

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2020**

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, Speich, Polhamus, and Weber. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Girl Scout Troop #66496, along with Chairperson Maguire.

III. PUBLIC HEARING: None

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: January 25, 2020 Special Meeting
February 6, 2020
February 8, 2020 Budget Work Session
February 20, 2020 Special Meeting

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the January 25, 2020 Special Meeting as drafted.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Weber, Polhamus, and Bernetich voted in favor.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 6, 2020 Meeting as drafted.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Weber, Polhamus, and Bernetich voted in favor.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 8, 2020 Budget Work Session as drafted.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Weber, Speich, Bernetich, and Polhamus voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Polhamus, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the February 20, 2020 Special Meeting as drafted.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Polhamus, Bernetich, and Weber voted in favor.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council move item 19/20-42 2020 Girl Scout Week Proclamation up before Communication from Audience.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Speich, Polhamus, Bernetich, and Weber voted in favor.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Susan Rietano-Davey, 11 Edwards Road, ACORN President, reported that their Lights On Avon fundraising campaign began on July 15, 2019 with a town wide postcard; fundraising goal is \$400,000; to date, \$142,000 has been raised, including \$104,000 from small family donations and \$33,000 from organizations; in addition, \$68,000 was gifted from the Town for the stanchions and \$30,000 from the Board of Education. She noted that the general timeframe for giving to a fundraiser is twelve months. They are seeking grants, will conduct neighbor to neighbor reach, contact alumni through a digital platform, and businesses. She asked Council to consider making their own personal donations. She noted that every ACORN Board member has made a significant personal donation. She asked what happens with the remaining funds, approximately \$529,000, from the AHS Synthetic Track and Turf Field Project. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded that there is approximately \$500,000 left but the Town has not gone to the market yet to bond the project which will also include legal fees. Ms. Rietano-Davey noted that if there is money left over she would hope that it would into the field and not another Town budget line item. She noted that their goal is to have the lights up by fall 2020. She reported that they will provide monthly updates to the Council. Mr. Bernetich requested sending questions to the Town Manager's Office ahead of a Council meeting so answers are available at that meeting.

Ben Colman, 37 Tamara Circle, ACORN Vice-President, referred to minutes from a Recreation and Parks Committee meeting in November 2019 where Ruth Checko stated that there was a balance of \$281,000 in Fund #09 Recreation Activities. Mr. Colman inquired about the use for those funds and if it can be used towards the lights for the turf field. He noted, for historic purposes, that the Town Manager recommended to Mark Zacchio that \$20,000 from that fund was directed to a prior ACORN project (Avon Middle School tennis courts) so there is precedent. Mr. Bernetich recommended an auto-dialer fundraising effort to Town residents.

Jim Stapleton, 45 Zachary Drive, ACORN Treasurer, commented that regarding grants, they are consistently using \$400,000 as their target project cost and any grant money approved would need to be given directly to the vendor; we owe it to our donors to make sure we know how we dispersed the funds.

Michelle Hards, 84 Northgate, inquired about any feedback being received from outside the Avon school community regarding the new track and fields. Chairperson Maguire responded that overall people are very happy with it. Mr. Polhamus noted that other communities see it too; West Hartford is talking about adding more turf fields.

Susan Rietano-Davey commented that there are only three out of nine ACORN Board members who have school aged kids that will use the track/fields. She noted that all operating expenses have been paid out of the Board members' pockets in addition to personal donations made.

Joe Pavano, 440 Deercliff Road, commented that ACORN is a great group to work with, we want this to work, and appreciate the Town Council's support.

Council appreciates ACORN's time and efforts with the fundraising campaign and thank you.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Speich reported that he participated in Read Across America twice at Pine Grove School; the launch area at Old Farms Bridge is coming along; he attended a PTO meeting on Tuesday and the Board of Education presented their FY 21 budget which indicated a 4.76% increase. In response to a question from Mr. Speich, the Town Manager responded that the Plan of Conservation and Development was last updated in 2016 and is reviewed/updated every ten years.

Mr. Polhamus reported that the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee has \$150,000 to spend, some of that for information kiosks and maybe we would like to recommend one at the launch area along the Farmington River. In response to a question from Mr. Polhamus, the Town Manager responded that the State will install a storyboard related to the Paleo Indian archeological site. Mr. Polhamus noted that the Committee is also looking to clean up around the Fisher Meadows trail. He added that Bike Walk Avon CT is holding a trail clean-up event at Sperry Park on April 18th.

Chairperson Maguire attended the Paleo Indian Presentation; it was amazing; she thanked Terri Wilson for emceeing and her enthusiasm with the event; Tina Panik was also a tremendous help. She noted that a presentation on the archeological digs of the Farmington Valley will be held at the Library on March 10th at 6:30 p.m. She noted that the Avon Historical Society is holding a fundraiser, Tablesapes, on March 20th and 21st at the North House. She added that she attended the Bike Walk Avon CT kickoff meeting; two items being focused on is the rail fencing and bollard maintenance, as well as general usage; next meeting dates are March 24th and April 28th. She also participated in Read Across America twice this week; it was fabulous.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

18/19-65 Fall Food Truck Carnival and Festival

Chairperson Maguire commented that last year's festival was a great community event. There was discussion regarding the potential for another Fall Food Truck Carnival and Festival in September 2020. Several suggestions were made including foregoing the event, alternating years, holding it during special anniversary years, changing its format, including not-for-profits and organizations, or creating a community building event at the new Avon Village Center. Mr. Weber noted that this is an event that we have enjoyed, brings the community together, and it is hard to put a price on that. Council concurred to add \$40,000 to the Town's proposed operating budget for FY21 for some type of Town community event(s), noting it could be a potential cut down the road during the budget process. It was noted that last year's vendor needs to be notified soon if we're going to do something this fall. Council will further discuss this item at their next meeting.

19/20-15 FY 20/21 Budget Development

Council discussed the FY 20/21 budget as recommended by the Town Manager. Council asked the Town Manager to remove the Avon Middle School Paver Replacement Project from the proposed capital budget and re-allocate those funds to the Rescue 8 Replacement (AVFD Apparatus) for a total of \$205,000 in that line item. The Town Manager noted that a working group will also be formed to review and discuss facility needs with the Avon Volunteer Fire Department.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council recommends the FY 20/21 Proposed Budget of \$99,855,760 to the Board of Finance as follows:

REVENUES

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Property Tax & Assessments | \$ 88,099,188 |
| Intergovernmental | 3,495,991 |
| Licenses, Fees & Permits | 1,021,580 |
| Charges for Current Services | 6,353,573 |
| Other Local Revenues | 575,776 |
| Other Financing Sources (Uses) | <u>309,652</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 99,855,760 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Town Operating Budget | \$ 27,168,521 |
| School Operating Budget | 63,319,612 |
| Sewer Operating Budget | 2,837,922 |
| Capital & Debt Service Budgets: | |
| Debt Service | 2,959,750 |
| Capital Budget (CNREF, Facilities & Equipment) | 3,569,955 |
| <i>Subtotal: Capital & Debt Service</i> | <u>6,529,705</u> |
| TOTAL | \$ 99,855,760 |

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Weber, Speich, and Polhamus voted in favor.

19/20-36 Appointment: Planning & Zoning Commission-Alternate (R – 12/31/2021)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Raz Alexe as an alternate member to the Planning & Zoning Commission to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Polhamus, Speich, and Weber voted in favor.

19/20-37 Appointment: Building Code Board of Appeals (U – 12/31/2023)

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Mr. Polhamus, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 19/20-37 Appointment: Building Code Board of Appeals (U – 12/31/2023) to the April 2, 2020 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, Speich, and Bernetich voted in favor.

19/20-38 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2021)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Elizabeth Abshire to the Youth Services Advisory Board to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Polhamus, Speich, and Weber voted in favor.

19/20-40 Appointment: Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (R – 12/31/2021)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Ken Savino to the Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2021. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Polhamus, Speich, and Weber voted in favor.

19/20-41 Appointment: Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee (R – 12/31/2021)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 19/20-41 Appointment: Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Committee (R – 12/31/2021) to the April 2, 2020 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, Speich, and Bernetich voted in favor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

19/20-42 2020 Girl Scout Week Proclamation

Chairperson Maguire welcomed girl scouts from Girl Scout Troop #66496 present to receive the proclamation. She read the following proclamation.

Girl Scout Day Proclamation

A Proclamation on the Importance of the All-Girl Space Offered by Girl Scouts
WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 108th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, the largest and most successful leadership program for girls in the world; and
WHEREAS, Girl Scouts unleashes the G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)TM in every girl, preparing her for a lifetime of leadership; and
WHEREAS, Girl Scouts combines time-tested, research-backed methods with exciting, modern programming that speaks to today's girls and is designed to cater to the strengths of girls' leadership development; and
WHEREAS, Girl Scouts offers girls 21st century programming in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); the outdoors; entrepreneurship; and beyond, helping girls develop invaluable life skills and take the lead early and often; and
WHEREAS, as the world's premier leadership development organization for girls, Girl Scouts welcomes girls of all backgrounds and interests who want to develop the courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place; and
WHEREAS, research shows that girls learn best in an all-girl, girl-led environment in which their specific needs are addressed and met; and
WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, calls on Girl Scouts in grades 9 to 12 to take on projects that have a measurable and sustainable impact on a community by first assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and
WHEREAS, with more than 100 years of experience, Girl Scouts brings a wealth of knowledge to programs that deliver girls cornerstone experiences with benefits that last a lifetime; and
WHEREAS, today, more than 50 million women are Girl Scout alums, and 2.6 million girls and adults are current 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 Scout Movement and Girl

Scouts of Connecticut for providing girls with a safe, inclusive, all-girl space where they can hone their skills and develop leadership abilities, and I declare March 12, 2020 to be “Girl Scout Day.”

19/20-43 Appropriation from Police Special Services Fund (Fund 7): Police Vehicle, \$59,000

On a motion made by Mr. Polhamus, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation not to exceed \$59,000 from Police Special Services Fund, Other Financing Sources, Unassigned Fund Balance, Account #07-0390-43913, to Police Special Services Fund, Special Services, Vehicles, Account #07-2109-53311, for the purpose of purchasing a new police vehicle and the in-vehicle set-up.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Polhamus, Speich, Bernetich, and Weber voted in favor.

19/20-44 Approval of Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds, \$4,960.01

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve motor vehicle tax refunds to Ashok Kumar Patel in the amount of \$3,281.78 and Anik Patel & Ashok Kumar Patel in the amount of \$1,678.23.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Polhamus, Speich, and Weber voted in favor.

IX. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager provided a brief update. He noted that the conversion to Webster Bank will begin very soon.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager provided a brief update. He noted that with the Public Safety Communications Project, we may need a referendum for the spot change for the tower because the scope would be changing, not the dollar amount initially approved.

Misc. C: Fisher Farm Leases: The Town Manager reported that both leases expired with Logue Farm (east side) and Sub Edge Farm (west side); 2020 will be a transition year; Logue continues for 2020 and effective January 1, 2021, Sub Edge Farm will lease the entire property; a public hearing will be required.

Misc. D: Coronavirus-COVID 19: The Town Manager reported that the Farmington Valley Health District is very engaged in this; he is comfortable with where things are and steps put into place should we start seeing cases in Connecticut.

Misc. E: Materials Innovation & Recycling Authority (MIRA): The Town Manager noted that an action item will be added to Council’s April meeting agenda.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Council did not go into Executive Session.

XI. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Bernetich, Speich, Polhamus, and Weber voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk