AVON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES November 7, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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:** None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: October 3, 2019

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

<u>RESOLVED</u>: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the October 3, 2019 Meeting as drafted.

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

V. <u>COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE</u>

Jamie DiPace, Town Council Representative for the AVFD, provided the following AVFD updates: busy with storm calls; pre-planning work continues regarding the Avon Village Center development; FY 21 budget planning is underway; and reminded all about the upcoming Annual Dinner.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Speich thanked everyone who helped out on Election Day.

Mr. Stokesbury commented on the Stamford Police Department regarding body cameras and State law requires that footage be released within 96 hours after an incident; they had an incident with twenty officers with body cameras and became a drain on their Department to meet the requirement; it is an unintended consequence and another drain on the overhead of running the police department.

Mr. Pena also thanked everyone who helped out on Election Day. He noted that the 5th Annual Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. with the addition of a canned food drive to benefit the Food Bank; attendance has grown from fifty to nearly three hundred.

Chairperson Maguire echoed everyone's help on Election Day and thanked the candidates for running and stepping up to be volunteers for our Town; attended the groundbreaking event for Whole Foods last week which should open one year from now; and noted that eleven trees from the Avon Village Center property are being relocated to Fisher Meadows with Public Works' assistance.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

<u>13/14-48</u> <u>Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project:</u> <u>Final Report</u>

Mark Zacchio, Chairman, AHS Synthetic Turf Field & Track Improvement Project Building Committee, provided a capstone report; also present was Committee Member Jason Indomenico; highlights included Mountain View Landscapes being the best contractor in his time working with the Town; the project was on budget and mostly on time due to a number of additions as the project progressed, i.e. moving the AHS sign, neighborhood buffering, irrigation relocation, water fountain replacement, baseball safety netting, and a service gate; total outstanding expenditures are about \$500,000; and he thanked Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education, BSC Group, Mountain View Landscapes, Town and Board of Education staff, the neighbors, and the Building Committee with a special recognition to Pete Ponziani, David Jadovich, Todd Donovan, and Sarah Roberson who were also on the original Sub-committee, it was a great group to work with; the project is essentially complete and the Committee recommends Council formally accept the facility for use and disband the Building Committee.

In response to a question from Chairperson Maguire, Mr. Zacchio responded that the security cameras are being prepared to be installed with monitoring at Dispatch. Mr. Stokesbury noted that we as a community faced a very divisive issue and the three Boards and the community got together, solved it the right way and delivered the appropriate product to the community for many years to come; we should be thankful for that solution and Mr. Zacchio's leadership. Mr. Zacchio commented that it is a huge asset to the Town; getting the play we expected and keeping the community on that site after school but will come with some daily maintenance to fix worn areas on the turf field. Mr. Speich thanked Mr. Zacchio and the Committee for all of their work. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, Mr. Zacchio responded that we have all necessary maintenance equipment and we have extra infill material; this infill can be used for two cycles on the field, equating to approximately 25 years; the Board of Education is taking responsibility for and ownership of the field; the buffering design will take time to completely fill; and the security cameras funding was added into the base project through the Town Manager's Office. In response to a question from Chairperson Maguire, field rules are posted onsite and should be distributed to all team users. Chairperson Maguire recommended posting the rules on the Town's web site. In response to a question from Mr. Bernetich, Mr. Zacchio responded that rule enforcement might be the responsibility of Tim Filon or Ruth Checko. In response to a question from Mr. Bernetich, the Town Manager responded that a capital reserve will be setup for turf replacement, approximately \$500,000 in 10-12 years. The Town Manager noted that the longevity of the field will be in large part a function of the maintenance. Mr. Zacchio noted that there are eight spots per sport that can become problematic, wear spots. Mr. Pena extended thanks to Mr. Zacchio and the Committee. The Town Manager commented that the Building Committee worked seamlessly together. Chairperson Maguire also expressed sincere thanks to the Building Committee, Town and Board of Education staff, and BSC Group; the celebration will continue on Saturday, November 9th at 12:30 p.m. for the ribbon-cutting ceremony; on behalf of the Town Council we accept with the utmost gratitude the final report from the Avon

High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project Building Committee, once the Project is accepted we will be prepared to turn it over to the Board of Education who will now become responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the field and track, oversee the scheduling and use of the field with Ruth Checko's assistance on the weekends; the investment in the Project is substantial and it is imperative that we protect our investment and properly care for it to enhance the long-term playability for athletic teams and the community, congratulations on an outstanding job and thank you.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mr. Speich, it was voted: **<u>RESOLVED</u>**: That the Town Council accept the Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project and disband its Committee, with much gratitude. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Pena, Stokesbury, and Bernetich voted in favor.

18/19-65 Fall Food Truck Festival and Carnival: Final Report

The Assistant to the Town Manager provided a capstone report; highlights included an attendance of approximately 12,000; approximately \$13,000 in revenue from the food truck/ride contractor with expenditures totaling approximately \$61,000 of which \$33,000 was charged to respective departments' budgets related to their services; there is a \$13,000 deficit will need to be covered with another funding source; thank you letters were sent to event contributors; 325 staff hours were utilized for the event; and an after action meeting was held.

Mr. Speich commented on the great site and the possibility to provide wiring for future events. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that more parking spaces could be created onsite to reduce overflow parking and/or shuttle buses. Mr. DiPace, Carnival Planning Committee member, agreed that it is a great site and the bugs have been ironed out over the last two events there.

Chairperson Maguire suggested some non-profit booths participating and another organization to assist as parking attendants to reduce expenses and increase revenues. She asked the Town Manager to compare the carnival to other towns' events.

Mr. Pena commented that having parking much closer could be more inviting to people, the possibility of upgrading the rides, and extended thanks to all involved.

Mr. Stokesbury expressed thanks to all, attended on Friday night which was very middle school centric, was upfront in the beginning with concerns about the event and still hold those concerns. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that no noise complaints were received; she and Ruth Checko went to every home on Thompson Road and provided them with parking passes to get past the barricades. Mr. Stokesbury suggested an after event canvas of the neighborhood. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded there were no inappropriate incidents, just rowdy high school students who were spoken to and behaved at the event. He noted that this became a replacement for Celebrate Avon/Avon Day and our line item budget for that was \$10,000 to \$15,000 with staff volunteers and it has mushroomed into a much larger number, he raised as a concern when we first discussed it and particularly this year when it was not a budgeted item; it is also the diversion of staff time when they could be doing other

mandated/scheduled work; and it would be best done on alternate years.

Chairperson Maguire commented that Avon Day required a lot of volunteers and time involved and it got tired. She would like to see a combination of Avon Day and this Carnival; Avon needs to have something at some point; possibly bring in partners to bring down costs; we need to reduce expenses; it was ideal to deal with one contractor; after January we can discuss as a Council and where we can go from here. The Town Manager commented that we will provide more framework around how other towns do this, review line items, and opportunity costs.

Mr. Bernetich suggested a copy and paste from this year's event with some modifications, it should occur annually, we should offer non-profit booths, and the total outlay be less than \$25,000 as he is uncomfortable spending \$50,000 for a three-day event.

Chairperson Maguire concluded that everyone did a great job and it was a great weekend.

19/20-15 FY 20/21 Budget: CIP Budget Presentations

a. 7:00 p.m. Engineering – a power point presentation is attached and made part of these minutes

Larry Baril, Town Engineer, reviewed each of the summary requests for FY 20/21. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, Mr. Baril responded that the east-west section of Old Farms Road runs from Tillotson to Thompson with potentially a separate bike trail adjacent to the roadway. With regards to the Cider Brook Bridge Replacement, Mr. Baril would like to see it get done in 2021. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, Mr. Baril responded that Cider Brook Road is the oldest and worst condition road in Town. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, Mr. Baril responded that the Thompson Brook Box Culvert Replacement-Tillotson Road is not the highest priority of his CIP requests. In response to a question from Mr. Bernetich, Mr. Baril responded that the Arch Road to Darling Drive connector would provide emergency access and another outlet point for Pond Place. The Town Manager noted that the Town acquired property in that area to do this work and the Plan of Conservation and Development shows for that to be opened up, paved, and connected.

Mr. Baril reviewed requests for the Sewer Department/AWPCA. With regards to Infiltration and Inflow (I&I), he noted that easement clearing started last winter; manholes found that were leaking and have been corrected. The Town Manager noted that a factor inhibiting our ability to plan for some of these sewer projects is our ongoing discussion with Farmington. In response to a question from Mr. Pena, Mr. Baril responded that the I&I Study occurred three years ago. He noted that DEEP has had our I&I Study report for two and a half years and have yet to approve it; he recently inquired about it and the Clean Water Fund and guaranteeing results by December 1st. Mr. Stokesbury commented that DEEP and other State agencies are looking at a 20-25% retirement rate in the next three years. Mr. Baril noted that the two people responsible for the Clean Water Fund are on that list. Council thanked Mr. Baril for his presentation.

b. 7:30 p.m. Public Works – a power point presentation is attached and made part of these minutes

Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works, and Alex Trujillo, Deputy Director of Public Works,

reviewed each of the summary requests for FY 20/21. Mr. Williams highlighted the Pavement Management Program requests. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, Mr. Williams responded that the list represents about 2.5 miles of 112 total miles. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, Mr. Williams responded that if we bond with a State contractor for the repair backlog it would take approximately five years to get the work done. The Town Manager noted that he and Mr. Williams will be meeting with BETA Consulting who rates our roads and will run through some scenarios. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, Mr. Williams responded that in general a road will last about 15-20 years. Mr. Williams highlighted the Facilities Improvement request.

Mr. Trujillo highlighted Fleet requests. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, Mr. Trujillo responded that police fleet is lacking in being replaced in a timely manner so there is not much left to them once they are retired. Mr. Williams noted that snow routes are approximately 11-12 miles each way. In response to a question from Mr. Bernetich, Mr. Williams responded that we do track downed truck time. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, Mr. Trujillo responded that upgrading the specs to stainless is helping the body frame. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, Mr. Williams responded that we can look into using contractors as a back-up but usually require a contract for the season. Mr. Pena noted that the Highwood Circle curbing was done the next day after being told that it would take two weeks and the residents were very pleased. Council thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Trujillo for their presentation. Chairperson Maguire noted that residents do recognize and appreciate the work by DPW staff.

c. 8:00 p.m. Recreation and Parks – a power point presentation is attached and made part of these minutes

Ruth Checko, Director of Recreation and Parks, reviewed each of the summary requests for FY 20/21. She highlighted past CIP projects. With regards to the Fisher Meadows Expansion Project in FY 17/18, we were carrying \$1.4 million but only \$414,000 has been spent to date as a result of Public Works doing this work. Mr. Stokesbury commented that there residents were vocal about the use of the Open Space Fund for this project. The Town Manager clarified that we will not be using the \$217,000 from this Fund. He noted that Council may want to discuss and review/update the Town Policy regarding use of the Open Space Fund. Mr. Stokesbury applauded the delay of use of the new fields at Fisher Meadow to get them ready and noted that the new parking lot holds a lot of cars and makes the whole facility better.

Ms. Checko reviewed each of the summary requests for FY 20/21. With regards to the Farmington Valley Trail, Mr. Speich commented on the maintenance of the overgrowth along the trails. Ms. Checko responded that DPW had summer help clearing the sides along the trail. With regards to the Countryside Park building, they have about 48 rentals that generates about \$4,000 in revenue and holds about 83 recreation programs. Mr. Bernetich commented on the cost of \$300,000 to renovate versus rebuilding the building. Ms. Checko highlighted the Update to the Recreation and Parks Master Plan request with an estimate of \$30,000. She noted that the Buckingham Recreation Area might be a good location for a future dog park. With regards to the Sperry Park ball field request, Mr. Indomenico noted that Avon Little League believes that if the field could be built there they would fundraise for it. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the Annex site has some great potential uses – various housing to tie into the emerging Town Center; the footprint at Sperry Park is already tight and whether they may be a better plan to relocate the

Town's soft/baseball fields to a better location. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, Ms. Checko responded that the Sycamore Hills pavilion was tabled and should be done by next spring; the funding is in place. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, Ms. Checko responded that with Sperry Park, the Town owns the property and Little League has use of it, the Town maintains it, Little League builds the structures. Mr. Stokesbury believes that the Sperry Park part of the complex is subject to a charitable grant from the Sperry brothers many years ago restricted to that purpose and if anything is done at Town level would require review and participation with the CT Attorney General's Office as a charitable property. Mr. Pena inquired about the community gardens. Ms. Checko responded that there are about 13 participants and is advertised in the Recreation and Parks program brochure and through the Town's web site. Council thanked Ms. Checko for her presentation.

<u>19/20-17</u> Appointment: Board of Assessment Appeals (R – 12/31/2019)

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted: **<u>RESOLVED</u>**: That the Town Council table agenda item 19/20-17 Appointment: Board of Assessment Appeals (R – 12/31/2019) to the December 5, 2019 meeting. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Stokesbury, Speich, Bernetich, and Pena voted in favor.

VIII. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

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

<u>RESOLVED</u>: That the Town Council move item 19/20-19 Appropriation from Recreation Activities Fund (Fund 9): Fisher Meadows Softball Field Dugouts, \$52,000 up before agenda item 19/20-18.

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

19/20-18 Acceptance of Gifts: Donation from Hometown Foundation, Inc.

Chairperson Maguire reported polo matches were held in September with a competition between Farmington and Avon, Farmington won, however the Hometown Foundation, Inc. matched donations for both towns. The Town Manager noted that the gift would be used for the Avon Food Pantry and Fuel Bank. Mr. Stokesbury noted that Michael Bozzuto is the owner of Bozzuto's Food, a very large player in that industry, and the polo grounds is one of his pet projects; he upgraded the facility and brings in national events, Special Olympics Dream Ride which brings in traffic including big trucks and how to get them to the site; he is a very good neighbor and the Town will benefit from his relationship. The Town Manager noted that Mr. Bozzuto is very community minded and this is a good place to build from.

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

<u>RESOLVED</u>: That the Town Council accept the gift of \$8,000.00 from the Hometown Foundation, Inc., in accordance with Section 4.3.2(1) of the Town Charter.

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

19/20-19Appropriation from Recreation Activities Fund (Fund 9): Fisher Meadows
Softball Field Dugouts, \$52,000

Ms. Checko provided a brief summary regarding this request.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation sum not to exceed \$52,000.00 from Recreation Activities Fund, Other Financing Sources, Unassigned Fund Balance, Account #09-0390-43913 and to Recreation Activities Fund, Parks, Recreational Equipment, Account #09-5201-53315, for the purpose of purchasing 2 dugouts for the Fisher Meadows Softball field.

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

<u>19/20-20</u> <u>Appointments: Avon Clean Energy Commission (Student Advisors)</u>

Chairman Maguire noted that perhaps other Boards/Commissions could look into the possibility of appointing student advisors.

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

<u>RESOLVED</u>: That the Town Council appoint Neel Srinath as a Student Advisor to the Avon Clean Energy Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

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

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: This item was not discussed at the meeting.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager provided a brief update. He noted that with the Town and Public Safety Communications System Replacement Project a meeting was held today with Motorola and staff, Canton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on November 20th. In response to a question from Mr. Pena, the Town Manager responded that Canton is potentially on board. Mr. Stokesbury shared the importance of showing the neighbors the benefit from having this monopole installed.

<u>Misc. C:</u> <u>Avon Village Center:</u> The Town Manager provided a brief update. He noted that we are at 98.5% with detailed, finalized plans, once finalized we can do the bonding; we are also finalizing a developer's agreement will explain the series of puts/takes needed on the roads and easement approval will be needed by Council; sustainability and micro grid continue to be a discussion with this project however the developer is not very receptive thus far.

Misc. D: Sewer Rate Public Hearing: This item was not discussed at the meeting.

Misc. E: <u>Sexual Harassment Training</u>: The Town Manager noted that this training is done every year for all Town employees; this is the tenth year.

Misc. F: <u>CT Tree Protective Association</u>: This item was not discussed at the meeting.

Misc. G: Vaccine Distribution Drill: This item was not discussed at the meeting.

Misc. H: Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA): The Town Manager reported that the CALEA team will be onsite the week of November 12th.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real Estate Pending Claim

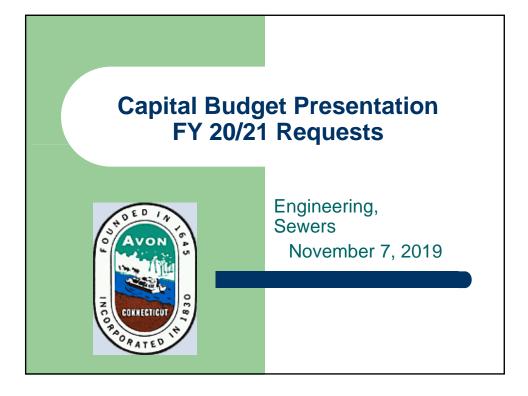
On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted: **<u>RESOLVED</u>**: That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 10:11 p.m. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

The Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager, and Clerk attended the session.

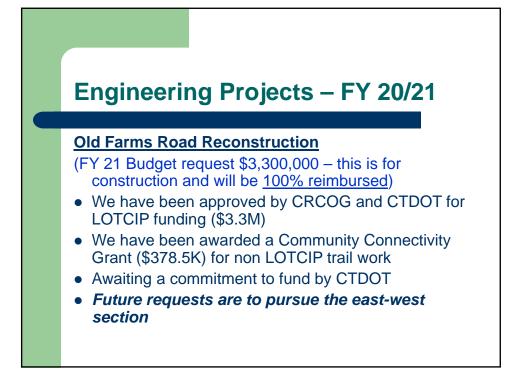
XII. ADJOURN

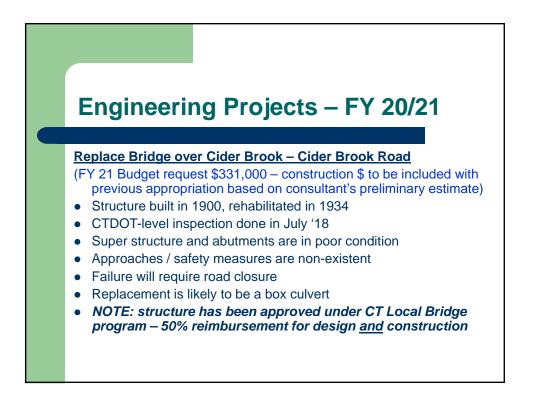
On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted: **<u>RESOLVED</u>**: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, Stokesbury, and Speich voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk



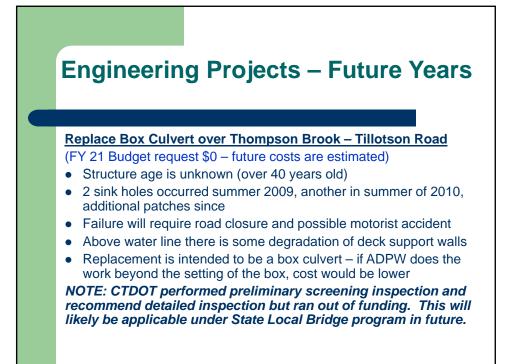




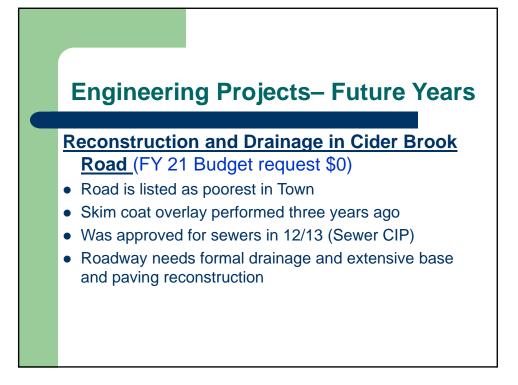


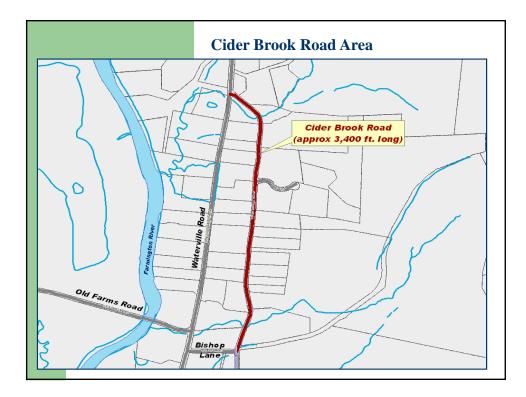


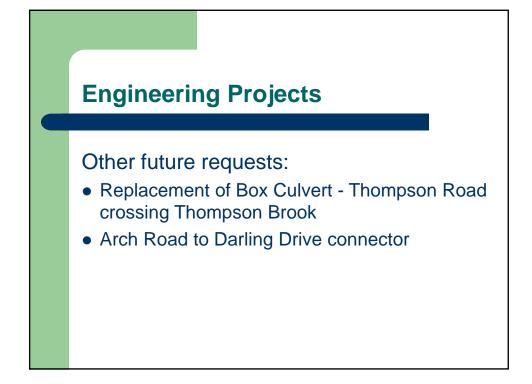


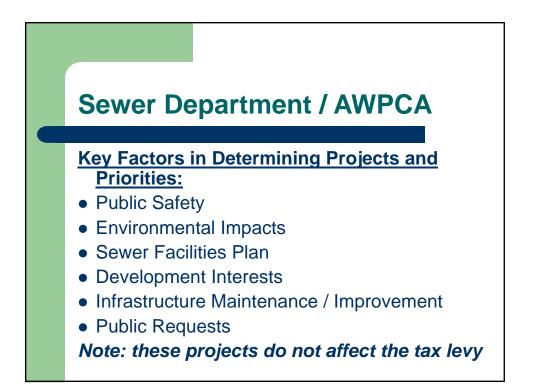




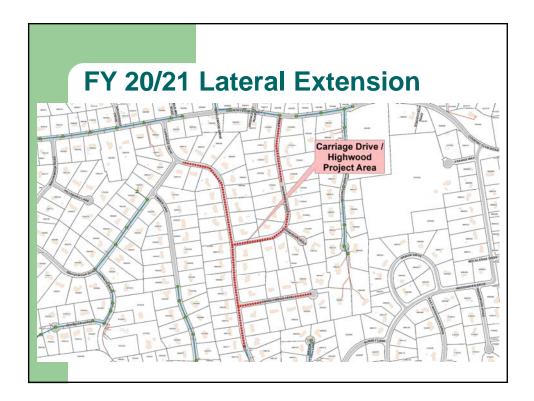


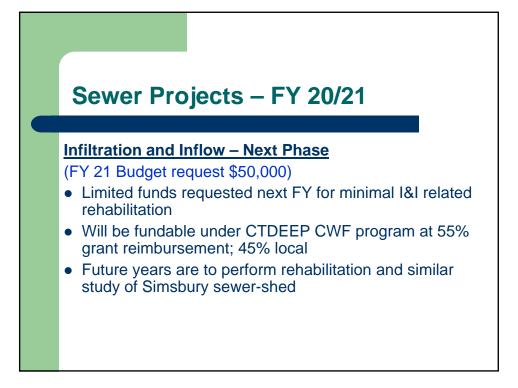


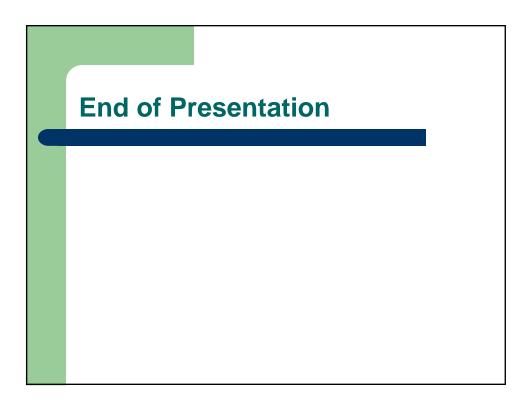












Capital Improvement Plan FY 2020/2021



Department of Public Works

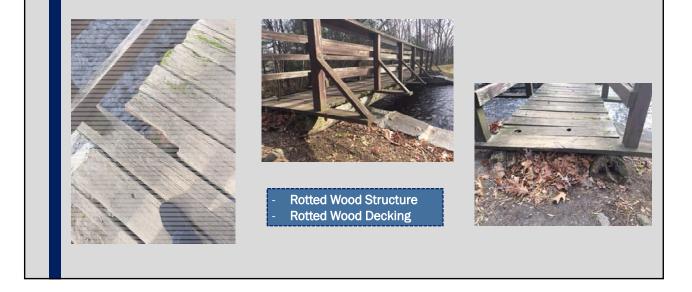
Pavement Management Program

FISCAL YEAR 20/21 MILL & OV		
LEXINGTON ROAD	\$152,000	
HENLEY WAY	\$246,000	
RIDGEWOOD ROAD	\$61,000	
BRIAN LANE	\$148,000	
HOLLY LANE	\$47,000	
BROWNSTONE	\$61,000	
ROCKLEDGE DRIVE	\$105,000	
HIGH RIDGE ROAD	\$263,000	
BROOKMOOR ROAD	\$333,000	
TOTAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	\$1,427,000	
CRACK SEALING 16 MILES OF ROAD	\$100,000	STATE STATE
TOTAL REQUEST	\$1,527,000	



F	Roadway Rep	air Backlog	Summary	
Repair Method	Length (Miles)	Square Yards	Percent Repair	Estimated Cost
Reclamation	6.48	99,348.31	5.77%	\$3,179,145.87
Mill & Overlay	21.11	312,536.77	18.80%	\$3,750,441.21
Overlay	41.35	608,533.06	36.82%	\$6,085,330.57
Crack Seal	25.50	370,387.03	22.71%	\$185,193.51
Defer Maintenance	17.86	258,735.97	15.91%	\$0.00
TOTAL	112.30	1,649,541.13	100.00%	\$13,200,111.17

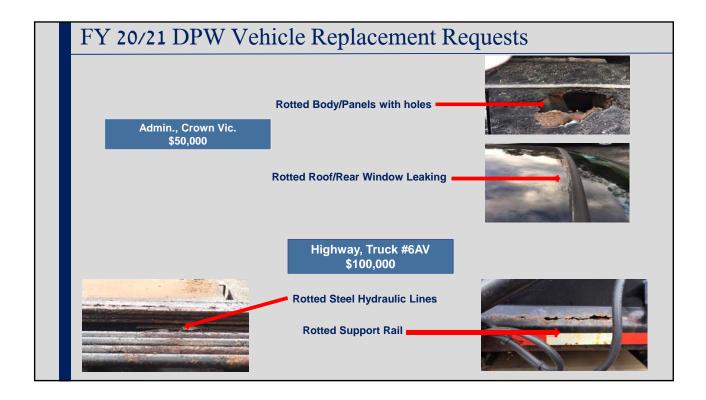
Facilities Improvements Countryside Park Pedestrian Bridge, \$27,000

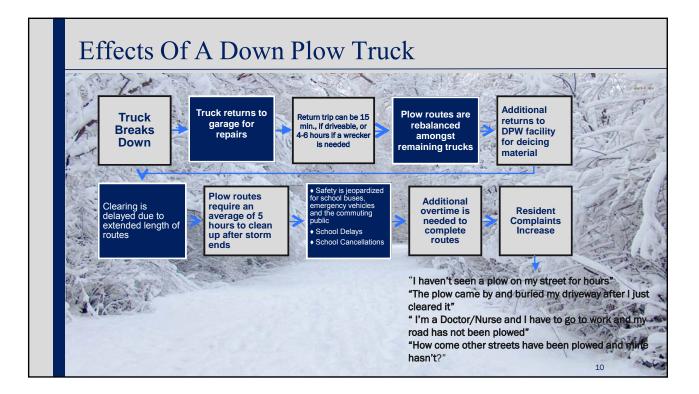


Public	Works Historical Fleet Funding						
	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	
Requested	\$540,000	\$510,000	\$492,000	\$392,000	\$550,000	\$790,000	
Approved	\$300,000	\$200,000	\$308,000	\$112,000	\$95,000		
Unfunded	\$240,000	\$310,000	\$184,000	\$280,000	\$455,000		

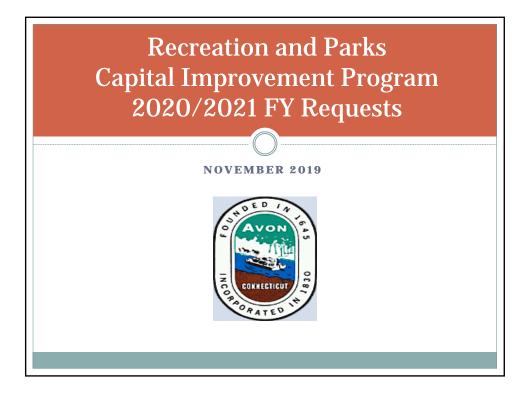
Past 5 Year Fleet Requests								
	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/:		
Highway	Tree Truck	Tree Truck						
Engineering	23AV	23AV	23AV	23AV	23AV	23		
Highway Heavy		11AV	11AV					
Bldgs. & Grounds Light		19AV	19AV	19AV	19AV	19		
Admin.			Crown Vic	Crown Vic	Crown Vic	Crown		
Highway Light			51AV	51AV	51AV			
Bldgs. & Grounds			Large Mower	Large Mower				
Highway Heavy				6AV (Body)	6AV (Body)	6AV (Bo		
Highway Heavy					12AV	12		
Bldgs. & Grounds Light						Utility Tru		
Highway Heavy						7		
Bldgs. & Grounds Light						Additional Dump Tru		
Admin.						Chevy Tah		

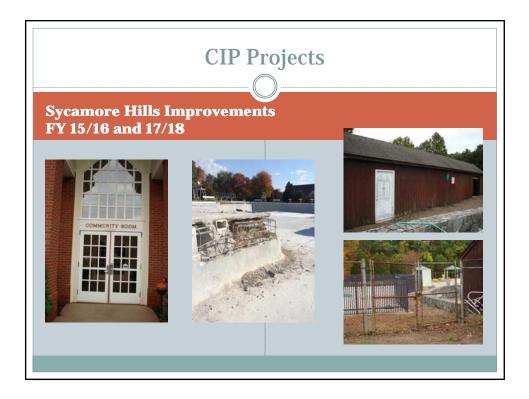






Public Works		our i ru	11			
	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	τοτ
Highway Division	\$520,000	\$0	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$0	\$940,00
Buildings & Grounds Division	\$170,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$170,00
Public Work Administration	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,00
Engineering	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,00
Pavement Management Program	\$1,527,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$7,127,00
Sidewalk Improvement Plan	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$100,0
Facility Improvements	\$335,000	\$80,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$445,00
TOTAL	\$2,727,000	\$1,505,000	\$1,665,000	\$1,635,000	\$1,400,000	\$8,932,0





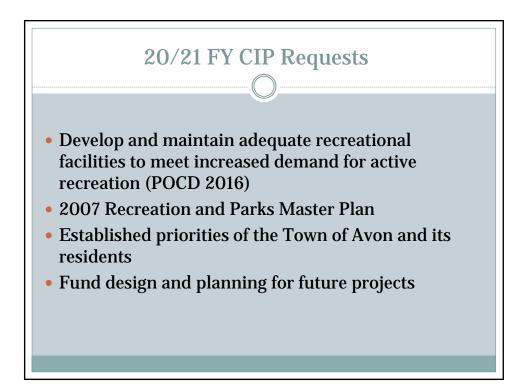














This request would fund replacing the rest of the fencing where it is needed approximately 4,710 linear feet.

\$95,000



Farmington Valley Trail Fence Replacement



