

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 3, 2019**

**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 Chairperson Maguire. Members present: Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Stokesbury, Pena, and Speich. A quorum was present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Maguire.

Chairperson Maguire welcomed Jennifer Worsman as the new Clerk to the Town Council.

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**18/19-34 Acceptance of Roads in Phase III of Weatherstone Subdivision**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Maguire. Chairperson Maguire waived the reading of the following notice:

TOWN OF AVON  
LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 3, 2019 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 roads or parcels of land situated in the Town of Avon, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut shown and designated as: "Weatherstone, Norwood Way, Cranbrook, and Northington Drive" on the following maps:

1. "Weatherstone Subdivision Plan, Phase 3A Final Approval, Prepared for Toll CT Limited Partnership Cranbrook and Northington Drive, Avon, Connecticut Scale 1" = 40' August 6, 2012, Sheets 1 thru 5 of 5", which maps are on file in the Avon Land Records as Map #13-05, 13-06, 13-07, 13\_08 and 13\_09.
2. "Weatherstone Subdivision Plan, Phase 3B Final Approval, Prepared for Toll CT Limited Partnership Cranbrook and Northington Drive, Avon, Connecticut Scale 1" = 40' August 7, 2012, Sheets 1 thru 3 of 3", which maps are on file in the Avon Land Records as Map #14\_02, 14\_03, and 14\_04.
3. "Weatherstone Subdivision Plan, Phase 3A Final Approval, Prepared for Toll CT Limited Partnership Cranbrook and Northington Drive, Avon, Connecticut Scale 1" = 40' August 6, 2012, Sheets 1 thru 2 of 2", which maps are on file in the Avon Land Records as Map #14\_05 and 14\_06.

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

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

Brandon L. Robertson  
Town Manager"

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council close the public hearing.

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

Chairperson Maguire questioned if Windsor Court is next to be added in. The Town Manager responded that he would check with the Town Engineer. Chairperson Maguire also noted that this is a great walking area.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the acceptance of the title of roads or parcels of land situated in the Town of Avon, County of Hartford and State of Connecticut shown and designated as: “Weatherstone, Norwood Way, Cranbrook, and Northington Drive” on the following maps:

4. “Weatherstone Subdivision Plan, Phase 3A Final Approval, Prepared for Toll CT Limited Partnership Cranbrook and Northington Drive, Avon, Connecticut Scale 1” = 40’ August 6, 2012, Sheets 1 thru 5 of 5”, which maps are on file in the Avon Land Records as Map #13-05, 13-06, 13-07, 13\_08 and 13\_09.

5. “Weatherstone Subdivision Plan, Phase 3B Final Approval, Prepared for Toll CT Limited Partnership Cranbrook and Northington Drive, Avon, Connecticut Scale 1” = 40’ August 7, 2012, Sheets 1 thru 3 of 3”, which maps are on file in the Avon Land Records as Map #14\_02, 14\_03, and 14\_04.

6. “Weatherstone Subdivision Plan, Phase 3A Final Approval, Prepared for Toll CT Limited Partnership Cranbrook and Northington Drive, Avon, Connecticut Scale 1” = 40’ August 6, 2012, Sheets 1 thru 2 of 2”, which maps are on file in the Avon Land Records as Map #14\_05 and 14\_06.

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

#### **IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:** November 14, 2018 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 November 14, 2018 Special Meeting as presented.

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

#### **V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**

Jason Indomenico, Board of Education liaison, reported that the District just received an honor in terms of the AP District Honor Roll; one of fifteen school districts in the State to receive it. Chairperson Maguire noted that they are great classes and really do help students.

#### **VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Speich shared a reflection of things the Council has done in the past year, a tremendous list of accomplishments; there has been a lot of ground work done prior to us, of course, but if you look at the Severni property, Fisher Meadows, soccer fields, MH Rhodes, radio system and turf field (which we are all very grateful that everybody voted for), SCBA and mini-pumper for the Fire Department, dry hydrant, Old Farms Bridge and soon maybe Old Farms Road; there have been a lot of things in the hopper that Councils before him have started, but it has been great to

see it all come along. He asked if there was a way for someone to create a press release, looking back a year and all of Council's accomplishments. Chairperson Maguire agreed; we've had a lot of meetings and a lot of things that have been in the pipeline for a long time and it would be a great thing to get it out there. She noted that she and the Town Manager have been talking about a Facebook page; Canton has one that is really nice, showing highlights and things going on; we were talking about projects like the Old Farms Bridge, Fisher Meadows, turf field, and not only how to keep people aware but include photos and this would be a good place to highlight what we did over the past year. Mr. Speich questioned how that is different than a web site. Chairperson Maguire responded that a lot of people are on Facebook; we can do both; we can put something on Facebook and have it redirected to our web site. Mr. Pena commented that anytime something happens on Facebook it pops up to the users who tend to see it quicker than having to go through the web site. Mr. Speich agreed. He added that there have been a lot of accomplishments and it is thanks to Town staff as well. Chairperson Maguire asked the Town Manager to think of a good venue for getting the word out. The Town Manager responded that internally we are working out details regarding the Facebook page and need to have a process in place so people are automatically thinking about it, uploading content and keeping it fresh. Mr. Pena commented that what he hears from elected officials is that they have a Facebook page only during the duration of a campaign because people tend to write to them through Facebook. The Town Manager responded that we have to address how interactive we want it to be; his thinking is one direction and that is out. Mr. Pena commented that someone needs to monitor it. Mr. Speich added that the worst thing is not responding. The Town Manager commented that it will be a great venue to continue to push out information. He noted that with the construction of the bridge on Old Farms Road, the contractor was talking about flying over the site once a month or so with a drone and create a video/photo log of the project and it would be wonderful to include a link for that; we will have more than enough content; he avoids social media but lives with somebody who is on it first thing in the morning and last thing at night and you have to go where the people are. Mr. Speich commented that he doesn't want to go too long before we say something about what happened last year or it will be old news. Chairperson Maguire asked the Town Manager to get something out this month.

Mr. Stokesbury reported that there is a culmination of stories about New Haven and West Haven, one of our more challenged municipalities; first from today's paper, West Haven just qualified for \$8 million in restructuring funds from the State to balance last year's budget, a reminder of how much money is going to fix their structural budget problem; and more important, a series of articles on New Haven and West Haven police departments and he read from the West Haven article that since 2009 seventeen officers have been hired and trained only to leave for another department with the primary reason for the departure being the lack of a pension; combined costs in salaries, training and benefits about \$1.7 million which was funded by the State. He added that New Haven has the same problem; they are hiring and training officers at \$45,000 per year and they are immediately being grabbed by other municipalities for more money; both articles focus about the lack of a pension; we have had some experience with spending \$65,000 to \$70,000 to train someone and having them leave to go to someone with a pension; there is nothing you can do under the system; he worries that the lack of a pension in this one area may hurt retention and down the road you may see here and in other towns older officers staying on and not retiring because they don't have a pension to fall back on and may find ourselves with older staffs who take more and more medical days and pull in more and more younger staff to cover those medical days.

Mr. Pena reported that there are individuals that come to Avon to work at Walmart, etc. and many times they are waiting for the bus and standing out there in the rain/snow. He asked if the Town thinks a bus shelter is something we should have for these individuals. He noted that the State has in the past supplied a shelter; there are three options: either what the State provides, or an upgrade, or something that we want to come up with and the State would help us. He added that sometimes he has given rides to people who have missed the bus. He noted that it would be something worthwhile for the Town to look into in consideration of the people that come work here versus standing in the snow/rain. Chairperson Maguire questioned the location for this shelter. Mr. Pena responded that the main stop is in front of Walmart. He noted that he spoke to the manager in the store about this issue. Mr. Speich commented that there used to be a shelter along Route 44 in the Walmart parking lot. Mr. Pena responded that there is one there; the city bus picks up at the road on Route 44 in front of the Walmart parking lot. Mr. Stokesbury questioned the Town's role when you are looking at State property with the road bed or private property with the shopping center. Mr. Pena responded that he does not have all of the answers. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if that is something we can get from the State rather than putting our own money out on property that we don't own. Mr. Pena commented that the State will do that; there are three different models; it would have to go before Planning and Zoning; it is something that we should consider. Chairperson Maguire commented that Farmington has one on Route 4; it is something that we should look into.

Mr. Bernetich commented that someone complained to him about the traffic pattern at the corner of Dale Road and Route 44. Mr. Stokesbury responded that the issue is that the right lane goes straight and right versus being dedicated as a right-hand turn; some time ago it changed from a left and straight lane with a dedicated right-turn lane.

Chairperson Maguire reported that she, along with Mr. Pena, the Town Manager, and Director of Social Services attended a graduation ceremony for the Aging Mastery Program at the Senior Center; Jennifer Bennett had a 10-week course covering telephone scams, health insurance, doctors, financial management, etc.; 10-15 people took the class; they received part of it from a grant; they had a nice ceremony for the seniors; it is a great program; if we can do it again she would encourage everyone to take it. Mr. Pena commented that with the people he heard from who participated the most helpful thing was that it provided resources of where to ask questions or where to go. Chairperson Maguire added that they brought in experts in their field, i.e. lawyers, a financial planner, etc. She also noted that the referendum passed; we had a very good voter turnout; over 2,000 people voted, over 15%; both passed pretty convincingly. Mr. Stokesbury noted that 350 people voted against the radio project.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **13/14-48 Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project-Building Committee Appointment**

Chairperson Maguire commented that with the charge we are using a lot of the same language that was recommended by Bond Counsel and also used in the special meeting notice; our goal tonight is to get a Committee established so they can get to work and get this project underway; the proposed project schedule is a good guideline. She is hoping that we will be a little more aggressive as far as timelines and moving things along a little quicker. The Town Manager

commented that the Council is tasking the Committee with delivering the project as approved; there will be some independent decision making; things are going to come up throughout the project, small details that we need a decision on the spot for and the Committee will exercise independent authority; for the big questions they will come back to Council, more important being the award of the general contractor and we expect them to come in sometime this spring. He made it clear that the Committee does not have the ability to add, subtract, or modify the scope without Council approval; he included required language about disclosures so we are in compliance with the Standards of Conduct Policy; the schedule/timeline is a draft – we will talk more about it once we get the Committee up and running. He thinks we want to have the project substantially complete by the end of August so we don't miss a beat when school kicks into session again; when we put it out to contractors that may not be a problem or there may be a premium that we will quantify and see if it is worth it. He added that assuming Council approves the charge tonight, he will get in touch with the Chair, start scheduling the meetings – two for January, first is an organizational meeting, second is more of a work session to talk about next steps; he will also talk to the Superintendent of Schools about having Board of Education staff or a representative in attendance. Mr. Stokesbury referred to the schedule and questioned what the double asterisk refers to when it says no fall sports. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded no fall sports prior to substantial completion; the field will be complete and that final completion date has to do with the track which cannot be completely surfaced unless weather conditions are absolutely perfect so it might have to wait until the spring but the fields should be completely useful as of that substantial completion date. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we need to be very clear on both points mentioned because people will be dismayed if the fall field sports are unable to use the facility unless there is two months of rain again. Chairperson Maguire questioned what the weather conditions would need to be. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded that the temperatures have to be consistently 50 degrees and dry in order to put the rubber surface on the track; otherwise we have to wait; it is not to say the track isn't usable, it is just that the rubber surface won't be applied. Mr. Stokesbury reiterated that we need to be clear the expectation is the use of field and sports. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded that we can make it very specific in the bid documents that this is what the expectations are. The Town Manager added that we will make it clear that substantial completion has to be by the start of school, whatever date that is, for the field.

Chairperson Maguire commented that she has had a chance to talk to Council members individually and also talked to the Town Manager about people to appoint to the Committee; she has a list of names to nominate as members of the Building Committee: Mark Zacchio-Chair, Peter Ponziani, Todd Donovan, Sarah Roberson, Jason Indomenico, and David Jadovich. She noted that Mark Zacchio was Chair of the Town Council and involved with this since inception and Peter, Todd, Sarah, and David were on the Sub-committee and have done a lot of the heavy lifting with overall field design and talked at length with BSC Group regarding neighborhood issues, lighting issues, etc.; and Jason as a Board of Education member and a legal background; it is a great group that knows the need and wants to get the job done.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Mark Zacchio-Chair, Peter Ponziani, Todd Donovan, Sarah Roberson, Jason Indomenico, and David Jadovich to the Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project Building Committee.

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

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** A Town-wide referendum was held on December 12, 2018 and, at said referendum, an appropriation, not to exceed \$2,995,000, was authorized for costs related to the construction of the Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project, and:

**WHEREAS:** The scope of this project is to replace the existing natural grass field and six lane track with a synthetic turf multi-purpose field and eight lane track and to make other improvements to the site including, but not limited to, walkways, driveways, retaining walls, security fencing, a storage shed, and the installation of new football uprights and soccer goals, and;

**WHEREAS:** Said appropriation having been approved to construct the project, the Town Council wishes to establish a Building Committee to generally oversee the completion of the project with the membership and a charge as more specifically described as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Town Council hereby establishes the Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project Building Committee, consisting of six (6) members, namely Mark Zacchio (Chair), Peter Ponziani, Todd Donovan, Sarah Roberson, Jason Indomenico, and David Jadovich, for a period to coincide with the duration of the project and the Committee is charged with the following:

- (1) Organize in an appropriate manner to carry out the functions of the Committee including the selection of a vice-chair/secretary, to be selected by the Chair from among the membership, with approval by a majority of the Committee.
- (2) Determine any remaining “particulars” of the project recognizing that the Committee cannot expand, reduce or modify the scope of the project without the approval of the Town Council.
- (3) With any required approval of the Town Council, approve design, construction, acquisition and other expenditures for the project.
- (4) With any required approval of the Town Council, contract with engineers, consultants, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the Town to complete the project.
- (5) Exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the project and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Committee members shall submit a disclosure form to the Town Clerk’s Office as required by Policy #19 of the Town Council entitled Standards of Conduct for Public Officials and Policy #13 Procedures for Constructing Public Buildings.
- (2) That Committee members shall not receive compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the project.
- (3) The records of the Committee shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours.
- (4) Upon completion of the project, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the Town Council.

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

Chairperson Maguire noted that the Committee meetings are open to the public and we want to make sure that they are well advertised; we want to get it out on social media and through Town-wide e-mail as we do with every meeting; and there is the Avon Turf Facebook page that we can make sure is kept up to date with information as there is a good following behind it. She added that this is exciting, this is happening.

**18/19-18**     **FY 19/20 Budget: Town Council Budget Workshop Schedule:**  
**Recommended Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the Budget Workshop Schedule for Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. in the Selectmen's Chamber as follows:

8:00 a.m.	Budget Overview
8:20 a.m.	Library
8:40 a.m.	Fire Department
9:00 a.m.	Police Department
9:25 a.m.	Break
9:40 a.m.	Public Works
10:10a.m.	General Government
10:30 a.m.	Public Safety (except Fire and Police)
10:50 a.m.	Health/Social Services
11:10 a.m.	Recreation & Parks
11:30 a.m.	Conservation & Development
11:50 a.m.	Engineering/Sewers
12:10 p.m.	Lunch
12:40 p.m.	Special Revenue Funds / Capital Improvement Program
1:00 p.m.	Adjustments, wrap-up – Adjourn

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

**18/19-30**     **Discussion Regarding Sale and Distribution of Tobacco/Nicotine/Vaping Products**

Chairperson Maguire reported that this is a hot issue, something we have talked about over the last several meetings; we had a Farmington Valley Collaborative (FVC) meeting today and talked more about how some of the surrounding communities feel about it; we talked to the First Selectman in Simsbury and his Council meeting; what has come out of this is that the overall feeling appears to be that to do a local ordinance is a patchwork way of handling this; if Avon passed a local ordinance and Simsbury didn't, they would just cross the street; it has to be handled regionally and more importantly handled by the State; the Town Manager drafted a letter which summarizes the concerns that we have regarding getting this passed through the State. She noted that Senator Witkos was at the FVC meeting and indicated that this is something that is carrying a lot of momentum right now; it was discussed last year but never made it out of Committee but there is a lot more that they are looking at now; perhaps a vote will take place by June. She noted that the letter would send a message to our State legislators. The Town Manager gave credit to the Assistant to the Town Manager for the draft letter. He added that there is a lot of frustration on the part of the towns that the wheels fell off last year at the State and nothing happened; there was an article in the Courant last week where Representative Slap was going to hold a forum in West Hartford. He added that to approach this as we are with a letter that is going to be signed by all of the CEOs/Council Chairs/First Selectmen in the Farmington Valley and out to all of the representatives and elected officials at the State that cover this area and continue to follow-up as it reaches any Committees at the State and make sure somebody is there to offer a compelling testimony. He noted that the Farmington Valley Health District has an intern working on a white paper on this topic. He added that if the

legislature should fail to act on this then we regroup and see what our options are; it is more likely that some of these other communities that are less inclined to adopt individual ordinances will say that if the State is not going to do it then we really do need to do something but that is premature at this point.

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, commented that at Council's last meeting there was discussion about this and possible adoption of an ordinance; he thinks it is better that individual towns do not adopt their own ordinances; he is not necessarily a libertarian but he believes in the concept of less government and for individual municipalities to enact individual ordinances that may or may not be enforced is an overreach; it rests with the State of Connecticut to do something; there seems to be a ground swell in addressing it at that level and he is pleased that at least for now the Town of Avon is not doing what may be a knee-jerk action to a bigger problem that may not be solved by a knee-jerk action; it is more a health issue than a governance issue and probably rests at the State level.

Chairperson Maguire commented that personally she wants to do whatever it takes, this is a serious issue, and she will fight hard at the State level with whatever we can do; we need to get this stuff not available for the younger kids; the thing that we are doing in Avon, that is great and need to continue, is educating the kids even at a young age about some of the hazards of this; kudos to the Board of Education and to Officer Lundell who has educated kids and parents and prepares parents for what these e-cigarettes look like; we are doing all of the right things and hope by June there is some action done by the State; the younger they start the longer they are going to keep smoking; the sooner we can do something the better. Council gave consensus to sign the letter that will be sent to our State legislators.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **18/19-39      Review, Discuss and Possibly Approve Revisions to Public Place Regulations Required by Chapter 41 of the Town Code of Ordinances**

Chairperson Maguire commented that we looked at this item at our October meeting and at that time determined that we didn't need to revise it but rather update it with some adjustments. She noted that it is a good document and thanked the Assistant to the Town Manager for her time. The Assistant to the Town Manager noted that the Director of Recreation and Parks led the charge on this. The Town Manager noted that the Director of Recreation and Parks was unable to attend tonight but agrees with the document and was instrumental in putting the revisions together. The Assistant to the Town Manager reported that the regulations were last updated in 1994; the goal was to bring them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and bring the regulations in line with what the Recreation and Parks Department is currently doing; the other item was better aligning the appeal process to what is stated in Chapter 41 Code of Ordinances if a permit is revoked or suspended by the Town Manager or Director of Recreation and Parks the appeal comes to the Town Council to render a decision; giving the Recreation and Parks Department the flexibility to use an RFP or lottery process to give out permits that may be popular or a fair way of doing it as well as clarifying the timeline for the submission of permits; for the upcoming calendar year permits will be accepted starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and earlier requests for special events like weddings or conferences and clearly stating the timeline for Town athletic leagues to submit their permit requests; in Appendix B, the fee schedule, we included items to codify what is current practice;



those are fees that the leagues pay directly to the Town for how many players they have instead of paying a fee each time they use the field; we did some small revisions to Appendix D, the list of conforming uses for different properties. Mr. Speich commented that we had the canoe debate a few years ago and questioned if any of these changes address that. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded that the lottery is new as well as the January 1<sup>st</sup> date. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the Town and any applicant have fair warning. The Town Manager noted that what is not changed is the appeal process; the last time he brought this up there was also a recommended change to the ordinance language which took the Town Council out of the appeals, but we took that out, and left it exactly the way it is so if there is a dispute or an appeal from his decision the applicant comes before Council.

Mr. Stokesbury commented on a few clean-up items; page 1, definitions, permit application “means” was struck, on page 2, strike the same word. Chairperson Maguire extended compliments to the Assistant to the Town Manager and Director of Recreation and Parks. She asked if the Board of Education could also receive a copy. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded that she will send it to Tim Filon, Athletic Director, and the Superintendent of Schools.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve revisions, pursuant to Section 41-22 of the Town Code of Ordinances, to the Town’s Public Place Regulations including Appendix B “Public Place Fees” and Appendix D “Conforming Use of Parks, Public Places and Facilities” as discussed.

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

#### **18/19-40     Eagle Scout Proclamations**

Chairperson Maguire reported that there is an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony this Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at West Avon Congregational Church. She noted the following Scouts that will become Eagles: Maxwell David Mock, Mark Andrew Nunziata, and Neil William Bratton. Mr. Stokesbury read one of the proclamations aloud which will also be brought and shared at the Court of Honor.

January 3, 2019

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. Through the years you have spent in scouting you have had to show qualities of leadership, integrity, loyalty, and service to your troop, community, school, religion, 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!

Chairperson Maguire extended congratulations to these three young men and we will see them on Saturday.

**18/19-41     Donation to Town from Flagman of America**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept, with gratitude, the donation by Flagman of America to the Town for labor and materials needed for repairs to the flag poles on the Town Green.

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

Mr. Stokesbury noted that Flagman has donated in other areas around Town; they are very good at this. Chairperson Maguire commented that they are very generous.

**18/19-42     Approval of Real Estate Tax Refunds, \$11,917.63**

Chairperson Maguire noted that one refund was from an overpayment as a result in a reduction in their assessment. Mr. Stokesbury commented on the presentation with the columns in the refund requests; the tax due should be an amount higher than the amount paid thus indicating a refund. The Town Manager responded that he will follow-up with the Collector of Revenue.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve a real estate tax refund to Stag Avon LLC in the amount of \$10,667.93 and a motor vehicle tax refund to Vu Tang in the amount of \$1,249.70, subject to the Town Manager seeking further clarification with the Town Council if needed.

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

**18/19-43     Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (U – 12/31/2022)**

The Clerk reported that Keith Jones' term expired on December 31, 2018 and the Town Engineer has indicated that Mr. Jones wishes to continue; the AWPCA has staggered terms.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council re-appoint Keith Jones to the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.

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

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

**Misc. A: Purchasing Update:** The Town Manager reported that highlights include next steps with the communication system project and scheduling a kick-off meeting using a similar framework for managing the implementation as we did the pre-referendum process; for that he had assigned Chief Rinaldo to be the Project Manager and he pulled together a stakeholder Committee that included the Fire Department, Board of Education, Public Works, etc.; Federal Engineering will stay involved and be one of the primary liaisons with Motorola; the contract has been signed; and he will share a detailed critical path when ready; for every meeting from now until complete, you will have an update every month. Mr. Pena questioned if Simsbury is looking at the same system. The Town Manager responded yes and they used the same consultant we did and the recommendation will be the same; we met with their staff to talk about lessons learned and a great opportunity for partnership not only with Simsbury but also maybe

Canton at some point; Avon has the core, we become the regional hub and pull in revenue from those other communities to offset the operational costs. Mr. Speich commented that as long as it doesn't slow down our capabilities.

The Town Manager noted that there is an RFP out for Cider Brook for bridge design services; a fire alarm bid package will go out in early spring as well as street sweeping.

**Misc. B: Construction Update:** The Town Manager reported that with the Fisher Meadows Expansion we are looking at a playable date of fall 2019; it would be coincidental if this and the AHS Synthetic Turf Field Project reach substantial completion at the same time. Mr. Stokesbury commented that he was at Fisher Meadows on Saturday after the rain and about half of the new fields were under water. He questioned how well it has drained this week and do we need to think about any firm rules/directions as to what happens when they flood, when to put back in use. The Town Manager responded that the Assistant to the Town Manager and Director of Recreation and Parks are working on a rules and procedures book for the Recreation Department about field use assignments, cancellations are notified, etc. and is something he would suggest we look at. Mr. Stokesbury noted that his point is how do we keep people off these fields after it floods because there is going to be pressure to get back onto the fields; he wants to have it in writing to fall back on.

The Town Manager noted that Police Department improvements will continue; the School Street "S" curve reconstruction is scheduled to be paved in the spring along with Highwood Circle, Winding Lane, and Stillbrook. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the road is the talk of the neighborhood; he questioned if we can tell people that we are that close to doing the curve/paving or just try to answer their questions. The Town Manager responded that we could target a mailing. He noted that with the Old Farms Road Bridge Project he will share the critical path timeline as soon as we receive it from the State and will post on the Town's web site, etc. Mr. Stokesbury noted one major change highlighted that Old Farms Road is now scheduled to be closed in July 2019 instead of July 2020; that is only six months away and he wants to hit in the next newsletter and anywhere we can, i.e. Town's web site front page, Facebook page, etc. The Town Manager responded that we will stay ahead of all of these as best we can. Chairperson Maguire suggested also notifying surrounding towns for people who travel that area. Mr. Speich questioned the other part of Old Farms Road. The Town Manager responded that we should be getting a commitment to fund letter from CRCOG in the spring for the section from north-south from Thompson past Scoville with LOTCIP and STP funding; the section from east-west from Tillotson to Thompson is furthest behind right now and will probably include the Town paying a good portion of the cost with maybe some offset from Avon Old Farms School.

**Misc. C: Bear Calls for Service:** The Town Manager reported that there are some options; we have very good policies for the Police Department to follow with bear encounters. He noted that the State is very unlikely to issue a permit for bear hunting; an option is to try and get special legislation which could create other issues; the Farmington Valley Collaborative will meet again next month and we will invite Mike Demicco, a State representative and Chair of the Environment Committee; at this time we will leave it at the officer's discretion while on scene. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if there is a better way to educate residents and follow-up with a standardized letter to that homeowner noting that the State doesn't allow hunting, here are our protocols with how Avon deals with; it shouldn't be the officer's job on the spot to do that

education, not even sure it is a Police Department issue, but a great way to follow-up with residents who are affected by it. Chairperson Maguire suggested meetings with the public. The Town Manager responded we have held those in the past. Chairperson Maguire suggested perhaps holding another meeting and putting something on the web site. The Town Manager responded that maybe we could hold two meetings during the year, when bears come in and out of hibernation, and add postings on Facebook, the Town's web site and follow-up with a resident after an incident.

The Town Manager reported that he presents the annual CCM Municipal Budget Workshop this coming Saturday in North Haven.

## **XI. ADJOURN**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

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

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk