

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 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, and Pena. Mr. Speich was absent. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Maguire.

III. PUBLIC HEARING: None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: January 29, 2019 Special Meeting

One correction was made as follows:

On page 6, modify sentence to read, ".....improvements on Town property if it is *going to be paid* for privately....."

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the January 29, 2019 Special Meeting as amended.

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

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE - None

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Pena shared that long-time resident, Attorney Morton Katz appears in the current edition of the Connecticut Magazine and the current edition of the Valley Life.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

18/19-18 FY 19/20 Budget Development

The Council held their Budget Workshop on February 23rd; some reductions were made following it; the proposed budget reflects a mill rate increase of 4.94% of which 2.2% is due to the reduction in the Grand List. The Town Manager noted that the proposed budget does not include any funding for our proposed portion of the Governor's teachers' pension plan; approximately \$360,000 in FY 20, \$680,000 in FY 21, and \$1,021,000 in FY 22. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if this new expense would be looked at within the Town's overall budget. The Town Manager responded that will be discussed as we go forward. Mr. Stokesbury questioned any implications regarding the motor vehicle tax. The Town Manager responded that we still fall under the cap.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council recommends the FY 19/20 Proposed Budget of \$95,394,145 to the Board of Finance as follows:

REVENUES

Property Tax & Assessments	\$ 84,750,490
Intergovernmental	3,733,307
Licenses, Fees & Permits	1,032,675
Charges for Current Services	5,339,108
Other Local Revenues	528,565
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	10,000
TOTAL	\$ 95,394,145

EXPENDITURES

Town Operating Budget	\$ 25,893,427
School Operating Budget	60,529,340
Sewer Operating Budget	2,401,673
Capital & Debt Service Budgets:	
Debt Service	3,746,038
Capital Budget (CNREF, Facilities & Equipment)	2,823,667
<i>Subtotal: Capital & Debt Service</i>	<i>6,569,705</i>
TOTAL	\$ 95,394,145

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

18/19-45 2019 Girl Scout Week Proclamation

Chairperson Maguire welcomed the girl scouts present to receive the proclamation. She read the following proclamation.

Girl Scout Day Proclamation

A Proclamation Celebrating 107 years of Girl Scouting

WHEREAS, March 12, 2019, marks the 107th 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 107th 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, Heather Maguire, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chairperson 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, 2019, as Girl Scout Day.

18/19-46 Review, Discussion, and Approval: Town Council Policy No. 17, Elderly Tax Relief Program

Harry DerAsadourian, Assessor, provided a summary overview of the program which is reviewed every two years; it has steadily grown to 288 participants with an income limit of \$57,500 with appreciation from residents; there is no need at this time to modify the income which is the second highest in the Farmington Valley; Granby is the highest at about \$62,000. It was recommended that in the future this review be done in the fall.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the continuance of the Town Elderly Tax Relief Program (Town Council Policy #17) at the current income limit of \$57,500.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council move agenda item 18/19-55 up before agenda item 18/19-47.

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

18/19-47 Review, Discussion, Set Public Hearing: Sanitary Sewer Easement: 30 Paper Chase Trail

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 4, 2019 meeting to consider the acceptance of a Sanitary Sewer Easement as shown on a certain plan entitled "SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT PLAN, 30 PAPER CHASE TRAIL, AVON, CONNECTICUT, NOVEMBER 30, 2018, REVISED FEBRUARY 8, 2019, Scale 1"=20', SHEET 1", prepared by the Town of Avon Engineering Department (the "Map") which Map will be filed in the Town of Avon land records.

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

18/19-48 Approve Resolution: 2019 JAG (Justice Assistance Grant) Violent Crime Prevention Grant, \$6,000

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

RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF AVON

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Justice *Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) Program*, through the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, has made funding available to the Town of Avon Police Department under the JAG 2019 Violent Crime Prevention Grant Project; and,

WHEREAS, this funding, a one-time grant, in the amount of \$6,000, will be used by the Town of Avon Police Department to assist in preventing violent crime and improving public safety by upgrading equipment and accessories for the Bike Patrol Unit and Gator Team, thereby enhancing the Department's community policing efforts.

WHEREAS, the funding period of this grant award is from February 21, 2019 through September 30, 2019, with no local matching fund requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Brandon Robertson, Town Manager is hereby authorized to make, execute, and approve, on behalf of the Town of Avon, any and all contracts and amendments, and to accept said funding and to execute and approve on behalf of this municipality other instruments as part of or incident to the filing of Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) Program, JAG 2019 Violent Crime Prevention Grant Program.

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

18/19-49 Review, Discussion, and Approval: Town Council Policy No. 8, Death of Town Officials

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve a revision to Town Council Policy No. 8, Death of Town Officials and increase the total expenditure under item A to \$100.00.

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

18/19-50 Approval of Real Estate Tax Refunds, \$12,314.12

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve real estate tax refunds to the following: Jane A Connel \$4,209.36, Christine K Papa \$5,251.91, and Stag Avon LLC \$2,852.85.

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

18/19-51 Resignation: Building Code Board of Appeals (R – 12/31/19)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Dana Hinman from the Building Code Board of Appeals.

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

18/19-52 Appointment: New England National Scenic Trail Stewardship Council

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Hiram Peck to the New England National Scenic Trail Stewardship Council to fill a vacancy for an indefinite term.

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

18/19-53 Resignation: New England National Scenic Trail Stewardship Council

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Tom Morganti from the New England National Scenic Trail Stewardship Council.

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

18/19-54 Discussion regarding expectations of meeting minutes

Chairperson Maguire noted that the minutes are currently very lengthy and we may want a transcript for a particular item being discussed. Council gave consensus to scale down the minutes to what is required which is the start/end time, motions, and summarize what was discussed versus what was said.

18/19-55 Regular Avon Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) Updates

Jamie DiPace, Town Council Representative for the AVFD, provided the following AVFD updates: the Department is holding its 5K road race on May 11th, Engine 7 repairs are almost complete, Mike Galliher and Ken Sedlak are reviewing the Department's insurance, and the recent wind storm kept the Department busy with one incident involving about 75 people trapped at the Science Center for about five hours with the trees that came down along with no back-up generator after they lost power. He added that the recruitment and retention program is being rejuvenated. He will provide these updates to Council every one or two months. Mr. Stokesbury requested a schedule for the Live Fire Training Facility. Chairperson Maguire commented that they are concerned about retention and recruits so updates would be helpful. She recently spoke to Dave Theriault about the possibility of another carnival in September and suggested a brainstorming meeting in the next week or so.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Assistant to the Town Manager provided highlights. Mr. Stokesbury inquired about the bill prohibiting artificial turf. The Town Manager responded that the bill has an effective date of October 1st and our substantial completion date is August 23rd with full completion by the end of September.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Assistant to the Town Manager provided highlights. Mr. Stokesbury re-emphasized the importance of getting notice out early and often about the road closure at Tillotson/Old Farms Road.

Misc. C: Center Line Rumble Strips/Route 10: The Town Manager reported that a Public Information Meeting is scheduled for March 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Free Public Library and CTDOT sent letters to abutters.

Misc. D: Tobacco 21/Vaping: The Town Manager reported that we continue to follow this topic with the State.

XI. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk