

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 6, 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 HEARING:**

**14/15-20 Old Farms Road Phase 1 – North/South Section – State Project No. L004-0001  
Avon Old Farms School-Land Exchange**

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 A PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectman's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, Avon, Connecticut, or virtually, for the following purposes:

To adopt an Agreement with The Avon Old Farms School for the acquisition of real property and permanent easements, and to abandon portions of the existing Old Farms Road, in support of the realignment of Old Farms Road as depicted on the following map: “PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT PLAN. REALIGNMENT OF OLD FARMS ROAD, AVON, CONNECTICUT, scale 1”=100’ by Fuss & O’Neill dated August 2022”

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

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2022.

Brandon L. Robertson, Town Manager”

The Town Manager noted that the draft land exchange agreement may have minimal changes pending review by Avon Old Farms School's attorney; the Town Attorney has reviewed the draft agreement; if there are any significant changes it will come back before the Town Council, otherwise he would like authority to move it ahead; and the map is based on a 95% design and development process and will not change;. Chairman Polhamus noted that one of the requirements of the funding is to have the agreement executed prior to the referendum.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute an Agreement with The Avon Old Farms School for the acquisition of real property and permanent easements, and to abandon portions of the existing Old Farms Road, in support of the realignment of Old Farms Road as depicted on the following map: “PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY AND EASEMENT PLAN. REALIGNMENT OF OLD FARMS ROAD, AVON, CONNECTICUT, scale 1”=100’ by Fuss & O’Neill dated August 2022.”

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

**IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:** September 1, 2022  
September 15, 2022 Special Meeting

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept the minutes of the September 1, 2022 Meeting as drafted.

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

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept the minutes of the September 15, 2022 Special Meeting as drafted.

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

**V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**

Jim Speich, 14 Yorkshire Lane, recognized with appreciation the Avon Police Department and the Social Service Department, in particular Christine Pescatore; the Avon Food Pantry received 100 cases of food today from Bozzuto’s in conjunction with the Prince Thomas of Savoy Italian Club who were going to donate \$2,000 during their festival but instead donated food; the food was unloaded with assistance by the Avon Police Department and Dave Theriault with Public Works; it was a very generous gesture by Bozzuto’s; the food pantry shelves were getting bare; we have more people coming in now as grocery store prices are high and hard to stretch dollars. In response to an inquiry from Chairman Polhamus, Mr. Speich responded that bare shelves would mean there is no back-up stock in the pantry. Mr. Speich offered to provide Town Council with a tour of the Food Pantry at St. Ann’s Church at their convenience. He noted there will be a few food drives coming up this fall.

**VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Indomenico shared that the Prince Thomas of Savoy is holding their Italian festival this weekend; there will be food, games, very family oriented, and should be a great community event.

Mrs. Maguire shared that on Saturday she will be volunteering in the raw bar at the Italian festival and there will be a Battle of the Badges bocce game at 2:00 p.m. She noted that the Town Council bike ride in September was a lot of fun; the Hometown Heroes event was held on September 11<sup>th</sup> and police, fire and emergency management personnel were recognized; the event raised \$18,000 for the Lions Club which was given back and split in half between the Avon Volunteer Fire

Department and the Avon Police Department; she thanked all for their participation and look forward to doing it again next year.

Mr. Weber shared that Bike Walk Avon is a community organization that promotes access to the trail and biking and pedestrian usage around Town; an idea to create a mural in the Route 44 underpass was birthed and after a lot of hard work we received approval; Christy Hickey, who is also part owner of Hopmeadow Brewing Company, agreed to begin work on the mural which is near completion, and it looks great.

Ms. Ausiello noted that the rescheduled traffic safety forum will take place on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Avon Senior Center at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman Polhamus noted that the recent Town Council bike ride was the most well attended yet; thanked the Avon Volunteer Fire Department for holding their annual 9/11 ceremony - always an appropriate, somber way to remember that day; Bike Walk Avon is organizing a bike/walk to school event on October 19<sup>th</sup>; and Sub Edge Farm will be accepting pumpkins for composting at the farm. The Assistant Town Manager noted there will be a kick-off event on November 5<sup>th</sup> and pumpkin collections will run through November 30<sup>th</sup> during regular farm shop hours; a flyer will go out and it will be advertised in the Town's October newsletter.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

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

- a) **To consider and act upon the resolution entitled: “Resolution Appropriating \$5,459,458 Of Grant Funding For Costs Related To The Relocation And Reconstruction Of A Section Of Old Farms Road In The Town Of Avon”**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$5,459,458 Of Grant Funding For Costs Related To The Relocation And Reconstruction Of A Section Of Old Farms Road In The Town Of Avon”, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby approved and recommended for adoption by the legal voters of the Town at the Special Town Meeting adjourned to a Referendum vote.

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

- b) **To instruct the Town Clerk to publish a timely call for a vote at Special Town Meeting and Referendum on the appropriation and authorization set forth in the resolution above**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the foregoing proposal be considered by a Special Town Meeting to be held Monday, November 7, 2022, at the Avon High School at 7:00 P.M. (E.T.), for the following purposes: (A) to consider and take action upon the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$5,459,458 Of Grant Funding For Costs Related To The Relocation And Reconstruction Of A Section Of Old Farms Road In The Town Of Avon”; (B) to instruct the Town Clerk to publish a timely call and proper notice of said meeting, to be published in a newspaper having a general and substantial circulation in the

Town, and that said notice be posted upon signposts or other exterior place nearest the office of the Town Clerk and at all other places and signposts designated by the Town; (C) to submit the aforesaid resolution in (A) above to an adjourned to a referendum vote at a reconvened town meeting/Referendum to be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Avon Senior Center, in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and pursuant to Section 10.3.3 of the Town Charter, and that the question to be voted upon, and the ballot label at the Special Town Meeting, shall read as follows:

1. Shall the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$5,459,458 Of Grant Funding For Costs Related To The Relocation And Reconstruction Of A Section Of Old Farms Road In The Town Of Avon” be approved?

The form of the ballot label on the voting machine shall read as follows:

“Shall the Resolution Appropriating \$5,459,458 Of Grant Funding For Costs Related To The Relocation and Reconstruction Of a Section Of Old Farms Road In The Town Of Avon be approved? [YES/NO]”

and (D) to direct the Town Clerk to publish as provided by law notice of said Special Town Meeting in the following form (in-person with livestream).

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

It was noted that the Special Town Meeting shall be held in-person with livestream at Avon High School and anyone wishing to speak must attend in-person. The Town Manager noted there are advocacy restrictions that apply once a legislative body refers a question to a referendum; any material that is produced from this point forward that uses Town funding cannot be construed as advocating a position one way or another and would have to be approved by the Town Attorney. He added that the mailer already sent out will be taken down from the web site along with other information; the FAQ supplement has also been edited extensively by the Town Attorney’s office and this document would be placed on the Town’s web site.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the revised Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) supplement dated October 6, 2022.

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

### **19/20-50 Avon Volunteer Fire Department Long Range Planning: Presentation by CGR**

Paul Bishop, CGR, provided a presentation (which is attached and made part of these minutes). He noted that approximately one-third of the 58 firefighters are responding to about 30% of the calls; all stations have had deferred maintenance; density of fire calls along Route 44; Ladder 12 has significant maintenance issues; active volunteers are providing a great service to this community; it is imperative to keep them trained, engaged, equipped and excited; in general, volunteer service is a challenge; and there is a “2 in, 2 out” rule, OSHA standard, in order to operate in a hazardous situation. He noted that an architectural and engineering firm, LaBella, assessed the fire stations and provided a few scenarios. In response to a question from Chairman Polhamus, Mr. Bishop responded that the proposed storage area, locker rooms, and Bay #4 would be an addition to the current building at Company #1. He noted that the identification that gear can be coated with carcinogens, and we want to make sure their equipment is left isolated in their apparatus bays and a place to decontaminate themselves. He noted that Company #3 has outlived its functional use; we would envision a replacement station being located across the street on land

owned by the Town and AVFD. In response to a question from Chairman Polhamus, Bruce Appell, Fire Chief, responded that ISO (Insurance Services Office) dictates that every station has an engine company; the Ladder and Rescue are both support companies; the Engine has to be within 1.5 air miles; the Ladder and Rescue shall be within 2.5 air miles from the station; we would not want to keep Ladder and Rescue together as they would not cover the majority of the community; both apparatus have about the same ISO rating; both do a lot of work along Route 44; currently the Rescue is at Company #1 and handles the Route 44 corridor and there is rescue equipment on some engines; we have one true Ladder company which is figured for the center of Town; we move trucks around based on which stations have the most people; currently Company #3 has more personnel than Company #1. Jim Speich, Town Council representative for the AVFD, noted that the report suggested that the Ladder be placed at Company #1 because of the buildings along Route 44 and the Rescue would be placed at Company #3. Joe Speich, Assistant Chief, AVFD, noted that the bulk of their calls are along Route 44 with no large future development in Town. Chief Appell noted that the majority of their new members are coming in at either Company #3 or Company #4; fire stations should be located near where personnel live. Mr. Bishop noted you want to support and keep engaged the volunteers you have, keep the facilities nice which are currently undersized and worn so there is that need for capital improvement of both Company #1 and Company #3; Company #2 was ignored due to lack of volunteers in that area and the logistics are difficult to work with. Jim Speich noted that we are now a three station scenario. Mr. Bishop noted that one way to help fill the gap with Company #2 not being as active is to do automatic aid from surrounding communities. Mrs. Maguire commented it is a great report and a lot to consider with key station locations. In response to a question from Ms. Ausiello, Mr. Bishop responded that whichever station ends up being worked on first will have the shiny doorknob effect; Company #3 has the active members and if able to support them and facilitate the leadership you shall not run into the problem of having too many volunteers which wouldn't actually be a problem. He added that both capital scenarios increase the ability to store vehicles inside. He noted that one of the most difficult leadership positions is that of a Fire Chief in a combination fire department, to balance the roles of a career staff and volunteers and treating everyone equally; there are a number of communities who have successful combination departments. In response to a question from Mr. Weber, Mr. Bishop responded that regarding retention, you have tackled a lot of what we would recommend; other opportunities include discount programs through retail memberships; volunteer firefighters do it for different reasons, it becomes individual and you have some very good, broad programs; a good thing to look at is what are we doing to make sure our active people are staying active and keeping involved. He noted that for younger members, affordable housing is a challenge; in some departments they serve as a landlord and lease apartments, or a stipend is offered. Jim Speich noted that retaining AVFD Explorers is really important along with having housing for them, so they stay around Town. In response to a question from Mr. Weber, the Town Manager responded that Town's tax abatement program would only apply to owner occupied residents. Chairman Polhamus noted that the need for paid staff can be indicated by the amount of mutual aid being required. Mr. Bishop added that the AVFD tracks a lot of good data; at one time all four stations were active; Company #2 members have been re-assigned to other stations; and recommends after-action reports on specific incidents to show the number of firefighters responding. Jim Speich added that the newer buildings should be built for a potential combined department. Chief Appell noted that all communities around us are in the same situation with low number of volunteers; we cannot rely on our partners all the time to come and help in Avon. Chairman Polhamus inquired about the future use of Company #2. Mr. Bishop responded that for ISO rating purposes, you want to have a fire station there to use apparatus from periodically and

have Canton available for automatic aid. Chairman Polhamus noted this is a lot of great information; our budget process is coming up; we may move on some of this before that with regards to fire apparatus. He thanked Mr. Bishop for the presentation. He recommended re-opening this item at the next meeting to discuss next steps.

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

Council appreciated the additional information regarding the Sycamore Hills Multi-Purpose Room and use of Town and Board of Education facilities from the Director of Recreation and Parks. Chairman Polhamus inquired how often the use of current facilities is being denied. He noted that the \$100,000 for the Senior Center Restroom Renovations Project through Representative Kavros DeGraw is still pending which we do want to move forward with this project. The Town Manager noted that a project update report will be provided to Council on a monthly basis.

**22/23-16 Appointment: Town Council Representative-Senior Citizens**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint David Pena as Town Council Representative-Senior Citizens, to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2023.

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

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**22/23-19 Supplemental Appropriation: Avon Senior Center – Monday Meals and Minds Program (ARPA), \$10,125**

Jennifer Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator, noted that the seniors are having more financial and food securities and social isolation grew due to the pandemic. She provided an overview of the Monday Meals and Minds Program. She noted that they received a \$6,000 grant through the North Central Area Agency on Aging for two Mondays a month. Mr. Weber asked for Ms. Bennett to report back in a few months with how the program is going.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 22/23 Budget by increasing:

**REVENUES**

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$10,125.00 and increasing:

**APPROPRIATIONS**

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Senior Citizens, Monday Meals & Minds-ARPA. Account #50-5301-53475 in the amount of \$10,125.00 for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards the establishment of a weekly Monday meal program at the Avon Senior Center.

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

**22/23-20 Support for Community Events Grant Award, \$4,350**

The Assistant Town Manager reported that two applications were received during this first round, but one applicant withdrew their submission during the review process. She noted that items we give preference for protect the public health, safety, and welfare during the events.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council award the Bottoms Up Organization a grant through the Community Events Grant Program in the amount of \$4,350 to support the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Turkey Trot & Health & Fitness Expo.

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

**22/23-21      Transfer of Appropriation: Sycamore Hills Recreation Area (ARPA),**  
**\$83,949.74**

The Town Manager reported that there was a \$100,000 appropriation requested for pool repairs at Sycamore Hills; that proposal was originally received a year ago for FY 23 capital budget which did not go through and ultimately an appropriation was approved through ARPA; another contractor is onsite doing work on the pool and learned that the prior estimate was very high for the scope of work outlined; this contractor had innovative ideas about how to approach the repairs; we were able to get the scope of work down to about \$17,000 and frees up the difference that could potentially be used to do the other projects at Sycamore Hills Recreation Area. Mr. Weber appreciated the explanation as he had an initial hesitation about spending ARPA funding on maintenance type items. The Town Manager responded that these other projects fall within the guidelines through the American Rescue Plan Act. In response to a question from Chairman Polhamus, the Town Manager responded this is a difference in the type of contractor and approach that was recommended; he would have preferred that earlier on there was more time spent on this recognizing that it was more of an estimate developed for capital purposes a year ago; and it is reason to be cautious in the future.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance to amend the FY 22/23 budget by transferring, \$83,949.74 from American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Town-CIP Facilities, Sycamore Hills Pool Repairs-ARPA, Account #50-4829-53329; to American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Town-CIP Facilities, Sycamore Hills Pools & Facilities Improvements-ARPA, Account #50-4829-53476; for various pool and facilities improvements to be made to the Sycamore Hills Recreation Area.

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

**22/23-22      Supplemental Appropriation: Absentee Ballot Processing Grant, \$8,532.59**

Nick Hogan, Town Clerk, reported that the Town received a grant from the State for the issuance of absentee ballots; it will be used for temporary staff to process absentee ballots and to install a security camera at the absentee ballot box to monitor ballot drop-off.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 22/23 Budget by increasing:

**REVENUES**

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Absentee Ballot Processing Grant, Account #01-0330-43425 in the amount of \$8,532.59 and increasing:

**APPROPRIATIONS**

General Fund, Records and Vital, Temporary Part Time, Account #01-1601-51014, in the amount of \$5,532.59, to cover the cost of the hiring staff to process absentee ballots for the 2022 election; and General Fund, Records and Vital, Other Equipment, Account #01-1601-53319, in the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing security equipment to monitor absentee ballot drop-off.

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

**22/23-23 Contract Recommendation: Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES)**

The Town Manager reported that the AWPCA is looking for authorization to enter into an agreement with Fuss & O'Neill for \$661,000 to complete a Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES); this is the second part of an Infiltration & Inflow (I & I) Study which was also completed by Fuss & O'Neill in 2016; the SSES identifies where there are leaks along with cost estimates to repair them; the funds would come from a capital account, the revenue source of which is the Sewer Fund (Fund 5). In response to a question from Mr. Weber, the Town Manager responded that these studies are completed approximately every twenty years. The Town Manager offered to have the Town Engineer provide a brief presentation regarding the I & I Study and SSES at Council's next meeting.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council table agenda item 22/23-23 Contract Recommendation: Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES) to the November 3, 2022 meeting.

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

**22/23-24 Approval of Real Estate Tax Refund, \$14,133.66**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve a real estate tax refund to The Residence at Brookside – c/o LCB Senior Living in the amount of \$14,133.66.

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

**22/23-25 Approval of Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds, \$9,452.73**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve motor vehicle tax refunds to Patel Anik, \$7,184.10; Smith Evan Drew, \$1,105.91; Leidal Kerry Callahan or Leidal Erik Andrew, \$1,162.72.

