

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2017**

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: Zacchio, Stokesbury, Pena, and Speich.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Zacchio.

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

16/17-71 Road Acceptance for Berkshire Crossing

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Zacchio. Chairman Zacchio waived the reading of the following legal 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, July 27, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, Selectmen's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, to consider the following:

To accept the title of road or parcels of land situated in the Town of Avon, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut shown and designated as "Berkshire Crossing" on a certain map entitled "Plan of Subdivision "Berkshire Crossing" to be developed by Sunlight Construction, Inc, new Road, Avon, Connecticut, Scale 1"=40, Date: June 14, 2005, Sheet 1 of 2 and Sheet 2 of 2", by Hodge Surveying Associates, P.C.

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

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 2nd day of June, 2017.

Brandon L. Robertson
Town Manager"

Chairman Zacchio commented that this a new construction road that meets the Town standards and by Charter we need to hold a public hearing before accepting it. Mr. Speich asked how long it takes to accept a road as this road has been there for years. The Town Manager responded there were some issues with the developer that had to be resolved; it is uncommon for it to go that long. Mr. Stokesbury asked the Town Manager to confirm his recommendation that the road be approved. The Town Manager responded yes.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council close the public hearing.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the title of road or parcels of land situated in the Town of Avon, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut shown and designated as “Berkshire Crossing” on a certain map entitled “Plan of Subdivision “Berkshire Crossing” to be developed by Sunlight Construction, Inc, new Road, Avon, Connecticut, Scale 1”=40, Date: June 14, 2005, Sheet 1 of 2 and Sheet 2 of 2”, by Hodge Surveying Associates, P.C.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, Speich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: June 1, 2017
June 9, 2017 Special Meeting
July 10, 2017 Special Meeting

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the June 1, 2017 Meeting as presented.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the June 9, 2017 Special Meeting as presented.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the July 10, 2017 Special Meeting as presented.

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

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Jason Indomenico, Board of Education Member, reported that our Superintendent of Schools has resigned effective September 1st; the Board’s priority is to find an Interim Superintendent while we search for a permanent replacement; a special meeting will be held on August 2nd to interview candidates; once that process is done we will start the search for a new Superintendent; the Interim Superintendent should be place by around August 15th. He added that several members including himself went to the last Board of Finance meeting to discuss a proposal to setup an account to be used by the Board of Education should they have money leftover in their budget at the end of the fiscal year; it has come up a few years ago; it is permitted by Statute. He noted that the Town Manager gave other suggestions for mechanisms to accomplish the same purpose. He reported that the school year starts on August 30th; the projection as of July 18th is 3,188 students, about 120 less than where we left off last year. Mr. Stokesbury noted that the official number is set on October 1st of every year to allow for the influx at the beginning of the school year.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Stokesbury noted that the Middle School parking lot looks good and commended Town staff. He reported that Hartford has been in the newspaper about quads on the streets and he was at Muzzy Field in Bristol over the weekend and there was a quad running up and down Route 69; we need proactive on that for our community. He reported that the New Haven Register had an article for the Orange Police Department that has purchased a drone for police work and fire

protection; this is something that we should look at and maybe could be done on a regional basis. He reported that The Day (New London newspaper) on an article regarding a property owner with a messy yard and feeding the rats; as we look at the blight ordinance, we should consider that things happen really fast.

Chairman Zacchio thanked Town staff for getting paving done and the pre-work for the Fisher Meadows Expansion. He noted that in the past we have farmed them out to too many different jobs and have had a lot of time this year to concentrate in Town which is important as well. He also thanked the Police Department for the increased traffic patrol which has a calming effect as we do receive many complaints about speed throughout Town.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

14/15-20 Presentation and Discussion: Old Farms Road and Old Farms Road Bridge and Intersection (State Projects # 04-129, 04-116 & 118)

The Town Manager reported that we are still having discussions with Avon Old Farms School and our engineers and expects to have something substantive in September.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 14/15-20 Presentation and Discussion: Old Farms Road and Old Farms Road Bridge and Intersection (State Projects #04-129, 04-116 & 118) to the September 7, 2017 meeting.

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

16/17-47 Appointment: Board of Assessment Appeals (R – 12/31/2019)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Venkata Anupoju to the Board of Assessment 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.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

17/18-02 Review, Discuss and Possibly Schedule Public Hearing Regarding Amendment of Chapter 43 of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled Peddlers, Solicitors and Closeout Sales

Lt. Walsh referred back to Chairman Zacchio's comment regarding speeding. She and Sgt. Gannon discussed how to accurately track traffic studies and complaints for a monthly report; every district on every patrol now does a track detail based on complaints and high traffic areas.

Chief Rinaldo reported that this request is for one of the most important changes to the ordinances in terms of public safety for our citizens; we have had years of complaints, i.e. the magazine vendors; a few vendors were persistent at homes; in 2015 he met with staff and tightened the regulations and interpreted the existing statute a little more strictly; we do not give a permit until fingerprints are back from the State police. He noted that some vendors are reputable. Under the proposed amendment, they will solicit under daylight hours from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the summer or one-half hour before sunset they have to be off the roads. Sgt.

Gannon noted that there has been a reduction in the number of companies seeking permits. Chief Rinaldo added that we want to regulate them so they are not harassing our residents. Chairman Zacchio commented that right now it is 9:00 p.m. and questioned if the design to 6:00 p.m. or one-half hour before sunset accounts for fall and why not make it 6:00 p.m. during daylight savings time and a hard stop at something earlier, like 6:00 p.m. between May and September and 4:00 p.m. October through April. Chief Rinaldo responded that they looked at what other towns are doing and Canton had that same language and goes along with your hunting season. Mr. Speich commented that you are being fairer to the solicitors so they can have a good opportunity but adjust to the darkness. Chief Rinaldo commented that enforcement will not be a problem. Mr. Pena agreed with giving an exact time versus the time the sunsets. Mr. Stokesbury noted that if there is a hard stop there may be a period in November when solicitors are on the street in the dark and if that is our concern then the current proposal serves us better. Chairman Zacchio questioned if there is anything in the ordinance specific to a person representing or permission to solicit. He noted that he had two come to his house the other day, one had a license and the other one was a pest control company with no license. Sgt. Gannon responded that it is a paper permit that they are required to carry; it is not a license or photo ID. Mr. Speich commented it would be nice for them to wear something that says they have a permit. Chief Rinaldo responded that they will look into tightening the regulations. Sgt. Gannon noted that it has been years since they issued a magazine permit. Mr. Pena questioned how long a permit is good for. Chief Rinaldo responded one year. He noted that we can encourage residents to ask for their permit or call us and we can send an officer out and check on them. Mr. Pena suggested placing something in the Town newsletter. Chief Rinaldo noted that we can also add something to the web site. Chairman Zacchio commented that we are looking for a good education for the community around the permit requirement. Mr. Pena questioned if we supply the vendor with the dos and don'ts. Sgt. Gannon responded that they receive a copy of the ordinance.

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 September 7, 2017 meeting to consider the amendment of Chapter 43 of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled Peddlers, Solicitors and Closeout Sales.

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

17/18-03 Country Club Road Intersection with West Avon and Burnham Roads- Recommendation by Chief of Police

Chairman Zacchio noted that these intersections experience high levels of traffic and quick and crazy accidents; we have looked at the data a few times and the Police Department has some recommendations for us to consider. Chief Rinaldo reported that the intersection of Country Club Road and West Avon Road dates back to 2002 and back and forth with the State for a number of years. He noted that the State will not be providing any funding. He reported that Fuss and O'Neill completed an engineering study. Sgt. Gannon added that in 2015 we used a traffic recorder for volumes, speeds, and also counts but not completely accurate and provided data that according to the State in order to make a hard stop we need an engineered study.

Chief Rinaldo reported first on the recommendations for the Country Club Road and West Avon Road intersection is to go back to the way the traffic flow used to be; the intersection with a left turn arrow on both sides. Sgt. Gannon reported that there are loops built into the pavement to signalize the light, making the east side two separate lanes the loops may need to be re-cut and

add to the cost to signalize that intersection. Chief Rinaldo commented that the State is coming out in 2021 to upgrade the light at that intersection. Chairman Zacchio questioned our cost if we wanted to signalize it and change it ourselves. Chief Rinaldo responded it might be over \$100,000. Chairman Zacchio commented that this is a stop gap but asked the Town Manager what the cost would be for us to do that on our own. The Town Manager responded that we will come up with something as part of the capital budget this year and develop some estimates. Chairman Zacchio commented that the intersection used to be like, people complained, it was far better in his opinion the way it used to be but the faster we signalize it becomes more efficient and traffic moved quickly turning left in both directions and eases frustration as a lot of traffic goes straight and gets us in trouble today. Chief Rinaldo commented that there might be property acquisition. Chairman Zacchio clarified it would be to hang a left turn arrow. Chief Rinaldo responded that they will check. Chairman Zacchio noted that if we are going to switch up, left turn only, right, and straight, the left turn arrow will make it 100% more efficient than green all the time. He added that his question is how much it would cost to hang a left turn arrow for east and west traffic on Country Club Road. Chief Rinaldo responded that in 2015 the State said they would not allow us to do it without bringing up the entire intersection. Mrs. Maguire questioned how soon all of this can happen. Chief Rinaldo responded that they first wanted the Council to endorse this before proceeding. Mrs. Maguire commented that with school starting it would be good and signage to go along with it. Chief Rinaldo agreed and should be a pretty easy process. Mrs. Maguire noted that this is a good start and feels strongly that an arrow has to go there at some point. Mr. Pena agreed. Mrs. Maguire commented on the need for a right arrow that allows you to take that turn and then goes away; full green and no red arrow. Chairman Zacchio commented that there is support from Council for this and there is interest in furthering it in terms of the signaled lights and money. Mr. Speich commented on the time the lights switch over. Chief Rinaldo responded that is at midnight. Mr. Speich questioned if there is a problem with having them operate all night. Sgt. Gannon responded that as the State is upgrading the intersections with LED lighting they will run all night; it was a cost saving measure before then and should be safer. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we have been talking about the east/west access of Country Club Road and the State is not ready to deal with north/south being West Avon Road where there are equally or more complaints about left turn access, delayed greens and are off the table until the State will agree to work with us. Chief Rinaldo responded that after we get the changes done to the intersections of Country Club Road we will send another letter to the State asking them to study it again. Mr. Stokesbury commented that taking the lights off so you can turn west on Country Club Road after southbound has stopped as that backs up horribly, and in his opinion is the most dangerous turn in the intersection.

Chief Rinaldo reported on the second recommendation for Country Club Road and Burnham Road intersection to add a four-way stop sign on Country Club Road and a total change in behavior. He noted that the volume of traffic we have there warrants this recommendation by the engineer; it is a stop gap and temporary until we can see how it goes and possibly put in a stop light in the future. Chairman Zacchio commented that it slows down traffic and helps that intersection and abates some of the traffic concerns. Chief Rinaldo commented that there will be additional signs for up to six months that there has been a change in the intersection, approximately September through February. Mr. Stokesbury commented that a challenge he foresees given the busy hours coincides with sunset/sunrise and that straight stretch along Country Club Road could be hard to see far. Chief Rinaldo responded that there are different

stop signs that can be installed. Chairman Zacchio commented that the biggest challenge will be modifying people's behavior because it is new and whatever methodologies that you implore to do that, if it is money come to us, but let's do whatever we think is the best thing to do first and then worry about how to pay for it. Chief Rinaldo reported that we have made improvements on Burnham Road north/south by increasing the size of the stop signs. Mr. Speich questioned the back up from that stop sign getting down to West Avon Road. Chief Rinaldo responded that we will have to see and could expect an uptick in rear end collisions which is normal which is why education and notice is an important part. He noted that we floated the idea of a roundabout and may be cheaper than a signalized intersection; they are effective.

The Town Manager commented that there is consensus from the Council as the legal traffic authority the Chief can move forward. Council gave consensus to Chief Rinaldo. Chief Rinaldo noted that the work you see here today is the result of the staff and he thanked them. Council thanked them as well. Chairman Zacchio commented that we have kept at this over a number of years and the persistence is paying off. Mr. Speich noted that it is important the public knows, that this is part of the Police Department's job; add that to the article regarding the intersection. The Town Manager added that with this review there is coordination on an interdepartmental basis by Planning, Engineering, Public Works, and Fire Department and gets a chance to review the plans and may make changes accordingly and it is a good team effort.

17/18-04 Review and Discussion Regarding Chapter 9 Article 3 of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled Blighted or Unsafe Premises

Chairman Zacchio reported that the Town does a pretty good job with our blight ordinance in terms of structure from a safety concern and property from an abandoned car. He noted that over the last few years we had items relating more to property or upkeep thereof at a personal residence and have struggled with how far we go in terms of an ordinance that regulates that or letting people do whatever they want with their property as it can impact a neighborhood and neighbors. He noted that we asked for a review of that ordinance and report back of what may be strengthened to give the Town better leverage in those situations that warranted some change.

Hiram Peck, Director of Planning and Community Development, reported that he took a look at a number of the ordinances that are in existence around the State and all must comply with State Statutes but cannot be more excessive than such and can be less strict. He noted that there are three general categories that that ordinances fall into and some towns don't have a blight ordinance at all. He noted that the urban communities have blight ordinances; the cities have more problems with things left by the curb than typically rural or suburban communities. He added that communities like Avon have a blight ordinance that pertains only to structures. He noted that the third category are blight ordinances that pertain to structures and property maintenance and communities have a property maintenance code that goes along with the blight ordinance. He noted that in general the amount of complexity that is contained in the ordinance has a direct bearing on the resources that the Town is interested in putting into, enforcing that ordinance on a day to day basis and those are staff, time, legal, amount of times willing to go to court. He noted an example on one item in a different town and being back to court fifteen times and still unable to resolve it. He noted that the administrative and legal process can be extremely time consuming, the number of staff and amount of staff time are also critical and really depends on number of occurrences on an annual ongoing basis in order to make a determination on what particular category you want the ordinance to fall into. He included comments from the Town

Attorney on his review of the ordinance. He noted that he went through our ordinance, the key part for any of these is what is defined as blight; it is difficult to define as you may have different opinions; the definition is important; how the ordinance is enforced and who enforces it is important as well. He noted that our Building Official is given the primary responsibility as our ordinance deals specifically with the structures, but the Director of Health can also be part of that process and important in terms of the health safety and welfare for the community. He noted that notice of procedures, ability to fine and demolition of unsafe structures are currently in the ordinance. He reported that the second category and used Simsbury as an example also includes property within 1,000 feet approximate to blighted structure and difficult to enforce; it can take years to get involved with, try to administratively resolve, go through the hearing officer process, appeals, legal process and appeals thereof and can happen quite frequently. He reported that the third category and used Darien as an example who have a blight enforcement board that includes the Town Planner, Director of Health, Building Official, etc. and make a determination on whether or not it is blight. He noted that one comment that came up is the right to enter a property; he would be careful with that particular section of any ordinance; there has been recent litigation about that; and not to enter without permission from the owner. He noted that there are significant amounts of staff time and resources that could be put into these ordinances depending on how complicated they are; our current blight ordinance works pretty well for the Town size we are and complexity of the situations that we have; it does not solve every situation but some folks will say it was not able to solve this situation next to me and go back to look at the definition of blight in all of the ordinances and if it really meets it or do it the way we do now and try to talk to the person first, the administrator or the bank. He noted other ones that are difficult are with the elderly, a sick person, or a person living with adult child somewhere else in the State and property has not been taken care of. He added that we send letters with terms to remedy before we begin to work through the legal process. His recommendation after consulting with the Building Official and the Health Department is that he believes our current blight ordinance is pretty effective; there are some occasions that might slip through the cracks but if we know we can get to them and pretty effectively get them cleared up. He noted we had one on Arch Road, the gentleman was elderly with health issues, neighbors were very concerned about their property values; the Building Official was on top of the situation and we worked through it and a few weeks ago the people left the house, the property is now on the market; even though it took a long time he is not sure any other definition or change in the blight ordinance would have made any difference in this situation. He noted that the current ordinance does allow us to fine if we have to, allows us to go through the hearing process. His recommendation is not to change the ordinance we have in place right now.

Mrs. Maguire concurred that we do not have the resources or the need to change the ordinance. Mr. Peck noted that the towns that have more lengthy and complicated ordinances have an appointed Blight Enforcement Officer. He noted that our staff is very diligent about it; the Building Official has a lot of experience working with a much more complicated code in Manchester and the property maintenance code they have caused him to spend a lot of additional time which may not have been helpful in the long run. Mr. Pena concurred with the recommendation; he looked at other towns and in many cases it is not easy for the enforcement as there is a process. Mr. Peck responded that sometimes it may be a single family dwelling or a rental and have to deal with the renter and/or owner; using common sense and most intelligent approach rather than lashed to a regulation that you are forced to follow is much more effective. He added that banks will start paying attention when you tell them you are going to clean it and

lien it; most banks have a firm which is responsible for the maintenance. He referred to the rat situation earlier in the meeting and we would definitely get the Health Department involved. Mr. Stokesbury asked Mr. Peck to quantify the number of formal complaints on blight issues in Town during one year. Mr. Peck responded two. Chairman Zacchio commented that we asked staff to go back and look at our ordinance and if there are any changes you recommend to give you more strength or leverage in terms of addressing the types of complaints you've seen in Town within the parameters of the General Statute that governs it and your answer is that our ordinance is fine and for most part successful in terms of situations we've seen and recognize that there are some situations that the Statute does not address and gives people the liberty to do with their property what they wish and if within the zoning regulations they continue as it is not a blight issue at all. Mr. Peck responded that is correct. The Town Manager commented that in terms of how the departments deal with these situations they are very good about gathering intelligence and figuring out what the real issue is and then getting the proper discipline involved. Mr. Speich inquired about the ordinance not defining structures. Mr. Peck responded that structures are defined in the zoning regulations and in the building code. Mr. Speich commented that our ordinance does not talk about abandoned vehicles. Mr. Peck responded that if we have a situation like that we deal with the Police Department and also through the zoning regulations. Mr. Speich commented that he was President for an Association in Town for several years and banks like to know about properties not being kept up; the Town always helped us and appreciates that and is noticed by everybody. Mr. Peck responded that the banks have gotten a lot better. The Town Clerk added that they have to file any properties that are vacant and have a mortgage on and who is responsible for maintaining that with their office.

Chairman Zacchio reported that there is consensus from Council to go with it as it stands today following the recommendation of Town staff and appreciate them looking into it.

17/18-05 Acceptance of Gifts to Avon Recreation and Parks Department

- a. **Avon Soccer Club Tournament, \$2,500**
- b. **Avon Soccer Club, Inc., \$5,000**

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

Resolved, that in accordance with Town Charter, Section 4.3.2(1), the Town Council hereby accepts a gift of \$2,500 from the Avon Soccer Club Tournament to be used to purchase new goals for soccer fields at Fisher Meadows.

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

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

Resolved, that in accordance with Town Charter, Section 4.3.2(1), the Town Council hereby accepts a gift of \$5,000 from Avon Soccer Club, Inc. to be used to purchase new goals for the soccer fields at Fisher Meadows.

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

17/18-06 Appropriations: Rails to Trails Improvement Project

- a. **Forest Park Management Fund Unassigned Fund Balance, \$35,000**
- b. **Fisher Meadow Maintenance Fund Unassigned Fund Balance, \$8,000**

Chairman Zacchio reported that we will be replacing the old wood structure with vinyl fencing which will last much longer and look nicer. Mr. Speich questioned if we want to use white PVC.

The Town Manager responded that the consensus with staff was that the benefit outweighed the cost in terms of aesthetics; the plan is that this is going to be part of a multi-phase fencing replacement. The Assistant to the Town Manager reported that Farmington replaced their white cedar with the same. She noted that a vendor suggested white so you can see it better riding on the trail. Mr. Speich questioned if it might be intrusive to the neighbors. The Town Manager responded the point is well taken. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the starkness of white vinyl is so dramatic. He asked if there is any way to soften the impact. Mr. Speich asked if there is a big price difference between white PVC and cedar. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded that for our project it was estimated to be a \$1-2 less; we could ask for an add-alternate to bid on white PVC and brown PVC. Mr. Stokesbury commented that pricing is similar but it is also about the durability. Council agreed on vinyl for longevity but options/price on different colors. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if any of this is funded through any type of State program since it is Rails to Trails. The Town Manager responded no outside source that we could identify. Mr. Stokesbury commented on the extension project along New Britain Avenue and across Route 6 looks like a recipe for a long-term expense with stockade fence so whatever we can do to minimize the replacement cost and stretch the useful life would be good.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation not to exceed \$35,000 from Forest Park Management Fund, Other Financing Sources, Unassigned Fund Balance, Account #04-0390-43913 and to Forest Park Management Fund, Parks, Fence Replacement – Rails to Trails, Account #04-5201-53920, for the purpose of fencing replacement for Rails to Trails.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation not to exceed \$8,000 from Fisher Meadow Maintenance Fund, Other Financing Sources, Unassigned Fund Balance, Account #12-0390-43913 and to Fisher Meadow Maintenance Fund, Parks, FM Trail-Clear Trail, Account #12-5201-52244, for the purpose of clearing the trail from Old Farms Road south to the Farmington town line.

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

17/18-07 Appropriation: Emergency Management Performance Grant, \$9,141.50

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation not to exceed \$9,141.50 from General Fund, Other Financing Sources, Unassigned Fund Balance, Account #01-0390-43913, to General Fund, Fire Prevention, Reg Part Time, Account #01-2201-51012 for the purpose of funding the increase of part-time support staff wages to supplement the Emergency Management Director's duties.

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

17/18-08 Supplemental Appropriation: Consulting Services for Avon Village Center Project, \$30,000

Chairman Zacchio reported that we have a process whereas when you have a big project like this going on the Town has the right to retain its own review firm for both the architecture and

engineering at the expense of the contractor. He noted that in this case it is Carpionato Group who owns the 93 acres known as Avon Park North and is engaged in the planning for the Avon Town Center Project and has submitted a check for \$30,000.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 17/18 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Other Local Revenues, Refunds & Reimbursements, Account #01-0360-43612, in the amount of \$30,000 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Planning, Service & Consultant, Account #01-7101-52184, in the amount of \$30,000, for the purpose of recording funding received from Avon Town Center LLC for consulting services/peer review by Amenta/Emma Architects and Weston & Sampson for planning studies in connection with the November 17, 2015, approved Carpionato Group LLC's Master Plan for Avon Village Center.

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

Mr. Peck provided an update on the Avon Village Center. He reported that the original master plan for the development of the Center was approved in 2015; we have been trying to work closely with the developer since that time to move the process along; it has taken a lot longer than Town, staff, Planning and Zoning Commission would prefer to move them forward. He noted that the excavation is moving forward fairly rapidly recently. The Commission has many questions why it is not moving forward quickly; we asked for detailed sketches for Phase 1 of the development and were submitted on July 12th; they were given to the Commission at their next meeting which will be a special meeting on August 8th to talk about where they are in the process and how to move forward from here. Mr. Speich questioned the limit to them moving faster. Mr. Peck responded the way the regulations are setup it is approved in phases and increments; get the master plan approved which was done in 2015, then get back to us with a detailed plan of the first phase within twelve months which they have not; the Commission has told them that if they are not moving forward and we do not know why and are not happy with the reasons that you give us we are likely to reconsider what has already happened; it got their attention significantly and it started moving quickly. We have a schedule for the permitting, but we are anxious to see some actual development on the ground. He noted that the earth moving process is going well but there are people along the truck route that ask when it will be over. He added that the situation with retail is very difficult and has a lot to do with it as well. Chairman Zacchio commented that we have been trying to move forward with this concept for a couple of decades; the Commission and Town set the table and helping to develop this concept; we have a willing buyer, we would like to see it move faster, we have some leverage we can pull to make that happen as a partner but the developer has his own pace. He noted that it will be a wonderful amenity to the Town as it develops and adds to our Grand List and from a community perspective as it has been successful in other communities and will be here.

17/18-09 Approve Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget Calendar

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adopt the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget Calendar as follows:

TOWN OF AVON FY 2018/2019 BUDGET CALENDAR

ACTIVITY	RECOMMENDED DATE	LATEST DATE PER TOWN CHARTER
Capital Budget Forms Prepared and sent to Departments	August 07, 2017	
Operating Budget Forms Prepared and sent to Departments	September 01, 2017	
Completed Capital Budget Forms returned to Town Manager	October 06, 2017	
(a) CIP Budgets presented at Town Council Meetings by Department Heads	Nov. – Dec. 2017	
Completed Operating Budget Forms returned to Town Manager	November 03, 2017	February 15, 2018
(a) Town Manager meets with Department Heads to review budget submissions.	Nov. – Dec. 2017	
(b) Town Manager makes recommended reductions.	Dec. 2017 – Jan. 2018	
Town Manager's Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets submitted to Town Council	January 12, 2018	March 01, 2018
Board of Education Budget to Town Council	February 02, 2018	February 15, 2018
(a) Town Council holds Special Budget Workshop.	February 2018	
(b) Further reductions are made by Town Manager's Office if necessary.	February 2018	
Capital Improvement Program Submitted to Planning & Zoning Commission for Sec. 8-24 Review	March 06, 2018	
Budget Work by Town Council completed and Budget submitted to Board of Finance	March 26, 2018	April 01, 2018
Public Hearing on Budget held by Board of Finance not later than three (3) weeks before May 07, 2018 Town Meeting	April 02, 2018	April 16, 2018
(a) Board of Finance holds evening Budget Workshop(s) with Town Council and Board of Education after the Public Hearing.	April 04, 2018	
Board of Finance Completes Work on Budget	April 2018	
Copy of Budget approved by the Board of Finance printed in Newspaper at least five (5) days before the Annual Town Meeting	April 23, 2018	April 27, 2018
Annual Town and Budget Meeting First Monday in May	May 07, 2018	May 07, 2018
First Referendum	May 16, 2018	May 18, 2018
Second Referendum (if necessary)	June 06, 2018	June 08, 2018

Third Referendum (if necessary)	June 20, 2018	June 22, 2018
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Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Speich, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

17/18-10 Appointment: Inland Wetlands Commission (D – 12/31/2017)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Michael Feldman to the Inland Wetlands Commission 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.

17/18-11 Resignation: Avon Clean Energy Commission (D – 12/31/2017)

Chairman Zacchio commented that Marty Kaplan has been steadfast supporter of green energy and this Commission since its inception when we appointed them; he has made a lot of contributions in this area; sorry to see him go. Mr. Pena commented that he did a very good job.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Martin Kaplan from the Avon Clean Energy Commission.

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

17/18-12 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (D – 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 17/18-12 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission to the September 7, 2017 meeting.

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

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager reported bids for the public safety radio system are due on August 11th; we did a pre-bid site walk in June with a good turnout; the micro-grid feasibility study had a lot of interest, we had three proposals that we and Murtha and their engineer are in the process of going through, and we will figure out a process to bring the vendors in and work towards a recommendation, and next week he will be on a panel sponsored by Murtha regarding micro-grid and talk about Avon's experience to date, conceptual process, and running through the RFP; we continue to make progress on the telephone system upgrade that Council approved at the last meeting.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager reported that Police Department improvements are underway, it is coming along very well; Fire Company #4 improvements are still underway; we have begun doing irrigation work at Fisher Meadows by installing an 8" pipe that will serve existing and new fields and the Director of Public Works made a recommendation to retrofit the existing four soccer fields as well with new lines, we used two funding sources for that extra from residual balance in Recreation Activities Fund from this past fiscal year and an appropriation from last year for \$35,000 that was programmed for softball field work and noted that one of those softball fields has been converted so that project is being re-evaluated; as far as permitting we have completed the review for the natural diversity database and a mitigation plan

has been developed and will be submitted to DEEP; once we receive an application number we can submit the permit application to DEEP for storm water runoff, and we are looking at fall to get started assuming permitting goes through. He reported that recent road improvements include Columbus Circle, Huckleberry Hill, and the parking lot at Avon Middle School. He noted that the driveway to the Landfill was re-surfaced as well. He added that our outside vendor will be coming in to re-evaluate all of the roads as we do about every five years and compare notes to see if we come up with any deviation as we manage the Road Improvement Program to that evaluation.

Mr. Speich questioned if there is any place he can talk to someone about micro-grids. The Town Manager responded that the benefit is that you can island off the grid, for example, the Eversource grid transmission system goes down, we can disconnect from it and spin up the generating source from the micro-grid and island off and have your own mini grid so you are isolated and have resiliency; you can spin back on and push it out into the grid and sell it. Mr. Speich commented that the whole idea of this is for this new development. The Town Manager responded that there are a lot of incentives available through the State right now and want to understand the opportunity before we pass on those so without knowing exactly how the Avon Village Center is going to build out, in talking with the Avon Clean Energy Commission we thought it made sense to size something that would be appropriate for the Town Hall campus as proof of concept and in the future if it makes sense and works we could talk about expanding that to the Avon Village Center. He has a lot of information about it and a great resource is the DEEP web site and Eversource has an area on micro-grids.

Mr. Stokesbury questioned what the source is for the Fisher Meadows water supply. The Town Manager responded the pond.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate
Pending Claim Litigation

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 9:19 p.m.

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

The Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager, and Town Clerk attended the session. Town Assessor Harry DerAsadourian attended the session for the real estate item only.

XII. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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

Attest:

Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk