manager or coach of over 20 seasons of either intramural basketball or Little League baseball. I was on the Board of Directors at the Avon Little League when the first renovation of Sperry Park was proposed 30 some odd years ago, at a major expense of \$80,000. I personally championed the approval of the funds for the project, attending every meeting of the Town Council for a year, and I was part of the committee that selected the architect for the field renovations. And then served on the Avon Parks and Recreation Committee for several years. In short, I am not a casual observer. I am for the development of athletic programs for all ages and have worked to that end for years. I still go to various sporting events at AHS and support the boosters each year. I read with interest the write-up, the one that was sent out in October on the proposal to put the synthetic turf on the AHS field. Note that I'm not mentioning anything about cost. That's not my point of interest. Though I did find the details of the summary wanting, since there was no concise summary of costs of staying with grass versus installing artificial turf. My greater concern, and I shared this with the woman who spoke earlier, is for the health and welfare of the student athletes. It is noteworthy, that in the write up for this meeting, there was no mention of health or safety issues with the use of artificial turf. A good part of what I was going to talk about, because I did not know, and I do not believe there was anything in the write up that we were not using the ground up tires as the fill. I had a series of articles which I researched, which is very easy to do, just google "artificial turf safety" and you come up with a great deal of information but it dealt mainly with that. I understand that that's not going to be used. But everything that I read even beyond that, it was questionable about anything that is being used, when you consider the abrasion, the potential infections, etc. So I would hope, before December 12th, there would be something put out to the populace, what this material is, and what tests have been done. I know in the case of the rubber, it has been a point of contention for many, many years. And even the EPA has not made any final rulings on it. And you'll see things that are very positive, but they are written by the people that are selling the stuff. Not the people who are testing it. Be that as it may, I think the injury aspect is significant. And it is pretty evident if you look at what has happened in recent years. There is one little article that I picked out about Super Bowl XLIX, which was held at the University of Arizona in Phoenix at the stadium. This was an enclosed field with natural grass. And I don't know if you remember this, but they grew the grass outside and pulled it in for the game. They do that just for haha's? I don't think so. I mean, they said it was perfect. Tells you something. That maybe natural grass is the way to go. NFL teams in this article, 2016 season, 18 fields were actual grass, and

13 were artificial. In the previous year, it was 17 and 14. So even the NFL is saying, hmmm, maybe that is not the way to go. Injuries. There is an article put out by the orthopedic journal of sports medicine. And I will just read one line. Conclusion after conversion to artificial turf, there was a significant increase in upper extremity trauma. That's just one comment in this article. And finally, if you look, and this came out of the CDC, and they studied where artificial turf fields are being used – it's overwhelming, soccer, football, softball, baseball, just put in a new infield at AHS, they don't put in artificial turf. Glad they didn't. But what is next? All those fields down at Fisher? You're going to say hey artificial is the way to go. There is a lot of turf that would have to go in there. And once again, I'm not talking about cost. I'm concerned about the health and welfare of our children. I can only say I am glad that my kids are done long ago and won't be playing. I would be very reluctant to have my kid participate in a sport on artificial turf. I've played on it myself. I've played baseball on it. It's not natural. Sorry. And I think this is not the direction we should be heading. It's not a cost concern. It is a health concern. And all you have to do is watch TV. Just this weekend, they are talking about this fellow, Casey Cochran, who played for UCONN. Had TCE injuries. And there are folks who are football players who say they prefer, they feel better after playing a game on real turf. There is something there. I go back to a quote. I couldn't find it. But it went back to Fran Tarkenton. Who remembers him? The first number 10 for the Giants. He played from '61-'78. And the Astrodome was built in '65 where the first AstroTurf was being used. And the comment I always remembered from him was "if my horse can't eat it, I won't play on it". Laughter. Mr. Zacchio said thank you and asked if anyone wished to respond to the comments. Chairperson Maguire said thank you for your comments. One of the things I said in my comments was we need at least one field that we can play on in bad weather. It is not going to be exclusively a football field, and only the football team is going to use it. And it is not going to be exclusively soccer or lacrosse. It is going to have to be shared. And one of the, as I mentioned a few minutes ago, we had a scientist come in from Cambridge, MA, and one of the things she talked about is exposure. The kids will probably, and I'm kind of jumping into your field here, they'll get a practice and a game. They won't be on there exclusively, and there are a lot of grass fields here. Fisher Meadows, we just invested in the fields there. So we are not looking to turn the Town "turf". But I do think we have to have one field to have our teams play on – youth sports right on through the high school – that we can count on in bad weather and that is going to hold up to wear and tear. Thank you for your comments. Mr. Zacchio asked if anyone else wished to speak. Last chance.

Maria Mascoli – 9 Tallwood Hollow – Just a couple of things. Thank you again, Town Council and Chairperson Maguire for your presentation tonight. And for all the committee meetings that have taken place between BOE and Town Council over the last ten years. Many of us having been following the turf project for the last 10 years. I am not promoting it tonight for personal reasons. My children are almost all the way through school and will not be able to use the turf field. But I am promoting it as a Town resident. I do think it is very advantageous to get this passed. After 10 years I am really excited to come this close to bringing a turf referendum on December 12th. Just a couple of things. Why do we need a turf field? First of all, in terms of concern for taxes for the turf. Our student athletes at the high school and many of our youth sports play on turf frequently as visiting teams playing on turf. Our field hockey teams, all the teams we faced but two, play on turf. So

that just gives you an idea of how many turf teams we are playing. And for those of you that don't know, I am talking about field hockey, and we lost our home field not because of our playing but because of our grass field. Our grass field was not fit to play. We tried, the Town and maintenance tried very hard to patch it up again this year, and we are very appreciative of all their efforts. For those of you that don't know, the field hockey team had to travel to Ethel Walker School, rent a field, and play our home games at Ethel Walker. We are very appreciative of their hospitality, but as you can imagine, that cost a lot and was quite a disadvantage not to have a home field at the high school this year. So definitely needed for our field hockey team, our soccer and lacrosse. Our spring track team has never been able to host a big invitational which we would be able to do with an 8 lane track. Huge advantage for our track teams. Not to mention for our residents to use the track. Our track is in terrible condition for runners and walkers. Our football team, I talk to the families and students all the time, our football team is getting injured on the football field because of the divots that can't be repaired anymore. So it would be extremely advantageous to not only our school sports athletes, but also our youth sports, to share it as well. And lastly, I just want to say that if you would like a lawn sign to promote the turf project, I have had them made and I'd be glad to share it with you after the meeting. So thanks again, very much, for your work and hopefully we get it passed. Thank you. Chairperson Maguire and Mr. Zacchio said thank you. Mr. Zacchio asked if any others wanted to speak.

Susan Reboul – 23 Sudbury Way – As many of you know, I have followed this project for a decade. What I do want to say, is for any reason this does not go through, help Mrs. Mascoli and the Avon kids out, and get the current grass fields up to a level where we can all feel proud and where the kids can enjoy them and play on them. I'm not sure if it is a turf issue or not, or we have just gotten to the point where we have allowed these fields to disintegrate to the point where they are just not as playable. But I would say, regardless of what happens here, I really feel the current fields need something. It may be an expenditure, not \$3 million, to get them to a condition where they are playable. I will say, personally, I have one son who does attend a private school. He is on grass fields all the time. Non-stop. They win, they lose. It doesn't matter. Everyone plays on the grass. Similar to how they play on the turf. Those grass fields are maintained to a level comparable to the turf. No one has these excessive injuries that I hear about. And really, at this point, even with the field hockey field, if that can be brought up to a better standard, let's just get it there once and for all.

Mr. Zacchio asked for any other comments. Last chance. Ok just hang with me for one second. There is no more business to come before us tonight, so I would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Indomenico made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Chairperson Maguire. Mr. Zacchio said following a motion to adjourn, the resolutions will be submitted to referendum on December 12, 2018 at the Avon Senior Center Community Room, 635 West Avon Road, Avon, CT, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., to which place this meeting will adjourn tonight. And that said, resolutions will be placed on a paper ballot, under the following heading:

1. SHALL THE TOWN OF AVON APPROPRIATE \$3,890,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE TOWN AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?

2. SHALL THE TOWN OF AVON APPROPRIATE \$2,995,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE AVON HIGH SCHOOL SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD AND TRACK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?

Voters approving said resolution, will vote "YES", and those disapproving the resolution will vote "NO". Electors and persons qualified to vote in the town meeting who are not electors, will vote at the Avon Senior Center Community Room, 635 West Avon Road, Avon, CT. We have a motion, we have a second, all those in favor say "aye". The motion carried and the meeting adjourned. Mr. Zacchio thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann L. Dearstyne
Town Clerk