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

**22/23-26 FY 23/24 Budget: Approve Capital Budget Review Schedule**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the following FY 23/24 Capital Improvement Program Budget Review Schedule as follows:

**Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**                      **Regular Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)**  
Recreation and Parks  
Engineering  
Public Works

**Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**                      **Regular Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)**  
Board of Education  
Police Department  
Fire Department  
General Government

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

**22/23-27**      **Approve 2023 Meeting Schedule**

Council discussed a few potential conflicts with holidays in 2023 but decided to adopt the schedule as presented and will make any adjustments during the calendar year as needed.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adopt, in accordance with P.A. 723 of the 1967 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly, the following schedule of meetings for the Year 2023 and January of 2024: January 5, 2023, February 2, 2023, March 2, 2023, April 6, 2023, May 4, 2023, June 1, 2023, July 27, 2023, September 7, 2023, October 5, 2023, November 2, 2023, December 7, 2023, and January 4, 2024.

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

**IX. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS**

**Misc. A: Purchasing Update:** The Town Manager noted that we received five proposals for the RFP Development of a Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan; the RFP Comprehensive Update of the Avon Zoning Regulations will be advertised again; and Tax Software options are still being reviewed.

**Misc. B: Construction Update:** The Town Manager noted that regarding the Public Safety Communication System Project we are getting requests for information from SBA for their application to Siting Council; regarding the Old Farms Road Project we have \$400,000 in the current year capital budget to start doing the design work for the east-west section; regarding Town Hall Building #1 Improvements, an architect will develop conceptual drawings; the Town Clerk’s Vault Addition is coming along; Sidewalk Replacement West Avon/Country Club/Scoville should start in summer 2023; we continue to refine cost estimates with Avon Little League regarding the Sperry Park Ball Field; Road Improvements details are included under the ARPA Project Updates; and work is progressing at Countryside Park. He added that the Avon Land Trust has requested a small parking area along Nod Way and we will coordinate with the property owners. In response to a question from Mr. Weber, the Assistant Town Manager responded that regarding funding for the Sidewalk Replacement Project we won’t receive the STEAP monies until we spend it as it is a reimbursement program; the federal money has made its way to the CTDOT with limited instructions on how to administer the funding; the Town is one of six or seven towns in District 5 in the State who received the federal funding.

**Misc. C: Historic Designation Nomination-Brian Jones Paleoindian Site:** The Town Manager reported that this item will be on Council's next meeting agenda.

**Misc. D: ARPA Projects Update:** No highlights were provided.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pending Claim/Litigation  
Real Estate

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council enter into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

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

The Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Assistant Town Attorney (FordHarrison LLP), and the Clerk attended the session.

## **XII. ADJOURN**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$5,459,458 OF GRANT FUNDING  
FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE RELOCATION AND  
RECONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF OLD FARMS ROAD IN THE  
TOWN OF AVON

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The sum of \$5,459,458 is appropriated for the relocation, construction, reconstruction of, and improvement to, Old Farms Road, located in the Town of Avon, Connecticut (the "Town"), by relocating the section of Old Farms Road from the intersection with Thompson Road, through the intersection of Old Farms and Scoville Roads, to a point on the existing Old Farms Road approximately (+/-) 1,700 feet north of the intersection of Old Farms and Scoville Roads, for the purpose of improving safety for vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic; improving through traffic operations; providing a safe alternative to Routes 4 and 44 to reduce congestion and improve cross-town mobility; and providing other incidental environmental and safety improvements and enhancements, by undertaking certain improvements, including but not limited to: (i) entering into any agreements or covenants with Avon Old Farms School for the acquisition, or temporary use, of all or portions of parcels, located at 355 Old Farms Road, 500 Old Farms Road, 575 Old Farms Road, 625 Old Farms Road and 28 Scoville Road, with the specifics of the acquisitions and temporary uses to be determined by mutual agreement of the Town and the Avon Old Farms School; (ii) the installation of intersection improvements at the intersection of Old Farms and Scoville Roads; (iii) the installation of intersection improvements at the intersection of Old Farms and Thompson Roads; (iv) the installation of a bikeway along Scoville and Old Farms Roads; (v) related remediation, pavement, curbs, drainage and catch basin or culvert replacements, milling and overlay, micropaving, chipsealing and cracksealing, and other improvements; and for (vi) construction related costs, which are inclusive of, but not limited to, inspection (collectively, the "Project"), said appropriation to be inclusive of any and all State, Federal and other grants-in-aid thereof.

Section 2. The Town Manager or his designee is hereby authorized, in the name and on behalf of the Town, to apply for and accept any and all Federal and State loans and/or other grants-in-aid of the Project and is further authorized to expend said funds in accordance with the terms hereof and in connection therewith, to contract in the name of the Town with engineers, contractors and others.

Section 3. The Town Manager is hereby authorized, in the name and on behalf of the Town, to enter into any other agreements, instruments, documents and certificates, for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution.

Section 4. The Town hereby authorizes the preparation, printing and dissemination of concise explanatory texts or other printed material with respect to the appropriation for the Project in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.



## Avon Fire Department Plan for the Future

Avon Town Council Presentation – October 6, 2022

Paul Bishop, MPA, NRP



## Study Process

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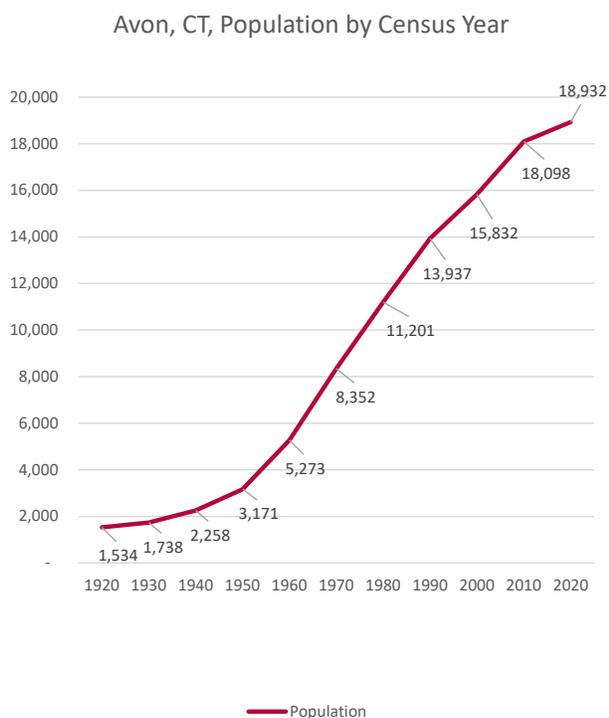
- Avon and AVFD engaged CGR to assist in developing a “Master Plan” for AVFD
- Focus is on the next 10 years
- Conducted dozens of interviews, visited each station, and conducted a survey of members
- Gathered data related to budget, apparatus, equipment and calls for service
- Created a comprehensive report including key findings and opportunities for action

## Department Profile

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- 58 firefighters, 70 active support roles and 50 honorary and lifetime members
- 4 fire stations
- 4 engines, 1 ladder, 1 rescue, 1 tanker, 1 mini-pumper and 6 support vehicles
- 1.7 calls per day, 75% of them between 8 am and 8 pm
- About \$800,000 a year for company to operate and about \$400,000 for other fire expenses
- \$935,000 for fire hydrant rental

## Key Findings - Community



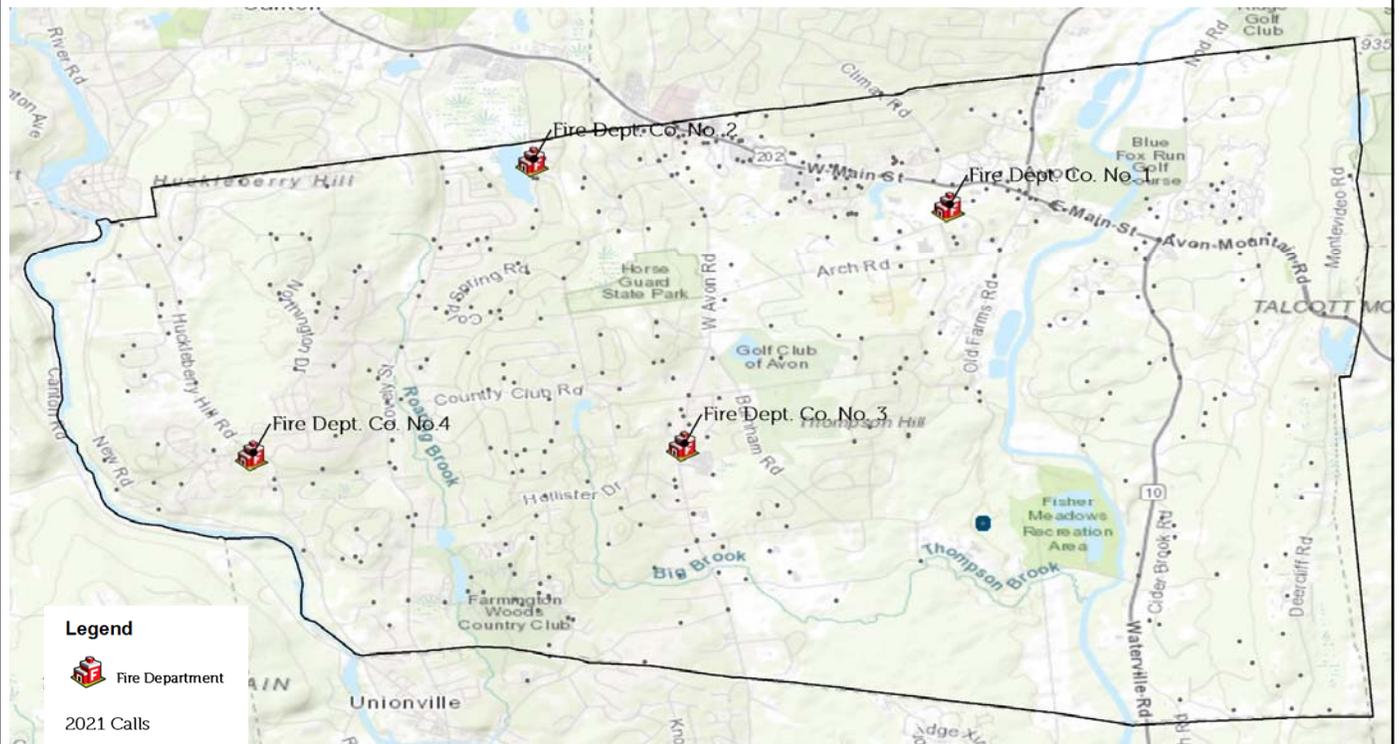
- Potential growth of 5% to 10% more in next decade
- Aging, with median from 42 to 45 in 20 years
- 2016 plan calls for additional development

## Key Findings

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- Between 3 to 7 new volunteers annually over last 5 years
- Median of hours volunteered is 5 per week, but some do much, much more
- 6 in 10 firefighters anticipate volunteering for 5+ years more
- AVFD has an average of 1.7 calls per day, or about 12 calls per week.
- 75 percent of the calls come in between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm
- Most common calls are a false alarm (37.5%), hazardous conditions (20%), and service calls (14%.) Fires of any type represent only 6% of calls.
- 4 engines, 1 ladder, 1 rescue, 1 tanker, 1 mini-pumper, and several support trucks/trailers. 4 are more than 20 years old.
- Most equipment and gear is up to current standards. Radios are an exception.
- Stations are well distributed.
- All stations need repairs or upgrades
- Station 1 and 3 are most pressing
- Station 2 is in reserve status

# Fire Calls in Avon, 2021



**Legend**

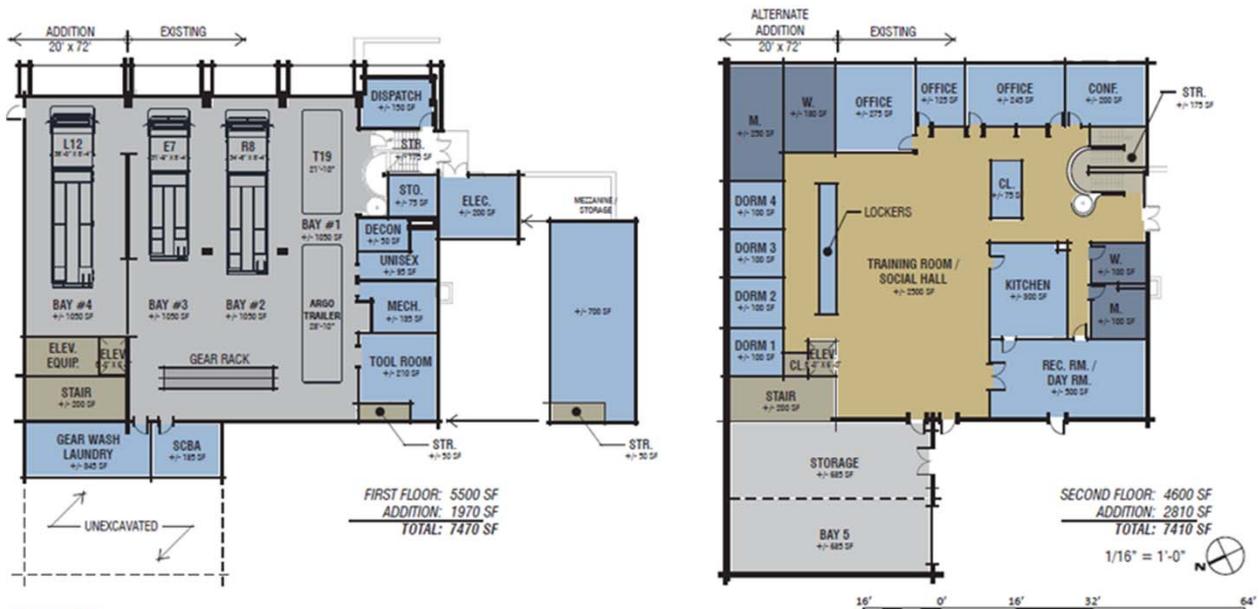
-  Fire Department
- 2021 Calls
  -  1 to 5
  -  12 to 35
-  Avon

## Priority Opportunities

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- **Fleet size is appropriate, but needs modernization**
  - Ladder 12, Engine 14, Engine 10 and Tanker 20 should all be replaced by 2030 at estimated cost of \$4.5 M
- **Address Current Functional Deficiencies through repairs or acting on capital building scenario**
  - Punchlist of concerns at each station. Station Two should remain as a reserve station & Station Four has least identified concerns
  - Two different Capital Scenarios (following slides)
- **Suggestions for improving recruitment, retention, training and some operational practices**
- **Long term – look at staffing models to supplement volunteers**
  - Station and task support for AVFD at \$150k per year
  - Day time firefighters – 4 FFs, 12 hours on weekdays at about \$490,000
  - Full time coverage – 4 FFs, 24/7 at about \$2.2 million

# Scenario # 1



25 DARLING DRIVE  
 AVON, CT 06001

**TOWN OF AVON FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
 MAY 2022

STATION 1

PLAN LAYOUT

DESIGN SCOPE: FIRE DEPARTMENT



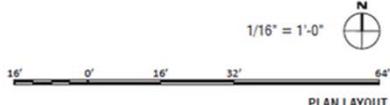
# Scenario # 2



**LEGEND**

ROOM	ROOM NAME	SQUARE FOOTAGE
1	- APPARATUS BAYS	4325 SF
2	- GEAR WASH	630 SF
3	- MECHANICAL	300 SF
4	- ELEC. / DATA	195 SF
5	- KITCHEN	535 SF
6	- SCBA	280 SF
7	- DECON.	80 SF
8	- TOOL ROOM	330 SF
9	- CONTROL ROOM	200 SF
10	- MEN'S	630 SF (TOT.)
11	- WOMEN'S	630 SF (TOT.)
12	- STOR. / CUSTODIAL	190 SF (TOT.)
13	- VEST	130 SF (TOT.)
14	- CORR.	1350 SF
15	- TRAINING / SOCIAL	2480 SF
16	- CONFERENCE	180 SF
17	- STORAGE	180 SF
18	- OFFICE	480 SF (TOT.)
19	- DORM	320 SF (TOT.)
20	- KITCHEN	300 SF
21	- DAY ROOM	600 SF
22	- PORCH	300 SF
<b>GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE:</b>		<b>+/- 14,645 SF</b>

**PROPOSED STATION 3**



503 WEST AVON ROAD **TOWN OF AVON FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
 AVON, CT 06001  
 JUNE 2022



## Comparison of Scenarios

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
<b>Station One</b>		
<b>Apparatus Sq. Ft.</b>	4,885	3,150
<b>Admin/Living Sq. Ft.</b>	9,995	6,950
<b>Total Sq. Ft.</b>	14,880	10,100
<b>Planned Apparatus</b>	4 + space for support	3 + space for support
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$ 5,401,000	\$ 2,997,000
<b>Station Three</b>		
<b>Apparatus Sq. Ft.</b>	2,595	4,395
<b>Admin/Living Sq. Ft.</b>	3,454	10,250
<b>Total Sq. Ft.</b>	6,049	14,645
<b>Planned Apparatus</b>	3	5
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$ 5,128,000	\$ 9,566,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	\$ 10,529,000	\$ 12,563,000

## Choosing Between Alternatives

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- Substantial investments have been identified for buildings (\$10.5 to \$12.6 M) and apparatus (up to \$20 M) that need to be acted upon
- The dedicated volunteers help avoid costs for paid staff that could be \$2.2 M annually
- AVFD should look to implement retention, recruitment and operational changes quickly