

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber as well as via GoToMeeting by Chairman Polhamus. Members present: Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Polhamus.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

14/15-20 Old Farms Road – State Project No. 04-118: State of CT Property Transfers to Avon

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Polhamus. Chairman Polhamus waived the reading of the following notice:

“TOWN OF AVON
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Selectmen's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, to consider the following:

To accept the title of two parcels of land situated in the Town of Avon, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut shown and designated on the map: “Town of Avon Map Showing Land Released to Town of Avon by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, Intersection of Old Farms Road and Waterville Road (CT Route 10), Scale 1:500, January 2021, Scott A. Hill, P.E. Chief Engineer – Bureau of Engineering and Construction, and bounded and describes as follows:

Parcel No. 1: located on the westerly side of Present Waterville Road (CT rte. 10), containing 3,016.6 square meters, more or less, (32,471 square feet, more or less).

Parcel No. 2: located on the westerly side of Present Waterville Road (CT Rte. 10), containing 4,890.1 square meters, more or less, (1.208 acres, more or less).

Copies of said map is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is open to the public for inspection during normal business hours.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 6th day of May, 2022.

Brandon L. Robertson, Town Manager”

The Town Manager noted that the State is conveying to the Town two parcels of land located immediately north and south of the new bridge; the Engineering Department has been through this; all documentation is prepared and they recommend adoption as does he.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Indomenico, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council close the public hearing.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town approve the acceptance of the title of two parcels of land situated in the Town of Avon, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut shown and designated on the map: “Town of Avon Map Showing Land Released to Town of Avon by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, Intersection of Old Farms Road and Waterville Road (CT Route 10), Scale 1:500, January 2021, Scott A. Hill, P.E. Chief Engineer – Bureau of Engineering and Construction, and bounded and describes as follows: Parcel No. 1: located on the westerly side of Present Waterville Road (CT Rte. 10), containing 3,016.6 square meters, more or less, (32,471 square feet, more or less). Parcel No. 2: located on the westerly side of Present Waterville Road (CT Rte. 10), containing 4,890.1 square meters, more or less, (1.208 acres, more or less).
Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-105 Solid Waste Ordinance, Chapter 51

The second Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Polhamus. Chairman Polhamus waived the reading of the following notice:

“TOWN OF AVON
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, Selectman’s Chamber, 60 West Main Street, Avon, CT and/or virtually to consider the following:

To consider and permit all interested persons to speak on the plan of the Town Council to amend and restate Town Ordinance Chapter 51 – Solid Waste.

A copy of the proposed amendments is on file in the Avon Town Clerk’s Office and open to the public for inspection during normal business hours.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 6th day of May, 2022.

Brandon L. Robertson, Town Manager”

Chairman Polhamus noted that we terminated our contract with MIRA and are moving on with a new provider, Murphy Road; this provided an opportunity to clean up some of the requirement language noted in the existing ordinance. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Weber, the Town Manager responded that we are no longer licensing haulers, they will have their own DEEP bonding requirements. The Town Manager noted that the ordinance was last adopted when CRRA was the location where material went to, then MIRA took over CRRA, and we have now left MIRA; those references have been removed and we deleted the section referring to licensed haulers; there has also been an expansion of unacceptable waste which follows federal and DEEP guidelines. He noted that Central CT Solid Waste Authority was created in 2010/2011 as a group that could be charged with a membership by looking at different options for solid waste disposal and was housed under CRCOG’s umbrella; it went dormant. He still recommends that we keep the Central CT Solid Waste Authority listed in the ordinance as a tool.

On a motion made by Mr. Indomenico, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council close the public hearing.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Indomenico, and Polhamus voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the recommended changes and amend and restate Town Ordinance Chapter 51 – Solid Waste as presented.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Indomenico, and Polhamus voted in favor.

21/22-109 Neighborhood Assistance Act

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Polhamus. Chairman Polhamus waived the reading of the following notice:

“TOWN OF AVON

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday June 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, Selectmen’s Chamber, 60 West Main Street, and/or virtually, for the following purpose:

To consider participation in the Neighborhood Assistance Act in accordance with Public Act 95-268

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 6th day of May, 2022.

Brandon L. Robertson, Town Manager”

Terri Wilson, President, Avon Historical Society, commented that their grant application request is to continue with detailed work for Schoolhouse No. 3; they have been a recipient in the past and hope for the same this time.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Ausiello, the Town Manager responded that any organization has to go through a municipality’s public hearing process to file an application even if they are not based in the town; we are just a conduit and submit the applications to the Department of Revenue Services.

Jim Speich, Town Council Representative, and Gina Kline, Vice President, with the Avon Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD), were in attendance. Mr. Speich commented that their application is for the installation of solar panels on Stations 2, 3, and 4. Ms. Kline noted that the roofs on these stations have been replaced in recent years. She added that they would go out to bid and also see what the cost savings could be for the Town long-term. In response to a question from Chairman Polhamus, Mr. Speich responded that the AVFD previously utilized this grant for equipment such as thermal imaging cameras and LED lighting but have not been very successful.

Jim Griffin, The Sam & Elizabeth Colt Industrial and Frontier Heritage Center, commented that their request is related to establishing a really good national education and tourism destination point at the Colt site where the blue dome is and the adjacent brownstone buildings including the Industrial Revolution and Frontier Westward Movement; it will be a great facility. In response to a question from Chairman Polhamus, Mr. Griffin responded that they received about half of the money requested last year.

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mr. Indomenico, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council close the public hearing.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the following programs for submittal to the Department of Revenue Services:

- a) Avon Historical Society - \$15,000.00
- b) Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra - \$64,460.00
- c) The Sam & Elizabeth Colt Industrial and Frontier Heritage Center - \$150,000.00
- d) Avon Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. - \$60,000.00

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: May 5, 2022
May 16, 2022 Special Meeting

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the May 5, 2022 Meeting as drafted.
Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the May 16, 2022 Special Meeting as drafted.

Ms. Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor. Mrs. Maguire and Mr. Indomenico abstained due to absence from the meeting. Motion passed: 3-0-2.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Officer Erin Connole, Avon Police Department, provided a summary of her work with the Special Olympics, including Team Captain since 2013 with the Special Olympics Connecticut Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR); LETR is an international organization raising money for Special Olympics; CT's Torch Run is three days; fundraising is a big component including Tip A Cop, Over The Edge, Penguin Plunge, Dueling Ladders, Designer Purse Bingo; this year we raised \$12,000; for her it is a great community relations tool, to be out with the Special Olympics athletes; from 2015 to 2021 Avon has raised over \$55,000 for Special Olympics; Connecticut generally raises around \$500,000 per year; a great organization raising money for another great organization. Chairman Polhamus thanked Officer Connole for coming in and sharing this story. Office Connole noted that the top fundraisers get listed on the Torch Run t-shirt and Avon came in ninth this year and is listed on the t-shirt. Council expressed congratulations. Chairman Polhamus noted that the last few years have been tough to the police but everybody in Avon that he talks to loves our Police Department; you do an excellent job of reaching to and being engrained in the community and being an overwhelmingly powerful force in the community; thank you for everything you do. Mr. Weber noted that when we took the tour of the facilities a few weeks ago he noticed the plaques from previous years and wants to amplify that it is awesome when you reach out to the community and all of the involvement you do across Town; you are doing a fantastic job and the side part of the job of being a forward facing civic person is taking advantage of that role and giving back to the community with Special Olympics; it can be hard sometimes but it is so great that you are doing this; thank you so much, it means a lot.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council amend the agenda to add item 21/22-133 *Approve Resolution: Officer Erin Connoles, Special Olympics Recognition* under New Business.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Ms. Ausiello thanked Town staff for the Town facilities tour; it's a busy time of year with Senior Prom, choir concerts, Memorial Day festivities, soccer tournament at Fisher Meadows, Avon High School graduation, and more between now and the end of the school year – Pride Block Party tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., Coffee House performances tomorrow at 5 p.m., Pine Grove Schoolhouse has Open House on Sunday from 2-4 p.m. She shared that we all participated in the Memorial Day parade on Monday – it was a beautiful day and well attended and expressed many thanks to everyone involved for creating a special event to honor those who gave their lives for our country. The meaning of Memorial Day is not on her; last week we once again were confronted as a nation with a horrific act of violence against school children and teachers in Uvalde, Texas; this coming shortly after the racially motivated slaughter in Buffalo; like so many of her fellow Avon residents she has been struggling with the facts, stories, images; utter madness of yet another massacre in our country. When she attended the Memorial Day ceremony she couldn't help but think what the fallen servicemen and women would have thought of our country the way we are today; we say we die to protect our freedoms but how free are we when we can be shot going to the supermarket, synagogue, bible study, church, movie theater; how free are we when we can't send our youngest citizens safely to school; she is sad, angry, scared; she dropped off her daughter at Avon Middle School this morning where there was a police officer parked and instead of feeling that they are safe, she got worried; she knows she is not alone, it is senseless and indefensible; a teacher, administrators, first responders should not be put in that position; is this truly who we are and who we want to be; it seems impossible that the issue of gun violence can be solved in this country; she feels like it doesn't need to be an all or nothing proposition; there is room for everyone's interests to be addressed; why wouldn't all sides want to protect every Americans' freedoms and liberties, be that responsibly owning a gun or protecting every citizens' right to live their daily lives without the threat of gun violence; as we all try to move forward from this, one step that she will be taking and she urge others to as well is attend the Avon Civility Project: Love Your Enemies – a workshop being held this weekend at Avon Congregational Church in conjunction with the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center and the Avon Free Public Library; she thinks it is sad that these workshops are even necessary but the goal is to learn to disagree without being disagreeable; she does believe that if we can take some time to speak with each other and really hear what our concerns are we may be able to actually start to hear each other and move this country forward in a positive way, even if it is just our beautiful Town of Avon in our little corner of the world, we have to start somewhere; thank you for listening me; it has been a tough past few weeks.

Mr. Weber thanked Ms. Ausiello for those words and echoed her comments. He thanked Town staff, the Avon Volunteer Fire Department and VFW Post 3272 for putting on the Memorial Day parade – a nice slice of Americana right when you need it, to see the Town of Avon come out to honor the veterans who marched and give homage to those who have fallen. He thanked West Avon Congregational Church and Reverend Dr. Brian Hardy for allowing a forum where we had a chance to speak about the events that happened at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde that left 19 students and 2 teachers dead; as a school teacher he feels very close to this issue and it brings

it to light last week but it is something that school teachers think about almost daily if not weekly for those who choose to ignore it; drills and certain reminders you hear on the news, it is a thought that crosses their mind and are told to be ever vigilant about locking their doors and keeping the children and sometimes that is taken out of our hands; there are strong feelings residing in him and will leave them be.

Mrs. Maguire commented that Ms. Ausiello's words were so well spoken, articulating her thoughts, and couldn't agree more; it is horrible, all that we have been going through. She noted that back in January Richard (Dick) Hines passed away, his obituary was in the newspaper of which she shared a few highlights – he graduated from New York University College of Engineering in 1956, joined Pratt & Whitney Aircraft retiring in 1999, had a great passion for music, active in local government in Avon for more than 28 years, in 2005 after turning 70 he decided not to run again for Town Council after serving for 25 years, his tenure on the Town Council came during a period of unprecedented growth and soaring population and saw the construction of the new Library and Senior Center, expansion of the Avon High School and acquisition of Fisher Farm for dedicated open spaces, it was his work on behalf of the Town to acquire and preserve open spaces that he was most proud, he began his public service as Chairman of the Avon Planning and Zoning Commission in 1970 and also served on the Board of Selectmen and Inland Wetlands Commission, there will be a ceremony this Saturday at the St. Matthew Lutheran Church, his family has requested donations in lieu of flowers, she added that clearly he was a leader. The Town Manager noted that Dick Hines was a brilliant man and there was nobody who cared more about Avon; after 2005, he stayed involved as the Town liaison for the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), he was very well respected and just a great person. Mrs. Maguire noted the Town Council Bike Ride and how much fun it was and thanked Bike Walk Avon for coordinating it every year, and great things are happening on the trails.

Mr. Indomenico noted the great job with the Memorial Day event; Avon High School graduation is coming up on June 13th and Town Council will be invited this year; regarding the current gun issue and shooting issue that Ms. Ausiello and Mr. Weber spoke about so articulately, he is overthinking and praying for people that get shot in mass shootings but that doesn't work; if you want to really fix a problem like this donate to somebody that is against the NRA then see how the problem fixes itself; this is a money issue, not a moral issue or gun issue.

Chairman Polhamus noted that we started our last meeting with a pretty somber message to the people; it is one of those kinds of speeches you make as a Councilman that you hope you don't have to do again for a long time and here we are again this week; these things do get politicized pretty quickly; there is a problem with assault rifles, there is a mental health problem, both need to be fixed. He added that our Police Department has some gun safety initiatives with gun locks that they hand out for free. He asked if we could have some material put out as to what the Police Department can do to help gun safety; it benefits all of us. He added that we acknowledge the fact that guns are going to be part of our lives as Americans but what can we do to make it as safe as possible. He shared that Memorial Day was awesome; his father-in-law who is a veteran participated in the parade; a shout out to Bill Samol with the VFW and has been organizing this event for over twenty years. He looks forward to various events this month including Pride month.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

14/15-20 Relocation of Old Farms Road Phase 1 – North/South Section-State Project
No. L004-0001

a) Agreement with Avon Old Farms School

The Town Manager noted that the agreement and 8-24 referral gets us on a formal path towards an approval at referendum with a tentative date of December 14, 2022. He added that the Planning and Zoning Commission is very familiar with the project and is in the Plan of Conservation and Development and have been kept up to speed on how this has progressed. He noted that the Letter of Understanding with Avon Old Farms School states that we mutually agree to corroborate on this project, particularly with respect to the road relocations; temporary easements will be involved; maps and documents aren't ready yet but we know what needs to be done; Avon Old Farms School continues to be a great partner; the letter has been reviewed by the Town Attorney; we have another check-in on June 17th when we will receive updated cost estimates based on 90% design development; it is our belief at this point that we will have sufficient grant funding to complete the construction of this project 100% in a lump sum based on the contract award; we have been funding the design portion through the capital budget over the years; it will be an interesting presentation when we go to the public since this really isn't costing anything from a construction perspective.

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the Letter of Understanding with Avon Old Farms School as presented.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

b) 8-24 Referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby refers the Old Farms Road Phase 1 (North/South Section) – State Project No. L004-0001 to the Town of Avon Planning & Zoning Commission for review and approval pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-46 American Rescue Plan Act: Discussion re: Projects List

a) Avon High School Press Box Project: Susan Rietano-Davey

Chairman Polhamus noted that ACORN is still working on design and refining an acceptable price.

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 21/22-46(a) Avon High School Press Box Project: Susan Rietano-Davey to the July 28, 2022 meeting.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

Chairman Polhamus added that at their July meeting, the Director of Recreation and Parks will attend to talk about the Senior Center; we will hold off on the Fiber Network Project until we know more about possible other funding sources; the Director of Planning and Community Development will talk about the Connectivity Plan; as well as the Avon Little League regarding Sperry Park.

21/22-104 Proclamation: LGBTQ+ Pride Month and Flag Display

Chairman Polhamus read aloud the following proclamation.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

WHEREAS, the Town of Avon cherishes the value and dignity of each person and appreciates the importance of equality and freedom, and;

WHEREAS, all are welcome to live, work, and play in the Town of Avon and every family, in any shape, deserves a place to call home where they are safe, happy and supported by friends and neighbors, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Avon denounces prejudice and discrimination based on age, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical attributes as an affront to our fundamental principles, and;

WHEREAS, the month of June was chosen for LGBTQ+ Pride Month to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, which occurred in June 1969 and became a catalyst for the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Avon, recognizes, appreciates, and encourages the cultural, civic, academic, artistic, and economic contributions of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, plus (LGBTQ+) community which strengthen our social welfare, and;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that all members of our community, but most especially our young people, feel valued, safe, empowered, and supported by their peers and community leaders, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of Avon affirms our support for our LGBTQ+ residents and their allies and stand with them to protect their civil rights and their ability to live openly and without fear.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Avon hereby declares the month of June 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the Town of Avon and urges residents to recognize the contributions made by members of the LGBTQ+ community and to actively promote the principles of equality, liberty and justice in our society.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

Chairman Polhamus commented that the flag policy states that the raising of the flag is a speech of the Town Council, in this case to look out for the welfare of the public and the welfare of the Town; in order for us to raise a flag it needs to come as a motion by the Town Council.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby approves the display of the Pride flag on the flag pole located at the Avon Free Public Library. The Pride flag shall be displayed for the month of June in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Mmes: Ausiello, Maguire, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

Chairman Polhamus noted that the Pride flag will be raised on Friday, June 3rd at 3:30 p.m. at the Avon Free Public Library in conjunction with the Pride Block Party taking place at the West Avon Congregational Church.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

21/22-124 Contract Extension: AMR Ambulance Services

The Town Manager noted that we have had an agreement with AMR for over twelve years now; there are some exceptions in terms of response times and certain number of response time failures they are allowed, most typically related to dispatching or weather related; the contract has been reviewed by the Director of Police Services and a two-year extension is being recommended; this is a contract for service; there is no direct cost to the Town; we allow them to use one bay at Public Works to station their ambulance; and we give them access to Town fuel which they reimburse us for. Chairman Polhamus noted that he has heard no complaints about AMR's competency.

On a motion made by Mr. Indomenico, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to execute an agreement with American Medical Response of Connecticut, Inc. (AMR) for ambulance services for a (1) two-year extension from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-125 Sign Tax Warrant (Rate Bill)

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council sign and execute the Tax Warrant (Rate Bill) as presented by the Office of the Collector of Revenue.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-126 Review and Discussion: Town Council Policy #14 – Community Aid to Special Events and Projects

Chairman Polhamus noted that this item is a result of an idea we had earlier this year about putting aside some money that the community can come to us and apply for use for throwing community events and getting Town funds to support those events. The Town Manager commented that we had a policy statement that was adopted in 1983 and empowered the Town Manager to assist community groups with in-kind services to help support their events, i.e. Chamber of Commerce or UNICO to get ready for Avon Day. We revised the policy and a draft has been provided to Council; the idea was to create an environment where perhaps more non-profits would come forward and sponsor events that were in the community's interest and enhance the quality of life for residents, provide different cultural and recreational opportunities and perhaps they need a little bit of funding to pull off the event; the application would eventually come to the Town Council; discussion between the Assistant Town Manager, Director of Recreation and Parks and himself resulted in the addition of regulations; by adopting the policy and the regulations the Council will be delegating that to staff to work through; we would administer the program in accordance with the regulations in the policy; we tried to keep fairly straightforward while providing enough reporting requirements and application process where we could sift out those who were not serious about putting on a good quality event, a way we could protect the Town both in terms of monetary contribution or those programs we don't want to support; this is the lowest form of Council action putting this in form of a policy and can be revisited at any time; we tried to find another model for this type of program; the Assistant Town Manager and Director of Recreation and Parks did the heavy lift on putting this together. In response to a question from Ms. Ausiello, the Town Manager responded that sometimes it might be easier for a vendor with a program to be billed directly to us or in some instances provide a payment up front. Ms. Ausiello asked to confirm that language is included. Mr. Indomenico noted that when he was on the Board of Education they had approved

policies but did not have to approve a regulation from a legal perspective. In response to a question from Mr. Indomenico, the Town Manager responded that it could work both way, partially he would always bring the regulation as it is the implementing mechanism for whatever the policy statement is; he would assume bring the regulation to you at the same time as the policy that you either adopt as new or are revising. In response to a question from Mrs. Maguire, the Town Manager responded that in-kind services would be in addition to financial aid; opportunity costs for staff time would be brought before Council given the nature of what would likely be a larger event. He added that it is possible for an event to get both a cash grant and in-kind service. Chairman Polhamus noted that one of our primary functions is to protect taxpayers' money; we are vetting the companies that the money is going to, we are promoting community growth and building; it is a useful exercise for an organization and good data for us in knowing which of these events were successful and guide where we want money to go to in the future. The Town Manager commented that a notice regarding the policy will go out through the Town's web site.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adopt Town Council Policy No. 14 – Community Aid to Special Events and Projects as discussed and adopt the regulations with clarification regarding the reimbursement process.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-127 Approve Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing with HGACBuy

The Town Manager noted our purchasing regulations allow us to participate in these types of cooperative purchasing arrangements. Houston Galveston Area Council is another cooperative purchasing council not unlike the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG); this is a very large cooperative that offers a range of products from sewer project items to fire apparatus and it covers a very large geographic area; it is another option for us to look at pricing for whatever it is that we are looking to buy. In response to a question from Mr. Weber, the Town Manager responded that items will come from wherever the vendor's distribution point is.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing with HGACBuy.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-128 Supplemental Appropriation: Avon Historical Society Schoolhouse 3 (ARPA), \$50,000

Terri Wilson, President, Avon Historical Society, expressed thanks to the Town Council. She noted that their request was lowered from \$75,000 because we had more donations come in and identified several other grants that we would more than likely receive for this and the cost of the cellar project came in a lot lower than we had thought; the new estimated final figure is \$45,900 to complete the project including the cellar, new windows and exterior siding, HVAC and electrical work; this does not include the interior exhibit space and that cost will be covered by the Historical Society, approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000; we are also working with the Institute of American Indian Studies to have a dedicated space to the Paleo story. She noted the open house

at Pine Grove Schoolhouse No. 3 this Sunday. She thanked Public Works for redoing the driveway there. Chairman Polhamus thanked Ms. Wilson.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

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

APPROPRIATIONS

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

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-129 Supplemental Appropriation: FVHD Request (ARPA), \$77,209

Jennifer Kertanis, Director of Health, Farmington Valley Health District, thanked Council for having her; the Health District serves the Town of Avon; ARPA funding is to support immediate pandemic response and public health workforce and ongoing public health needs; their proposal is divided among the ten member towns, Avon's portion is about 17% as Avon represents 17% of the population that they serve; their proposal includes a request for a vehicle to move materials to different locations, some technology and the most significant expense in their request is for an Community Outreach Coordinator to primarily focus initially on mental health related issues. Chairman Polhamus commented that we pay an annual contribution to the Health District. Ms. Kertanis noted that Avon's annual portion is about \$100,000. The Town Manager reported that the Health District Board's request to the towns for their contributions have been increasing about 2.5 to 3.0%; five years ago they adopted a strategic plan that was getting them to a lot of these community health functions that were sidelined due to the pandemic; there are other grant resources coming in including supplemental funding from the Health District towns to augment their operating budget, keeping the per capita costs lower for the communities and ramping up over a more extended timeframe. He added that a sub-committee worked on project ideas for ARPA funding and made a presentation to the District Board; about half of the towns have already acted to approve their respective ARPA request. In response to a question from Mr. Weber, the Town Manager responded that there are user fees for different services like salon regulations, restaurant inspections, septic tank permits; there are four revenue sources - per capita funding from the towns, per capita grant from the State Department of Public Health, license and fee regulations, and other miscellaneous grants either one-time or multi-year; the largest revenue source is the per capita from the member towns. He noted that the Health District is the most successful example of a durable, regional, cooperative effort that he knows of; it has existed in the present format since 1973; Avon joined in the early 1980s. Ms. Kertanis noted that there are about 23 other regional health departments; the largest in terms of towns served is the Torrington Area Health District; the largest in terms of population served is the North Central Health District. The Town Manager noted that our Health District serves about 100,000 residents and runs from East Granby to Hartland to Barkhamsted to Farmington. Ms. Kertanis added that they regulate and permit about 600 food service establishments and vendors; we charge fees for food permits; septic system/repair

expense is borne by the homeowner and they also regulate salons and public swimming pools and the environmental health side of the house. Council thanked Ms. Kertanis.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

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

APPROPRIATIONS

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

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-130 Supplemental Appropriation: Sycamore Hills Shade Shelters (3) (ARPA), \$32,500

The Town Manager noted that the shade shelters shall be installed in the fall.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 21/22 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

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

APPROPRIATIONS

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

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-131 Approval of Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds, \$12,417.54

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve motor vehicle tax refunds to EAN Holdings LLC in the total amount of \$12,417.54.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Polhamus, and Indomenico voted in favor.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager noted that we are moving forward with the Avon Free Public Library courtyard work; regarding the RFP for Municipal Advisor Services, four proposals were received and a staff recommendation shall be ready by September/October; the bid for the Pine Grove School Alarm and Mass Notification System came in about \$140,000 over our appropriation and will likely be delayed until next year; the final report for the AVFD Master Plan

is planned to be presented at Council's July meeting; and we are renegotiating the cost sharing agreement with Canton regarding Animal Control services as Beverly Laplume is retiring, but it will not likely continue to be a joint service and would eliminate the current contribution from Canton of about \$3,000 per year.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager noted that with Schoolhouse No. 3 the Avon Historical Society is allowed to use the building for \$1 per year and why he is recommending funding the capital upgrades; with regards to the Town Clerk's Vault Expansion, the State Public Records Administrator's approval has been received and construction will start after July 1st; and with the Sidewalk Replacement Projects we are still waiting for direction from the federal government as to what the administrative and reporting requirements will be for the \$424,000 grant that was awarded through Congresswoman Hayes and DOT will do the outreach to the abutters.

Mrs. Maguire inquired about the new traffic signal at the intersection of Country Club Road and West Avon Road. The Town Manager's Office will report back.

Misc. C: Affordable Housing Plan: The Town Manager noted he is checking to see if Town Council also has to adopt the Affordable Housing Plan. He will ask Hiram Peck, Director of Planning and Community Development, to attend Council's July meeting and provide a presentation regarding the Affordable Housing Plan. Mr. Weber inquired if all of the home photos used in the Plan are from Avon.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Police Contract Real Estate

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council enter into Executive Session at 9:01 p.m.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Weber, Indomenico, and Polhamus voted in favor.

The Town Manager and Clerk attended the session.

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council come out of Executive Session at 9:38 p.m.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-132 Possible Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session (Police Contract)

On a motion made by Mr. Indomenico, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement with the United Public Service Employees Union, COPS Division (UPSEU/COPS) as presented by the Town Manager for the three year period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 which has been approved by the Police Union.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

21/22-133 Approve Resolution: Officer Erin Connoles, Special Olympics Recognition

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council, on this 2nd day of June, 2022, adopts this resolution in recognition of Officer Erin Connole's many years of exemplary service to the athletes of Special Olympics Connecticut, including nine years as the Avon Police Department's Town Captain and two years on the Connecticut Law Enforcement Torch Run Council.

WHEREAS, in her time as APD Town Captain, Officer Connole has inspired the Department to enthusiastic action, raising nearly \$56,000 for Special Olympics Connecticut since 2015. Officer Connole's ability to motivate and encourage the participation of her fellow officers and her continued engagement with local businesses has resulted in the success of a number of creative fundraising events over the years, such as Barista with a Badge, Designer Bag Bingo and Flame of Hope Cupcakes; and,

WHEREAS, under Officer Connole's leadership, the Avon Police Department has distinguished itself as the 9th highest fundraiser in the state. Officer Connole was awarded the 2021 Level of Excellence Award by Special Olympics Connecticut for her efforts; and,

WHEREAS, Officer Connole's personal connection to Special Olympics Connecticut motivates her efforts; inspiring her to participate in a number of physically demanding challenges over the years, such as rappelling "Over the Edge" of Mohegan Sun's Sky Tower and taking part in numerous Penguin Plunges into the icy winter waters of Connecticut's lakes and ponds; and,

WHEREAS, Officer Connole's work as a member of the Law Enforcement Torch Run Council has helped to keep Avon PD closely involved in the Special Olympics' largest public awareness campaign. Her tireless efforts, and those of the entire Torch Run Council, provide us all with an annual opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the differences of all people, to acknowledge and respect the similarities that we all share, and to applaud the special relationship between law enforcement and Special Olympics athletes that is built upon mutual love, respect and commitment, as we watch the "Flame of Hope" carried past; and,

WHEREAS, these are only a few examples of the ways Officer Connole's passion and commitment have benefitted the Special Olympics Connecticut, the Avon Police Department, and Avon as a whole.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town Council of the Town of Avon, on behalf of its citizens, recognizes Officer Erin Connole for her excellent work on behalf of Special Olympics Connecticut, the Avon Police Department and the Avon community and, with profound thanks and deep appreciation, directs that this RESOLUTION be spread upon the minutes of the June 2, 2022 Town Council Meeting and that a copy be presented to her.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

Chairman Polhamus presented the proclamation to Officer Connole. Officer Connole expressed thanks to the Town Council. Jeff Veneziano, Special Olympics Connecticut, thanked Town Council for recognizing Officer Connole and thanked Director Rio as well as prior Chiefs for giving their support and allowing the Avon Police Department to participate in these opportunities. Mr. Veneziano noted that Officer Connole is a main vessel to keep our Torch Run and other programs moving; the Special Olympics thanks her as well.

XII. ADJOURN

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Polhamus, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Mmes: Maguire, Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Indomenico voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk