

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber by Chairman Zacchio. Members present: Mrs. Maguire and Messrs: Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Zacchio.

III. PUBLIC HEARING: None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: February 4, 2016

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 4, 2016 Meeting as submitted.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Chief Michael Trick, Avon Volunteer Fire Department, presented the Town Council with the commemorative ceremonial shovel from the ground breaking ceremony that we had some months ago for the Fire Training Facility. He read the inscription as follows:

"Town of Farmington and Avon
Volunteer Fire Departments
Live Fire Training Facility
Ground Breaking Ceremony
October 29, 2015"

He added that they will keep the Council updated as well as they can with the progress and will also be updating their Facebook page. Chairman Zacchio commented that this is the first shovel presented to the Town Council and it should go on display at Town Hall.

Bruce Corbett, 171 Huckleberry Hill Road, wanted to make comments about the teachers' salary settlement this year that is beyond the Council's grasp at this point. He has put together some ideas in two handouts that he distributed (which are attached and made part of these minutes). He thanked the Board of Education and Town Council members for going to meetings and serving the Town in the best way that you know how and he appreciates that as well as other townspeople. He noted that some of his comments need to be a little critical. He thinks the Board of Education in their process of negotiating could have had a slightly different perspective. He noted that there are a lot of skilled lawyers and people on the Board and he appreciates that. He reported that he is a retired teacher, spent seven years as President of a

teachers' association and we struggled to get money. He knows how to read salary schedules, the impact of compounding percentages, the impact of starting with a starting salary which is high to bring in the best people that you can but then need to temper your 2%, 2.5% down the road because if you do not you get a salary schedule that is out of whack. He noted the research he did including the five touching towns and you can guess which one is Avon. He highlighted the high teacher salaries do not make any sense. He noted that his concerns are also listed. He wants to bring in a ball park that allows the taxpayers of Avon to know they have a good school system but not pay continually extra fees for that.

Mr. Corbett reported that in December he tried to get the Town Council to go to arbitration on this issue, a way to see where we go and to challenge the arbitration system; we have not challenged that system. He noted that Avon teachers are so highly paid that how could they ask for any more. He highlighted the bulleted items on his memo. He noted that the \$800,000 in new salary money will have an impact on some of the other things that this Town wants and needs to do. He added that is on top of a salary schedule that is already excessive does not make sense. He noted that the fact that the retirement stipulations in the contract have gone on for this long is an embarrassment. He added that the Superintendent has made an effort to stop that because it was not good but that is going to go on for another 20-30 years because it does not apply until the new hires come into that picture. He added that we have 70-80% of our teachers on maximum and eligible for this retirement benefit. He has been in contact with an administrator fairly high at the Teacher Retirement Board and how the super max steps are going to put in jeopardy the teacher retirement pension system. Chairman Zacchio commented that those are State stipulations by the State Board of Education and not within the control of the teachers when they are negotiating the contract. Mr. Corbett questioned what is not under control. Chairman Zacchio responded the step process and the teacher's retirement plan. Mr. Corbett responded that we can design our salary schedule exactly the way we want to; there was a comment in the newspaper that the steps are not in our control but they are in our control.

Chairman Zacchio questioned if he has had that conversation with the Board of Education. Mr. Corbett responded that he is now. Chairman Zacchio commented that the Board of Education negotiates the contracts with the teachers and Council does not have any control in this. He noted that this is nice data for the Budget Hearing that people will listen to and decide. Mr. Corbett agreed and that is where he has to go because the Board of Education did not do their job from his perspective and the Town Council passed on it. Chairman Zacchio commented that is Mr. Corbett's right but we cannot do anything about that here and this is a good conversation for the Board of Finance budget public hearing. Mr. Corbett is trying to get the people of Avon to be aware of our lack of citizenship in this town; 4% turned out to vote on the last budget which is terrible. He is hoping to get 10% in the new year and does not care which way the budget goes; the salary schedule is an elephant in the room that is going to impact some of the other things that this town wants to do. He noted that there was a person who said, "I believe that we have an ever expanding universe that no one seems to know how to control." He noted that with a lot of effort we can exert our control over the budget and the financial things so we can do things that the townspeople want to do. He has heard a lot of different things about salary schedules; there is some anger out there and they say thank you to him but whether they will do anything about it he doesn't know. He is at the Landfill trying to educate people. He thanked the Council for listening to him. Council thanked him for coming in.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Stokesbury commented that after the February budget workshop he and Chairman Zacchio went up to Vermillion to see the devastating house fire, met with James DiPace and talked about the destruction but most importantly we talked about the dedication and commitment of not just the Avon Volunteer Fire Department but seven or eight mutual aid communities that responded and through their efforts delivered about a half million gallons of water to that fire. He wanted to commend all of the firemen for their work that day. He noted the house fire the day before so a very busy week for them. He added that we did hear from some neighbors up on the street who challenge the lack of fire hydrants in the neighborhood and he offered to welcome them to speak to Council at a meeting and talk about it. He noted that it certainly had an impact on that fire. He added that those houses were built under the conditions of no fire hydrants so not something to be surprised about.

Mr. Stokesbury reported that he, Mr. Pena, and Mrs. Maguire attended the Police Department's accreditation public hearing on Tuesday night, each of us spoke, the Town Manager spoke, and we heard some very good feedback from members of the community and quite refreshing to hear how well our Police Department is viewed in the eyes of the public and he commends their work.

Mr. Stokesbury commended current and former members of the Board of Education, Superintendent Mala, teachers and various administrators and other staff in Town as the State Board of Education came out today with another set of rankings and data on how each district is doing, this time on accountability, and Avon basically aced it and we should be quite proud of their efforts.

Mr. Pena reported that he attended the Cub Scout Pack 122 Annual Blue and Gold Banquet; it is a great organization, always well attended, and they do a lot for the community. He also commented on the accreditation and that it was a little different this year in that whoever spoke they would always have something to come back to the individual and comment on what they were looking for and what you stated was also important; we learned a lot from the accreditors; it was a good event, very positive.

Mr. Speich added to Mr. Stokesbury comment about water supply and the Fire Department in the past years have asked for cisterns and there are quite a few at the top of Avon Mountain. He noted that we should consider that in the future for certain areas in Town that do not have hydrants. Chairman Zacchio commented that it is a public utility and not owned by the Town. Mr. Speich commented that we should try to do whatever we can to help. Mr. Stokesbury added that Jamie DiPace in his official capacity and privately is a strong advocate of residential fire suppression systems and something people should consider with new construction or perhaps retro. Mr. Pena noted that through the Planning and Zoning Commission many of the homes built in that area are required to have them because the Fire Marshal recommends them.

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council move up agenda item 15/16-48 Approve Eagle Scout Proclamation: Chase Harmon.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

VII. OLD BUSINESS**13/14-48 Synthetic Field Project: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Location:
(99 Thompson Road & Avon High School)**

Chairman Zacchio commented that we asked the Board of Education for input around what their site preference was and any concerns they might have moving forward with that site. He added that they were unanimous in choosing the Avon High School site and he thinks the sentiment of this Council was that it was also a better place than the MH Rhodes site. He noted that the Board of Education also provided a number of concerns outlining conditions of their approval and ones that we had previously talked about at our meeting and included one more around what the CIP funding might be in terms of replacing the field turf at intervals that are appropriate as well as what we heard from the public at the December 7th meeting. He noted that they have all voiced very valid concerns around light use and noise that come with the number of nights that would be involved if lights were included in the field and it has to be one of the most important aspects that we think about as we move forward as well as the concerns around turf crumb rubber infill and the potential health hazards around those at this point. He reported that the recommendation from the Town Manager is that we are on the same page for the site and agree this is the spot we would like to pursue it, appoint a community committee that would include folks from the Recreation and Parks Committee who have helped drive this project to this point as well as members of the community as he and Mr. Putnam-Lowry, Board of Education Chairman had conversations around what we were asking of the Board of Education also agreed on who those stakeholders would be and clearly the surrounding neighborhood are stakeholders who should have a voice on that committee, and either the Booster Club society and/or the parent group who was behind getting this off the ground.

Chairman Zacchio commented that the Town Manager has a recommendation for a Charge and the two most important items would be the lights, their use, a policy around that use and a noise policy in terms of what could be used with the PA system; in addition to health, traffic, rest rooms, garbage, and more. He noted that the Board of Education documented for us with the artificial turf the times in which any conditions the fields would be used to minimize impact on neighbors. He noted that residents from Sudbury Way and West Avon Road would probably be interested in serving on the Committee. He commented on the sound system and not having good control of it as well as it not being a good system.

Mr. Stokesbury commented that we need to start with a basic Charge to the Committee recognizing that whatever we set as a minimum there are some very probable add-ons to consider for any number of reasons. He noted that a lot of the add-ons will depend on pricing and funding. Chairman Zacchio commented that as a base you have to do a field and 6 or 8 lane track. His opinion would be to add lights with a reasonable use policy and beyond that is an add alternate (stand, press boxes, second field, etc.). Chairman Zacchio asked the Council if they agree. The Council concurred. The Town Manager commented that having consensus from the Council tonight about the site he will now go back and craft a motion for Council's consideration that would take it to the next step of appointing the Committee. Chairman Zacchio commented that there is a consensus among the Town Council that the Avon High School site is the site to pursue and we will appoint a Committee to work through the issues in a Charge.

The Town Manager commented that for the Charge the way we would approach it with the same level of detail we would as an application before the Planning & Zoning Commission, working on all of those detailed issues about limitations on the use of the facility, how many times, what time the lights have to go off, how the PA system factors into that, the policies, and how the use of the field is coordinated and scheduled, high school athletic use versus community use, the port-a-potties, restroom accessibility, and the buffering of the facility specifically to the south that borders the Sudbury Way area, take an initial look at traffic to determine if future permitting through OSTA is going to be required. He added that what we will do in terms of developing this Charge is work with staff including Tim Filon, Athletic Director for the Board of Education and Town staff in the Recreation and Parks Department and coordinate with the Planning and Zoning Department to make sure that this Committee works to solve all of the issues that the Planning and Zoning Commission would be looking at. Mr. Speich commented that there are enough resources to do a lessons learned from other communities as others have faced these same problems. The Town Manager responded yes, most of these types of facilities are in residential areas. He noted that we have talked to Canton, Farmington, and Simsbury and have examples of their policies and restrictions that are in place and BSC Group is all over the State and encounter these exact types of issues with almost every project they are involved with and an excellent resource. He added that he will have to talk to BSC Group about expanding their scope and an associated fee with having them support the Committee through this process. Chairman Zacchio noted that Canton did not put in lights but may have stubbed for them; Simsbury's policy is around ten and Farmington's moves around. The Town Manager commented that Farmington has an arrangement where if the Town Council, Board of Education, and Planning and Zoning Commission agree they can extend the number but there is a limit of fifteen. Chairman Zacchio commented that something most concerning to the neighbors including some that are here tonight was at the December 7th meeting we did a full transparency of what its highest and best use could be and when you see 30-50 night games in a year it has a shock value that we now appreciate a lot more than we might have when we were trying to be transparent about what it could be used for. He noted that we do not have any intention of coming close to those numbers and should be something reasonable and in line with what we see in surrounding communities can work; it is a question of getting to the right number, finding the right policies that protect and in most cases will give us a way to monitor it and ensure the policies are being followed. His hope is that as we move forward we have a Committee that can work together in the best interest and move it forward to us.

Steve Muench, 34 Sudbury Way, thanked Chairman Zacchio for all of the communications that have been had. He shared a thought/concern about the drainage as the existing drainage pipes are probably antiquated and he wants to make sure that the neighborhood does not get flooded. He noted that he teaches at the Avon Middle School and the Town permitted Sunlight Construction to build a development behind the Middle School but areas flooded and work was done to remedy those issues whereas they are private parties and would not want their basements turned into swimming pools. Chairman Zacchio responded that the engineering side of it we will have to make sure that the hydraulics associated with the drainage systems are either up to par or need to be upgraded. His concept is that they are built like a big bath tub and when the rain is happening they are retaining water and drain off like a leach field as heard from BSC Group. He noted that is good but to Mr. Muench's point what you drain into has to be solid.

John Carlson, 28 Sudbury Way, applauded all of the work including the formation of a Committee with a Charge. He commented that as part of the Charge since there are coverage ratios the Committee should have those at their disposal in trying to align it with a presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Chairman Zacchio responded that we have to make sure we have a clear delineating line between what we ask the Recreation and Parks Subcommittee to do in terms of solving those problems and what you are talking about which is if you move forward with a project as it needs Planning and Zoning Commission approval. He noted that the points made by Mr. Carlson and Mr. Muench are ones that have to be included in the engineering piece and will have to be before Planning and Zoning Commission and it is incumbent upon us to make sure it is right.

Mr. Carlson commented that maybe this is intended but did not hear any Committee composition representation from the school system administration. Chairman Zacchio responded that there are four members of the Recreation and Parks Committee who have been core on this and would ask them to continue their work, BSC Group would be the professional staff, one member from Sudbury Way, one member from West Avon Road, one other stakeholder (high school PTO or booster), Tim Filon and Ruth Checko as Directors/Staff associated to the project and servicing the needs of whatever the Committee is. Mr. Carlson commented that when number of nights were mentioned earlier if that included total use between Town and Board of Education. Chairman Zacchio responded that he does not know what is done outside of game counts. Mr. Carlson suggested that from a Charge standpoint that they take into consideration both usages. Chairman Zacchio responded that it should be broken out into games and practices so if a practice is in early November when the lights are needed and practice can go on until 6:30-7:00 p.m. and is that okay and do we permit it or not versus games that are happening until 9:00-9:30 p.m. at night. Mr. Carlson suggested that it be even broader than games because if indeed that you have stands and a press box there could be a concert and should be regulated in terms of total number of nights of usage. Chairman Zacchio agreed.

Ed Howley, 32 Coventry Lane, questioned if the Committee meetings will be open to the public. Chairman Zacchio responded yes, that they will be regular, open public meetings of the Recreation and Parks Committee and will be posted like any other Town meeting.

Chairman Zacchio jotted down a list of items for the Town Manager to build into the Charge: turf/track/lights as a core and to work through that, in-fill type, a light use policy and encompasses what Mr. Muench and Mr. Carlson talked about, the noise use policy and design of the PA system. He noted that the PA systems now can be designed ground up instead of projecting out like today, parking, traffic, restrooms, and buffering and including what the Board of Education also gave us for feedback which includes the capital budgeting process for any replacement cycle. He noted that the Committee can see if there are ways we can find counter measures for those and what their recommendation would be.

Sara Roberson, 24 Sudbury Way, commented that it might not hurt to share what has been found in surrounding communities regarding their number of nights allowed to use lights with the public.

Chairman Zacchio commented to the Town Manager that perhaps the first meeting of that Committee would be what data they want drawn out of the surrounding communities and found

ways to do this in residential neighborhoods and we need to know how it is going as well and what policies were put in place. He noted that Simsbury is going through their cycle replacement of their turf right now and got both crumb rubber and two different types of in-fill quotes. He noted that South Windsor or Windsor has done their fields with sand instead of the crumb rubber. He would personally like to hear from that Committee regardless of what direction we go with the rest of it as to at least two or three different types of in-fills and what those costs and advantages are and see/hear all of that at a check point meeting. The Town Manager commented that he will report back at the next council meeting and have a Charge ready for consideration, he will talk to BSC Group and will likely require a supplemental appropriation for them to complete their work with the Committee to get a recommendation, and have members identified for the Committee. He noted that he has received correspondence from a resident each on West Avon Road and Sudbury Way. Chairman Zacchio noted that the items discussed for the Charge are not in concrete so if the Committee has other items they would like to include in their scope of important items to be addressed they should do so. The Town Manager commented that when we started this in 2014 Town Council adopted a Statement of Need for the Thompson Road property which is a requirement in one of the Town Council policies and he would suggest part of the Charge include the substance of that Statement of Need and be updated to reflect a different location. He added that this Committee would report out to both the Town Council and Board of Education and Town Council would ultimately decide next steps with the Board of Education as a critical partner. Chairman Zacchio asked the Town Manager to move forward with developing the Charge and to present to Council at the next meeting and there is consensus that we would like to pursue it at the Avon High School site and can move forward and put the Committee together.

15/16-05 FY 16/17 Budget Development

Chairman Zacchio commented that the Town Manager was asked to make a few small adjustments at the February Budget Workshop. The Town Manager commented that there was interest in trying to accommodate a request from the Library to add some number of hours to a Reference Librarian position; the original request was 25 hours and he spoke to the Library Director following the Budget Workshop and feel that going with 15 hours is a good start and leaves room for growth going out into the future and will support the Library's efforts going forward. He took the additional funding that would be required to support the additional hours and applied a few offsets including a reduction in the police public safety budget-personnel line item of approximately \$12,000, an adjustment to reflect a more realistic staffing schedule going into next year based on current vacancies and likelihood that we are going to have those filled at 100% for all of next year is very unlikely. He noted another minor adjustment to reduce the police department's ammunition line item. He commented that from what was discussed at the February Budget Workshop to now is a very minor adjustment of a few hundred dollars which is essentially rounding errors. Chairman Zacchio commented that the piece of public safety is in terms of what you think the attrition and will the vacancy be long enough to carry the \$12,000. The Town Manager reported that there will be another One-Day Hiring Process for the Police Department coming up but does not think we will be at 100% for the entire year and entirely comfortable with the small reduction. The Town Manager asked the Town Council to act on the bottom line. He noted that yesterday we had a successful day in the market with a refi and refunding of approximately \$12 million in general obligation bonds and we are saving approximately \$385,000 in the next 10 years in debt service cost and there is a reduction in debt

service in fiscal year 2016/2017 of \$9,537.50 and increases over the years. He noted that the matrix was completed prior to the sale and he asked the Council to approve the bottom line for the budget and have some latitude to be able to reduce the debt service line as seen on the matrix and move that capacity to the capital line specifically for the Pavement Management Program. He noted that the average net present value was almost 3%. Mr. Stokesbury commented that there is no cash flowing to us, it is all avoidance. The Town Manager responded that is correct however once it settles out there may be a small residual of approximately \$2,000 that we could put into a revenue account and close to Unassigned Fund Balance at the end of the year.

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council recommends the FY 16/17 Proposed Budget of \$86,402,646 to the Board of Finance as follows with noted flexibility in terms of transfer of debt service dollars associated to the Refunding to CIP Road Improvement budget:

REVENUES

Property Tax & Assessments	\$	76,845,778
Intergovernmental		5,214,956
Licenses, Fees & Permits		1,054,445
Charges for Current Services		4,489,393
Other Local Revenues		403,602
Other Financing Sources (Uses)		1,394,472
TOTAL	\$	89,402,646

EXPENDITURES

Town Operating Budget	\$	23,382,571
School Operating Budget		56,882,566
Sewer Operating Budget		1,947,682
Capital & Debt Service Budgets:		
Debt Service		2,789,290
Capital Budget (CNREF, Facilities & Equipment)		4,400,537
<i>Subtotal: Capital & Debt Service</i>		<u>7,189,827</u>
TOTAL	\$	86,402,646

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-24 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-24 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017) to the April 7, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-25 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (U - 12/31/2018)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-25 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (U – 12/31/2018) to the April 7, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-39 Appointments: Planning & Zoning Commission – Alternates (2-R–12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-39 Appointments: Planning & Zoning Commission – Alternates (2-R – 12/31/2017) to the April 7, 2016 meeting. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-40 Appointments: Recreation & Parks Committee (Two-R – 12/31/2017)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-40 Appointments: Recreation & Parks Committee (Two-R – 12/31/2017) to the April 7, 2016 meeting. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-41 Appointment: Town Council Representative for Secret Lake Association

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Sue Anderson as the Town Council Representative for Secret Lake Association to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

Chairman Zacchio asked the Town Manager for an opportunity to have Sue Anderson attend an upcoming Town Council meeting to introduce herself and talk to her about the Association. The Town Manager responded that he would set that up.

15/16-42 Appointment: Wild & Scenic River Study Committee (R – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-42 Appointment: Wild & Scenic River Study Committee (R – 12/31/2017) to the April 7, 2016 meeting. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-43 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-43 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017) to the April 7, 2016 meeting. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

15/16-47 Review and Approval: 2016 Girl Scout Week Proclamation

Chairman Zacchio commented that the Girl Scouts are celebrating their 104th anniversary. He noted that there were no girl scouts in the audience to receive the proclamation so he waived the reading of the proclamation which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, March 12, 2016, marks the 104th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which began in 1912 when Savannah, GA native Juliette Gordon Low gathered 18 girls to provide them the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually;

WHEREAS, 1912 was also the year in which Girl Scouting started in the state of Connecticut;

WHEREAS, for more than 100 years, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence, and character who act to make the world a better place; and,

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience helps girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place; and,

WHEREAS, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, Girl Scouts of Connecticut offers the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more than 35,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Connecticut; and,

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, celebrating its 100th year, requires girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community, assess a need and design a solution, find the resources and support to make it happen, and complete the project;

WHEREAS, core programs around environmental stewardship, anti-bullying techniques, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and healthy living, help girls develop a solid foundation in leadership; and,

WHEREAS, today, more than 59 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae and 2.7 million girls and adult volunteers are active members;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark W. Zacchio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chairman of the Town Council of Avon, Connecticut do hereby applaud the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for more than 100 years of leadership and expertise as the voice for and of girls, proudly proclaim March 12, 2016, as Girl Scout Day.

15/16-48 Approve Eagle Scout Proclamation: Chase Harmon

Chairman Zacchio welcomed Chase Harmon. He asked about his project and what scouting means to him. Chase Harmon responded that his project was done in Simsbury because he is a member of a troop there as he used to live there and at Memorial Field 6 he renovated and installed helmet cubbies, poster boards, and equipment storage units into the dugouts. He added that scouting is really important to him and he has been a cub scout since a very young age and he teaches him good values, leadership, morals, qualities and strengths that you would not be exposed to in another other situation. He attends the Blue and Gold Annual Banquets with his troop when he can and an amazing experience and invaluable because it gives a lot back to the community as well. Chairman Zacchio extended congratulations on behalf of the Town of Avon and the Town Council.

Chairman Zacchio read and presented to Chase S. Harmon the following Proclamation:

MARCH 3, 2016

CHASE S. HARMON

Permit the Town Council to join your many friends in offering our heartiest congratulations upon your achievement as an Eagle Scout.

This is indeed an appropriate honor for the many years you have spent as a Boy Scout. As a Boy Scout you have had to show qualities of leadership, integrity, loyalty, and service to your troop, community, school, church, and your friends.

The high standards of the Boy Scouts of America are well known and your elevation to Eagle Scout most certainly attests to your fulfillment of their high standards. Congratulations on your outstanding achievement!

15/16-49 Approve Proclamation: 100th Birthday Greeting for Ruth F. Nelson

Chairman Zacchio read the following proclamation:

“GREETINGS
Congratulations **RUTH F. NELSON** on your 100th Birthday!
On behalf of the Town Council and the Community of Avon
we would like to extend to you pleasant thoughts
and heartfelt wishes for a happy day.
Your 100th Birthday is a great day for celebrating!
YOUR 100TH BIRTHDAY
IS A WONDERFUL MILESTONE,
A SPECIAL TIME FOR ENJOYING
ALL THE MEMORIES OF
SO MANY YEARS WELL-LIVED.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

This recognition was spread upon the minutes of the March 3, 2016 Town Council Meeting.”

15/16-50 Review, Discussion, Set Public Hearing Date: Road Acceptance for Aspenwood

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council set a public hearing to be held at their April 7, 2016 meeting to consider to accept the title of road and all appurtenances thereof for Aspenwood as shown on map titled “Subdivision Plan Aspenwood” 45 Sunrise Drive, Avon, CT dated December 21, 2012 prepared by Denno Land Surveying and Consulting LLC. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-51 Review, Discussion, Set Public Hearing Date: Sanitary Sewer Easements for Stratford Crossing (Quinn’s Court and Londonderry Court)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council set a public hearing to be held at their April 7, 2016 meeting to consider to accept two Sanitary Sewer Easements from Sunlight Construction Inc. as shown on a map entitled “Easement Plan Stratford Crossing Prepared for Sunlight Construction Inc. 44 Lenox Road, Avon, Connecticut Scale 1”=40’ Sheet 1 of 1 dated 02/24/16 by Denno Land Surveying and Consulting LLC.” Sanitary Sewer Easements considered are for Quinn’s Court and Londonderry Court. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-52 Review, Discussion, Set Public Hearing Date: Sanitary Sewer Easements for Avon Place Condominiums and Apartments

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council set a public hearing to be held at their April 7, 2016

meeting to consider to accept a Sanitary Sewer Easement as shown on a map entitled “Easement Plan Prepared for Norfolk-Ram Avon Place 46 Avonwood Road Avon, Connecticut 1”=80’ dated 7-24-13 and revised February 2016 by J.R. Russo & Associates, LLC.” Sanitary Sewer Easements considered for Avon Place Condominiums and Apartments.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-53 Supplemental Appropriation: Paving Founders Way, \$74,765

Chairman Zacchio reported that we have gone through this process a few times in the past with Huckleberry Hill Road and the theory is that we can purchase the pavement and pave the road at a much more aggressive way than the builder can and stretch the dollars to go well beyond paving the agreed area and can use it on other paving projects in Town and has been successful in the past. The Town Manager commented that the Director of Public Works estimates that we can do the paving at a savings of 10-15%. He noted that we did this was with the Connecticut Water Company on both Huckleberry Hill Road and Woodford Avenue and have had success. He added that for Founders Way the road has been completed and this request is to move the \$74,765 into the capital account for the Pavement Management Program. He noted that we did this road at the same time as we were doing Pioneer. He has told the Director of Public Works that we should do it every time as it is easier for us to ensure compliance with Town standards and stretch the dollars further and the developer has an incentive to shed the liability for this task. Chairman Zacchio noted that the Council supports this process 100%. He noted that these monies will go toward the capital budget for road paving next year and we have a residual dollar amount from this year’s capital budget which means we should be able to get moving on the paving early and the weather is cooperating. The Town Manager responded that we have a balance of approximately \$155,000 and this supplemental appropriation will go into the Pavement Management Program now and have a total of over \$200,000 to get started this spring.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 15/16 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Other Local Revenue, Payment in Lieu of Road Improvements, Account #02-0360-43659, in the amount of \$74,765.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Town CIP- Facil/Road Overlay, Road Overlay, Account #02-4831-53003, in the amount of \$74,765.00, for the purpose of paving Founders Way, per an agreement with JZMAR, LLC and the Town of Avon.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-54 Supplemental Appropriation: Groomer for DPW, \$20,096.87

Chairman Zacchio commented that this groomer will be used on all athletic fields in Town and will be a huge improvement to the quality of the infields as they are being groomed. He noted that Fund 2 is the fund that we keep and reoccur dollars into from the surplus sale of old items that the Deputy Director of Public Works started several years ago. The Town Manager noted that we have an assignment on capital for capital asset purchase; we auction off a piece of equipment and this is where the revenue goes. He added that after this appropriation we will

have a remaining balance of approximately \$25,000. He noted that we used this Fund most recently for a trailer and lifts for the Department of Public Works. Mr. Stokesbury noted that the Director of Public Works and Deputy Director of Public Works were very aggressive in pricing this with the right attachments, promotion on shipping, and really are looking out for the Town's best interests and allows us to get top equipment at a fair price, we maintain it well and serves the needs of the Town residents.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation not to exceed \$20,096.87 from General Fund, Other Financing Sources, Assigned to Capital Asset Purchase, Account # 01-0390-43928; and increasing General Fund, Buildings & Grounds, Equipment, Account #01-3401-52194 in the amount of \$20,096.87 for the purpose of purchasing one replacement Ball Diamond Groomer.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-55 Approval of Real Estate Tax Refund, \$45,087.12

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve a real estate tax refund to Connecticut On Line Computer Center Inc. in the amount of \$45,087.12.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-56 Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeals (R – 12/31/2019)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Ames Shea to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-57 Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeals (D – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Zacchio, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Chester Bukowski to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-58 Appointment: Municipal Agent for the Veterans (12/31/2017)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council re-appoint Alan Rosenberg as the Town's Municipal Agent for the Veterans for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

15/16-59 Resignation: Avon Clean Energy Commission (R – 12/31/2017)

On a motion made by Mr. Speich, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Brian Glenn from

the Avon Clean Energy Commission.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager reported that we are still working on the radio system bid however, the Police Department has been focused on the accreditation process so he will have an update in April. He reported that four proposals were received for the Auditing Services RFP, including Blum Shapiro, Cohn Reznick, and two others he is not as familiar with, copies will be sent to the Board of Finance members, and ultimately the Board of Finance will make an appointment effective July 1, 2016 and the auditor will be responsible for the current fiscal year. He reported that we have bid packages out for a portion of the STEAP project. He noted that regarding the new fire apparatus you can go to the Gowans-Knight web site at www.gowansknight.com and see Engine 11 under construction. Chairman Zacchio noted that the Avon Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) also has pictures on their Facebook page. Mr. Stokesbury questioned the arrival of Engine 11. Chairman Zacchio responded that it is around March/April according to the AVFD's Facebook page.

Mr. Speich inquired about an item regarding the bid for the STEAP project and where the south side of Route 10 is. The Town Manager responded that it should read the east side of Route 10, from where the sidewalk ends now on the east side heading north into Simsbury (Sperry Park up to and past Riverdale Farms). He noted that we need an easement in front of Avon Meadow to make the connection but so far the reception has not been great. Mr. Speich questioned how far the sidewalk and lights will go into Town. The Town Manager responded that this is the fourth phase of the project and we've been running down the north side of Route 44 and will keep heading down Simsbury Road north until we get to Simsbury with sidewalks, granite curbing, and same style of light fixture that we have been using all along. Mr. Speich questioned if there has been any thoughts about going up Old Farms Road as it seems like a lost area. The Town Manager responded that we could incorporate that into a future STEAP application. Chairman Zacchio that this is the last STEAP application for that project and will be looking for new projects. The Town Manager noted that the next STEAP application in the cue is the sidewalk on West Avon Road and has so far been unsuccessful. Chairman Zacchio responded that if that STEAP application is not approved we are going to have to fund that into the capital budget as it needs to be done.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager reported that we continue to coordinate with Farmington regarding the Fire Training Center; we are still waiting on a few bids, the building has been purchased and when ready we will start the site work.

Misc. C: Refunding: The Town Manager reported that good comments were received by the rating agencies and Aaa rating was reaffirmed by Moody's.

Misc. D: CALEA: The Town Manager reported the accreditation is done and we will not know officially until June when they have the annual conference what the outcome is but initial indications from the Chief of Police is that things went well. He noted that we had an excellent assessor team and they had complimentary things to say about Police staff.

Misc. E: Assistant to the Town Manager Recruitment: The Town Manager reported that applications for the Assistant to the Town Manager position were due on March 1st. He noted that 59 applicants were received.

Mr. Stokesbury commented on information received by the Town Manager regarding new signage at Sycamore Hills Park. The Town Manager responded that he is hopeful that we will also have funding available to do Fisher Meadows as well. He recalled an accident this past spring when a vehicle hit a beam at the entrance and the beam should be gone by the end of March.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Collective Bargaining
- B. Pending Claim
- C. Real Estate

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

The Town Manager and Town Clerk attended the session. Mr. Stokesbury recused himself at 9:03 p.m. prior to the Real Estate item discussion as he represents one of the near abutters to the property.

XII. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Speich voted in favor.

Attest:

Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk