

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 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, Speich, and Pena. A quorum was present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Maguire.

**III. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**19/20-08 Storm Drainage Easement & Street Line Agreement: 55 Orchard Street**

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.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the acceptance of a storm drainage easement and defined street line for 55 Orchard Street as depicted on the following map: "PROPERTY SURVEY PREPARED FOR ALISON M. HOWARD, 55 ORCHARD STREET & HUCKLEBERRY HILL ROAD, AVON, CONNECTICUT, scale 1"=20' by Godfrey Hoffman, Hodge, LLC dated 06-27-2019."

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

Alison Howard, representing the Howard Family Trust for 55 Orchard Street, was present and stated she would follow-up with the Engineering Department on how to move forward.

**IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS:** September 5, 2019

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept the minutes of the September 5, 2019 Meeting as drafted.

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

**V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, noted the passing of Bob Hunt, a past member of the Avon VFW and provided a long, distinguished service to Avon as its Attorney. Chairperson Maguire commented that the Town is saddened to hear of his passing and has made a donation on his behalf.

## **VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Speich thanked the Assistant to the Town Manager and everyone else involved with putting on the Food Truck Festival and is in favor of it returning next year. He noted that the Old Farms Road Bridge looks great and is glad to see Town streets being improved as part of the capital improvement budget.

Mr. Stokesbury commented on blight which is very hard to define and harder to enforce any regulatory action again and referenced Bolton and Farmington, it is critical that our Town document each step to have a well written record of a blight event, and he does not think we should pass a blight ordinance.

Mr. Pena attended the Avon High School (AHS) Student Internship Poster Presentation which was a great event and they spoke highly of the Assistant to the Town Manager for her work with the intern that worked at Town Hall over the summer; recognized that effective October 1<sup>st</sup> the tobacco/vaping age in the State changes to age 21; and attended the vehicle break-in informational session and distributed flyers to residents afterwards who were not aware of the event and suggested reviewing the methods for which we get the word out regarding various topics. Chairperson Maguire commented that we need to work on how to better share news, events, etc. with residents.

Mr. Bernetich thanked the Assistant to the Town Manager as well as the rest of the Town for a great event with the Food Truck Festival.

Chairperson Maguire commented that the AHS Student Internship Poster Presentation was amazing and kudos to Liz Brisco with this program and the Assistant to the Town Manager was a game changer for the intern that worked at Town Hall this past summer and spoke highly of his experience; presented proclamations for the Avon Garden Club and the Avon Congregational Church's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and thanked the Assistant to the Town Manager for putting together these amazing documents; and the Carnival weekend was enjoyed by all, the music was great, and she thanked everyone who helped with the event.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Chairperson Maguire reported that we are in the homestretch towards completion and noted that the track is still a construction zone. The Town Manager commented that the buffering will be done by mid-October, equipment training has been conducted, and the Committee Chair will provide Council with a final report on November 7<sup>th</sup>, then Council can disband the Committee, accept the project and turn it over to the Board of Education for administration. A grand opening will be scheduled soon. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Town Manager responded that the wooden guard rail was removed from the project budget as the Board of Education will be paying for that directly. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Town Manager responded that he approved a change order yesterday for an access gate at the southern end of the property on West Avon Road. Mr. Stokesbury noted that there is an open contingency of \$50,000. The Assistant to the Town Manager commented the security cameras

have not been purchased yet which will come out of the contingency, approximately \$25,000, as well as the purchase of garbage and recycling bins. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, the Town Manager responded that the public will officially be able to use it after the project is accepted on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Council discussed the option of holding a special meeting before then if the project is done.

**19/20-10      Appointments: Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee**

Chairperson Maguire reported that the original Wild & Scenic Study Committee no longer exists since the designation was received; a new committee is being formed of which the former members are being nominated.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoints Stephen Hunt and Ellen Retelle to the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

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

Robin Baran, 182 Woodford Hills Drive, co-President of Nod Road Preservation Inc., commented that the Farmington River Watershed is their official partner in the main interest of protecting the Farmington River and we support each other.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**19/20-15      FY 20/21 Budget: Approve Capital Budget Review Schedule**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the following FY 20/21 Capital Improvement Program Budget Review Schedule as provided:

<b>Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Regular Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)</b>
	7:00 p.m.      Engineering
	7:30 p.m.      Public Works
	8:00 p.m.      Recreation and Parks
<b>Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Regular Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)</b>
	7:00 p.m.      Board of Education
	7:30 p.m.      Police Department
	8:00 p.m.      Fire Department
	8:30 p.m.      General Government

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

**19/20-16      Approve 2020 Meeting Schedule**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adopt the following schedule of meetings in accordance with P.A. 723 of the 1967 Session of the Connecticut General Assembly, the following list of scheduled meetings for 2020 and January 2021:

Thursday, January 9, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, February 6, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, March 5, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, April 2, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, May 7, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, June 4, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, July 30, 2020*	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, September 3, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, October 1, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, November 5, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, December 3, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, January 7, 2021	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall

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

### **19/20-17 Appointment: Board of Assessment Appeals (R – 12/31/2019)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council table agenda item 19/20-17 Appointment: Board of Assessment Appeals (R – 12/31/2019) to the November 7, 2019 meeting.

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

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

**Misc. A: Purchasing Update:** The Town Manager provided a brief update. He noted that the Library’s geothermal system is decaying rapidly with failing wells which results in portions of the Library being closed off; possibility for recommendation to replace the system ahead of July 1<sup>st</sup> through a supplemental appropriation.

**Misc. B: Construction Update:** The Town Manager provided a brief update, including these highlights: Public Works has stayed on track with the paving management plan despite the other unanticipated projects this fiscal year; an application to be submitted to Canton Planning and Zoning Commission on October 20<sup>th</sup> for Public Safety Communication System Project, we have a good team including Tom Kline (AVFD) volunteering a lot of his time and expertise. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Town Manager responded that the tower size is like that of a monopole. Mr. Stokesbury commented that it will be very effective to us and will also be to Canton with minimal visual impact to the neighborhood; it is important to understand the misconception when you refer to it as a tower. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, the Town Manager responded that the tower will go on CT Water Company property in the Town of Canton.

Robin Baran, 182 Woodford Hills Drive, commented that she has heard chatter about the tower from people in Canton and thinks people are eager to get as much information about it even before the public hearing. The Town Manager responded that Avon wants to be a good neighbor; letters were sent to property owners within 1000’ radius of the tower location and a meeting was held in early September; Chief of Police will make house calls to the Kingwood Drive homes in Avon.

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, commented that the existing tower site was co-located with CT Water Company property and sits at the top of Huckleberry Hill, but what happens if the site becomes not possible; is it feasible to move it down a bit onto Foundland property to put up a taller monopole. The Town Manager responded that it is possible but not easy because the bond language for the project specifically references the Kingswood Drive site so we would have to go back out to referendum; any site is going to cause problems.

In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that the remediation work will come in under budget, being done after the elevator hydraulic cylinder replacement work at the Avon Middle School.

**Misc. C: Old Farms Road:** The Town Manager reported that he and the Town Engineer and our consultant had a meeting with CTDOT and CRCOG two weeks ago; we will receive a conditional commitment from CTDOT to fund the project with a total value of approximately \$3.9 million but because this is a road relocation it will require a CT Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) review which adds up to five months to the permitting process and cost is nominal at \$3,500. He noted that Avon Old Farms School is still on board.

**Misc. D: Fall Food Truck Festival and Carnival:** This item was discussed under Communication from Council.

**Misc. E: Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Community Fund Grant:** The Town Manager reported that there is advisory group with representation from Avon who will appoint the group that will actually make the grants; we will follow this.

In response to a question from Mr. Pena, the Town Manager responded that the WPCA is currently reviewing their rates as well as data sets from CT Water Company; perhaps going with semi-annual billing, one being a fixed cost and the second based on use; the WPCA is mindful of the impact and looking into programs similar to elderly tax relief.

The Town Manager reported that he went over to the Farmington Polo Grounds last Saturday night; there was an event, Avon vs. Farmington Tito's Cup, Farmington won, however Mike Bozzuto presented \$8,000 checks to both towns; a recommendation will be with where to deposit the donation.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to 1-200 6 (c) to Discuss Matters of Security Strategy

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

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

The Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager, Clerk, and Glenn Grube - Library Director/IT Committee Chair attended the session.

**XII. ADJOURN**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.  
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk