

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2018**

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: Stokesbury, Pena, and Speich. Mr. Bernetich 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: None

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Chief Mark Rinaldo commented that we had the Firemen's Carnival/Parade last weekend and wanted to give credit to Lt. Kelly Walsh for all of the work she has done; we worked on this for a whole year; he saw an amazing organization in the way Lt. Walsh ran her unified command; we have recommended her for the Police Merit Award, the officers will vote on it in March. He added that he also recommended Captain David Theriault with the Avon Volunteer Fire Department who did an excellent job; the two worked together so well; the event was so successful because of the entire team but he is grateful that we had Lt. Walsh and Captain Theriault. Chairperson Maguire commented that the work that Kelly, David, and your team have done was unbelievable; it was flawless; she is hearing it from everywhere and people posting it on Facebook; the enthusiasm, people were just blown away by this and clearly the amount of work, the roads that were closed, the buses, the timing of everything went off without a hitch; it was really an incredible feat that you folks took on, you did an amazing job, and did us all proud, congratulations! Chief Rinaldo commented on the good work with Fire Department, they were outstanding. The Town Manager asked Chief Rinaldo to speak about the regional planning as well. Lt. Walsh responded that when we first started meeting about the carnival, she met with Captain Theriault and we started getting a small group together and then they recommended having the incident management team, Region 3, come in and help us with logistics and how to plan everything; things that they usually do are the Manchester Road Race, Hartford Marathon, or any type of disaster; they saw this as a multi-part moving event with the convention, firework, parade, and carnival; they were fantastic and facilitated everything, the equipment they brought, and she learned so much from the whole process and we have to take some of the incident classes for their certification, especially supervisors with higher level ones, but now she knows what all of that means; they were able to pull in resources from all over; we had Jay McCaffrey for the radio truck, Mike Boucher from Farmington on the Communications Team and able to do multi-frequencies so we were able to have a medical channel which they use CMED to do that as well, we have people come with gators so we could transport around, the Fire Department, Fire Police, Hartford Police came with twenty explorers for us, Sgt. Kory Vincent with Farmington

Police Department who ran traffic posts, parking lots and talked one on one with communications for the bus company who was in our command post so people weren't waiting more than ten minutes; she can't say enough about our people, all of the officers worked the whole weekend, she probably laughed the most with all of them because they embraced it of a good event, everybody took safety, we have an after action on Monday and suggestions/comments have already been shared; Officers Vess and Lundell were on the committee with them too and were doing the physical security assessments and recommended shutting down Thompson Road to make it safer and not have to worry about pedestrian traffic and also if there were any threats and facilitated how the flow was going to go through the carnival; she couldn't say enough about everybody's effort, it went very well; there were tiny glitches that were fixed and we kept going. Chief Rinaldo noted that by the end of the weekend everybody was tired but were really putting forward their best efforts; all of our personnel did an excellent job; it was a good exercise, nothing happened which was good, but if something does happen we were very confident that they couldn't come in and do anything; we had Officer Vess and three SWAT officers walking around. Chairperson Maguire noted that now that you have this perfected, that was one of the biggest things she has heard, we have to do it again, maybe next year. She added that you had three days of activities with 30,000 people attending the carnival throughout the weekend that is huge not to have any incidents. Lt. Walsh commented that they had some heat medicals on Sunday with the parade; AMR brought in an extra crew, an extra medic, and a golf cart planning for the heat conditions; we focused on the med channel so we could make sure that all medicals were handled. Chief Rinaldo noted that we also worked with the State on any terrorist threats. Lt. Walsh added that incident management with someone on scene communicating with Officers Vess and Lundell giving any updates from threats over social media. Chief Rinaldo responded that he is proud because we were ready and they really put together a good program. Lt. Walsh commented that they even contacted the National Weather Channel in case a thunderstorm came through and getting everybody off the field; the plan would have been to go into Thompson Brook School and overflow on the buses. Chairperson Maguire commented that all of your detail, you really thought of everything. Chief Rinaldo commented that we had dead spots with the radios but Jay McCaffrey brought in boosters; we could not use the State channel because of the Big E. Chairperson Maguire commented that it takes a village; it was a fabulous event so thank you.

Mr. Stokesbury commented that since we have on the agenda the radio communication system he wanted to talk about a few statements on the record. He questioned if the regular Town system was used during the event or did you switch over to the alternative hardware/system. Chief Rinaldo responded that we used our radio frequency and we had a frequency just for the command post and the parade. Lt. Walsh added that we operated for police off of our regular radios but for anything on the ground, medical, fire police, traffic, transportation, that was just for the ground so if you went too far you were not able to communicate. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if that was a different handset. Lt. Walsh responded yes, she had multiple radios on her. Mr. Stokesbury commented that if we go forward with a P25 based system, would that system be better to allow you to integrate them into the one handset. Chief Rinaldo responded yes, we would be able to take those extra channels and put them on the P25 and have one dispatch center and the groups could talk to each other in the event there was a disaster. Lt. Walsh commented that on Sunday she had to have their police radio in case one of the assigned officers came across a medical and then they would tell the dispatcher assigned to the event with us that the medical had happened and needed to make sure that was relayed on the other radio for

the CMED and vice versa if something came in she needed to make sure that the officers heard it too. Mr. Stokesbury pointed out that you covered it all but it was a multi-step process and with new state of the art digital equipment it would have been more seamless and perhaps more effective if you needed it.

Chairperson Maguire extended thanks and congratulations and we greatly appreciate everything you have done. Mr. Stokesbury extended congratulations, hopefully in March.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Pena commented that the Firemen's event was very good; he heard nothing but positives from people that attended as well as he was walking around the various roads; the parking was excellent, very easy to get in and out, it was directed by many people and they appreciated it. He noted that one thing he heard the most, after walking the area near Avon Healthcare, that the parade was unbelievable; they enjoyed watching the equipment, different colors and sizes, they wanted to watch more; it was nice to have all of the fire apparatus from different towns; the Police Department handled it so well; overall he commends everybody regarding the event. He also commented on the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony; he thinks it is a great event to hold every year and hopes we continue with it. He commented that we talked about it being the 17th year following the event and many of the kids born today didn't know anything about it, in high school you learn about the history; he suggested that maybe it should be considered that we have it in the Avon High School auditorium so the students will know what we are talking about with the event; in the past and even this one this year, the guest speaker spoke about a situation that we did not know anything about and the year before that too; having those speakers is great to have because they bring something different that we learn from the past and to let our students know how important an event it was; it is more than just the Fire Department, it affects all of us. Chairperson Maguire commented that is a good idea.

Mr. Stokesbury commented that he had some mobility issues last week and unable to attend most of the events which he regrets but he did see the parade and was quite interesting seeing the hardware from fifty towns; it reminds us how many people volunteer to serve their communities and it is important. He asked the Town Manager what are the advocacy limitations on us going forward assuming we send this to referendum for individual members of the Council and perhaps other Boards either advocating for or against the referendum items. He also has comments on the brochure and not sure when we will address that during the agenda items.

Mr. Speich commented on the correspondence sent by the Town Manager regarding Moody's outlook on Avon and it was encouraging to read what they think about us and thought it was great with all the comments they had on well we are doing so thank you for all of the hard work. The Town Manager responded that it is a team effort. Mr. Speich commented on the Firemen's Carnival and that in the past the Fire Department and Police Department didn't work that well together and this is really the first time that he has seen both organizations work well together and just from what he had seen, heard, and listened to and that is really fantastic; he also liked the help from the other towns and the fact that you learned from the incident that is not an emergency to be able to learn and see all of the communications and see how it works, iron out the bugs before you get to something that, you are right on top of it or in it and don't learn from it because you are doing it, so that was fantastic for everybody to learn. He mentioned Steve

McMahon who worked alongside with Captain Theriault who also did a great job; grew up in Farmington, his mother lives across from Company #4; he did a whole lot of work and gave him a shout out. He noted that if you thought this parade was long, it was not; he has been at these conventions that go on for four hours; there is less participation like everything else in the volunteer service, you have “x” amount of time, but it used to be four hours; some of these towns (Old Saybrook, Lisbon, White Hills) come in two or three hours early to get the trucks ready. He shared a thought regarding Celebrate Avon, this could be a good combo; the fact that the Town worked hard to make MH Rhodes property a nice place now, that is a great site for a festival or carnival; you guys shook out the bugs to it so maybe we should consider that; he does not run Celebrate Avon but thought it would be worth a thought in the future maybe to have a carnival that time of year, all of the time.

Chairperson Maguire agreed; Celebrate Avon is so great but maybe it could be part of something bigger; did a carnival, have a weekend long thing, food trucks come in and maybe Saturday afternoon do Celebrate Avon or something like that; it is great for local businesses and non-profits but right now she has been talking to Nancy Anstey, Chair of Celebrate Avon and we are really looking to get volunteers and it is really hard to get the help they need to man inflatables, reaching out the PTO to do cotton candy and popcorn, it is truly pulling teeth to get people to go; you run into that with the carnival but you bring in people that are working those booths. Mr. Speich commented that it used to be that the Fire Department ran everything; they had to be in the booths, setup their own games, but these people came in, they setup and did it all, they paid for their spots so you don’t have to do the actual carnival itself; it has evolved into something that makes a lot more sense and a little less manpower intensive for running the carnival. Chairperson Maguire noted that is something to be discussed down the road but she thinks would be a great idea; the use of the MH Rhodes property, we are so lucky to have that. She noted that the Carnival was such a fun night because parents could go on Saturday night, they’re at the beer truck and their kids are playing and it was a safe environment, they check in for money, it was an old time, feel good family event; if we can bring something like that around, she would love it every year, if it is every other year it would still be really special for the community because the feedback has been so great; wonderful job; everybody go to Celebrate Avon; if you have anybody that would like to volunteer, come see me.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

13/14-48 Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field and Track Improvement Project: Approve Referendum Mailer and Consider and Act on a Resolution Recommending an Appropriation and Borrowing Authorization for Various Improvements to Athletic Facilities Located at Avon High School to the Board of Finance for Consideration and Action

Chairperson Maguire noted that we have a lot of little things that we have to take care before we actually get to referendum and one of the big things is really communicating this information to the taxpayers and making them aware of what is going on. She referred to the draft mailer that is expected to go out; it does a great job of highlighting what is going on; it breaks down the tax impact, the scope of the project; it is a great document. She attended the Board of Finance meeting the other night and they had a few comments about it and this is the updated mailer. She asked Council members for opinions and proposed changes with the mailer.

The Town Manager noted one change - the original text included in your packets on the page about the field project and the scope of the project, the new text is less definitive about that because the choice of the infill material would be considered one of the particular project, it is not a key part of the scope so it would be appropriate for that decision to be made by the public building committee, however it does not have to be and recognizing that Council may at a future date want to reserve that decision for yourself based on a recommendation from the public building committee thought it would be wise to be a little less definitive about that in the language; most of the other modifications came from the discussion with the Board of Finance on Monday; there were a couple of recommendations made that he did not include, for instance, one member suggested we take the first page of the flyer, because nobody will read all of this, and do it in bullets and have the text as an appendix but with only a couple of days to finalize that we did not pursue that plus he thinks the text is important because it does tell a story that he can't summarize in bullets and we would present the bullets at the Public Information Meeting and the Town Meeting prior to referendum.

Mr. Stokesbury noted that many of his comments were covered but he takes issue with the first sentence and is concerned that it sounds like a single vote and he propose language along this line, "This brochure provides information on two separate projects that are proposed for consideration at an upcoming referendum." or something that tells people at the start and maybe at the end that they are separate votes. Chairperson Maguire responded that is a good point as she has had many people asking if they are two separate questions and for some reason there is a lot of confusion about that. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if you could take his first sentence and create another short introductory paragraph that says a voter can vote for either, neither or both. Mr. Speich commented that we should talk about the voting process because it is not clear. Chairperson Maguire commented that when she talked to the Town Manager earlier about the bullets, it is a lot to read but the information is so important so that if you have a question it gives you a great overview and being able to look at the tax impact, this could end up being cost neutral, this is what it would cost but if you adjust your capital and all it may not even be this big of an impact; it gives the taxpayer a good understanding of what is ahead and what is on the line. She added that as we jump back to the turf field and the synthetic infill material she knows there are people that want an answer before December 12th and this could potentially be an issue but as mentioned at the meeting last week it is evolving, there are studies that are coming out hopefully in the fall of 2018 and we need time for more due diligence but we have at least budgeted the \$330,000 to give us that option if we need to go with a different infill but she knows there is going to be concern and also there is concern about the building committee and she knows that it has been awhile since we have done one, with each the Library Project and Avon High School Project we had one.

Chairperson Maguire asked the Town Manager if he has any criterion and recommendations and get us started on the path for putting together a building committee. The Town Manager responded that some of the bonding language explains what the role of the building committee is; the Council has a significant amount of discretion in the composition of the committee, you don't even have to appoint a committee technically because it is not a public building, it is not a school construction project under the terms of the statute, however he would recommend that you appoint one because he does not think that you want to be serving as the public building committee for this; we would go back and probably look at the resolution creating the Library Building Committee is a good example, between five and seven members of varying

backgrounds, we can talk about what the intake process is if you want to have some kind of vetting process, they are all subject to the Conflict of Interest Policy and would have to sign off on a disclosure, and the Council can be as broad or as specific as you like with respect to crafting the resolution; technically the choice on the infill material really is considered a particular of the project, it is not the field, not the track, it is a detail, so under the bond resolution it would fall within the building committee's jurisdiction to decide what it is going to be within the appropriation; if the Council wanted to include language in the resolution creating the building committee directing them to do certain things to bring the project through to completion but before making the decision on the infill material you want them to make a recommendation back to the Council for final approval. He noted that major multi-agency study from the EPA is supposed to be released in November; this is about the fifth time it has been delayed and as Ms. Lemay said at the meeting last week they are not expecting to see anything that would change the game. He added that assuming the project is approved and the committee is appointed, in that order, but the building committee would have to be appointed very soon after the project is approved like maybe another special meeting the next night because if indeed you want that decision to come back to you on the infill material we are going to need a final decision by the middle to end of January to get the bid documents done to get it on the street to get it in the queue for spring construction.

Chairperson Maguire commented that it is important that the choice of the infill comes back to the Council; she does not want to put that on a building committee; she would like them to do a lot of the vetting; we all need to do some due diligence into this; the people that attended the other night are very passionate about the infill and we need to explore and talk and learn and make sure that we are making the right choice; at the end of the day the Council needs to make that decision as to the infill depending on what the recommendation is. Mr. Speich commented that for our own edification with the project timeline, does it matter what kind of infill you have as to how you build the field around it, the base and all of that. The Town Manager responded that depending on the infill we may or may not need the pad but beyond that it is pretty straightforward. Mr. Speich commented that if someone could give us an approximate date, if the referendum passes, to select the infill. The Town Manager responded that you would bake that date into the charge. He cautioned that the Board of Education, at the end of the day, it is not their property, it is Town property, but keeping in mind care custody and control primarily they are going to be maintaining it; going with one of these, and he knows people are well intentioned and there are a bunch of people in the community that are making calls to all kinds of vendors representing the Town of Avon, most of those materials have virtually no track record, not unlike our geo-thermal system, so if we have some catastrophic issue you can guarantee it is coming back to us, they are not going to deal with it. Mr. Stokesbury commented that his concern is that we are being asked to consider infill materials that have not gone through the rigorous review process, scientific review based studies that the crumb rubber has and the lack of that information is critical in the process and not sure how we are going to eliminate choices. Mr. Speich commented that will be part of the decision making and will be one of their checks that it is good or bad or not enough information to make a decision. Chairperson Maguire responded it is a hard choice. Mr. Speich commented that we don't want to discourage people from being on the building committee because of the infill. Chairperson Maguire commented that it is really important that the Council is going to ultimately take responsibility for this. Mr. Pena agreed. Chairperson Maguire commented that we will learn a lot over these next couple of months. Mr. Speich suggested that the mailer have a table that will tell you what your total tax

will be if both projects are approved. Chairperson Maguire responded that then that number is out there but we could end up adjusting our capital. The Town Clerk commented that the Town Meeting should have information on that. Mr. Stokesbury suggested showing this at the Public Information Meetings. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded that it is not normally put in the mailer; the Director of Finance was working on a combined impact statement and would probably something we could share in a power point presentation. The Town Manager responded that we could work on some kind of consolidated graph and add it to the mailer. Mr. Stokesbury commented that it is better to get that information out once people get the mailer and add information as we build to the referendum, clarifying, and explaining. Mr. Speich responded that then it becomes more important, the first changes in here about voting so people understand that they have to add these items together. The Town Manager noted that we can break it out at the Public Information Meeting.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the Referendum Mailer as presented to us, subject to final consideration by the Town Manager taken into account comments made tonight by Council members.

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

The Assistant to the Town Manager noted that the mailer will go to the printer on Monday, it will go to households between October 17th and 19th, after the Planning and Zoning Commission takes their action, but before Board of Finance takes theirs. Mr. Speich questioned if the mailer will be online. The Assistant to the Town Manager responded yes. Chairperson Maguire commented that we have a Public Information Meeting on October 4th and asked if this will be power pointed. The Town Manager responded that we will have power points for both projects and we might even include copies of the mailer as a handout.

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommends to the Board of Finance that the Town of Avon: (a) appropriate \$2,995,000 for costs related to the various improvements to athletic facilities located at Avon High School, contemplated to include installation of a synthetic turf multi-purpose athletic field, an eight-lane track, and associated site improvements; and (b) issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,995,000 to finance the appropriation. The Town anticipates applying not in excess of \$50,000 of the appropriation to reimburse the Turf Field Project capital projects account for preliminary expenditures on the project.

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

16/17-51 Town and Public Safety Communications System Replacement Project:
Approve Referendum Mailer and Consider and Act on a Resolution
Recommending an Appropriation and Borrowing Authorization for the
Replacement of the Communication System Serving the Town's Police
Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Management
Operations, Department of Public Works and Board of Education to the
Board of Finance for Consideration and Action

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommends to the Board of Finance that the Town of Avon: (a) appropriate \$3,890,000 for costs related to the replacement of the communication system serving the Town's Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Management operations, Department of Public Works and Board of Education, contemplated to include replacement of the Town's existing conventional analog public safety radio system with a 700 MHz radio system meeting the Project 25 (P25) standard including the acquisition and installation of dispatch consoles and user devices, the installation of a new radio tower and related improvements to the existing Huckleberry Hill tower location on Kingswood Drive, site improvements to the existing tower sites on Deercliff Road and Ridgewood Road, and related work and improvements; and (b) issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$3,890,000 to finance the appropriation.

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

The Town Manager commented that there was a question about advocacy limitations; it is complicated but basically up until October 23rd there are no limitations; once the Council submits the bond authorizations to the Town Meeting that is when the "code of silence" drops and it is just name, rank, and serial number regarding the project, very bland; any communications that the Town sends out about the project has to be reviewed by the Town Attorney; anything we have posted on the Town web site would most likely have to come down and be very careful; up until that point you can feel free to advocate and say whatever you like about it. He is going to check with Bond Counsel about after October 23rd when Council has taken their action and you run into someone in the grocery store and they ask what do you think about this project; he thinks that as an individual member of the Council, not acting as the Council as a whole, he does think there are restrictions on that but he will double check. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if any of those restrictions apply to the other boards or just us. The Town Manager responded that he thinks it applies to the Town boards in general. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we may need to emphasize that. Mr. Speich questioned the implication. Mr. Stokesbury responded electioneering; influencing the vote; someone could challenge the referendum if there was an obvious tampering somehow. The Town Manager commented that there have been issues where competing information has been distributed, incorrect information has been distributed. Mr. Stokesbury added that innocently maybe the EPA study comes out in that period, what do we do? The Town Manager will find out and circle back with Council.

18/19-16 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (U – 12/31/2021)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda items 18/19-16 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (U – 12/31/2021) to the October 23, 2018 meeting.

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

18/19-17 Appointment: Board of Assessment Appeals (R – 12/31/2021)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 18/19-17 Appointment: Board of Assessment Appeals (R – 12/31/2021) to the October 23, 2018 meeting.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**18/19-18 FY 19/20 Budget: Approve Capital Budget Review Schedule**

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the following FY 19/20 Capital Improvement Program Budget Review Schedule as provided:

Wednesday, November 14th	Special Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
	7:00 p.m. Board of Education
	7:30 p.m. General Government
	8:00 p.m. Police Department
	8:30 p.m. Fire Department
Thursday, December 6th	Regular Town Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
	7:00 p.m. Engineering
	7:30 p.m. Secret Lake Association
	8:00 p.m. Public Works
	8:30 p.m. Recreation and Parks

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

18/19-19 Approve 2019 Meeting Schedule

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Speich, 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 2019 and January 2020:

Thursday, January 3, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, February 7, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, March 7, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, April 4, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, May 2, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, June 6, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, July 25, 2019*	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, September 5, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, October 3, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, November 7, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, December 5, 2019	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, January 9, 2020	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall

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

18/19-20 Placement of Political Signs at Polling Locations

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 18/19-20 Placement of Political Signs at Polling Locations to the October 23, 2018 meeting.

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

The Town Manager reported that the Registrars of Voters requested a meeting with him requesting clarifications and some kind of Town Council Policy because they were running into issues with signage. He noted that signage is an extraordinarily complicated item. He added that the Registrars wanted to get some direction sooner rather than later. He went ahead and put the item on the agenda knowing the Town Attorney may identify some issues with this and he did; his opinion has been received and we can't do what they are asking us to do because you get into first amendment issues and the way you treat signs in one instance you have to treat signs in every instance. Mr. Stokesbury questioned their exact concern or time period that they are concerned. The Town Manager responded that at the High School and Company #1 the concern is that they (both parties) had a ton of political signs being placed along these properties and proliferated, the signs would show up and not go away after the election; collectively the Registrars came to him and asked for help/direction and we want to try to get something into place so the signs have to be supervised, so someone standing with the sign so when the person leaves, the sign leaves. The Town Clerk commented that the schools allow the signs, but the Fire Department doesn't allow the signs to be left in the ground; now you have to make them all consistent at all polling locations. The Town Manager added that we looked back at Council minutes and at one point there was a Council Policy they discussed about advocacy signs and then questions came up that if we don't allow political signage on Town property then why is it at Company #1 and Avon High School; we don't have anything definitive that says political signs aren't allow on Town property, all he has in writing is an e-mail from the former Town Manager in 2006 that says that is the long standing Town practice; it appears that Dr. Kisiel had approved political signs on school property which now is just the High School. The Town Clerk commented that Roaring Brook School doesn't really have much of a problem unlike the High School because it is on a main road and good way for people to see all of the signs; it is the High School, they were trying to cut it from the median and bring them closer to the building where the tents are. The Town Manager commented that is what the Registrars were looking for assistance with; seeing that it is Town property if it is some kind of Council directive it could not be ordinance we would not have time to get that in place prior to the elections. He thinks this is a good opportunity to look at this issue and he asked the Director of Planning and Community Development/Zoning Enforcement Officer to go over the sign regulations and see if there is anything there that needs cleaning up and a way to deal with more holistically.

He noted that based on the Town Attorney's opinion we cannot do what they are asking to do. Mr. Stokesbury commented that a cousin to this problem is the placement of banners on the High School chain link along West Avon Road, particularly along the Hollister Drive intersection; sometimes they are for arguably school-based functions, sometimes they are for private, for profit camps and there is no uniform enforcement on that; maybe that can be addressed at the same time; a solution may be to ask each of the primary parties to appoint a sign czar for election day with the request that all political signs associated with said be removed within twelve hours following the closing of the polls; a more severe and perhaps a problem for our Council would be to create a very short period of time prohibiting all signage on Town or school property and that would be an hour after the poll closed for twenty-four hours to force them to get cleaned out and to give authority to Town employees to remove them because that is always a problem. The Town Clerk noted that a concern the Registrars had is that some of these signs are not necessarily put up by the Avon Democratic or Republican party, it may be a candidate's campaign person that is going from town to town and laying out this stuff and don't come back to pick them up. Mr. Pena commented that in the past the Chair of the respective Town party is

the one that polices it; it knows he did and others did too. He added that regarding Planning and Zoning they did have two different policies, one for business and one for non-profits but he thought that was eliminated. The Town Manager commented that the only thing we could find about political signage was a very long e-mail trail with Steve Kushner and the former Town Manager and Mr. Kushner just said we don't touch political signs; the former Town Manager's response was that if they are on Town property then Public Works takes them away. Chairperson Maguire asked if the Town Manager could look into doing an electronic type of sign in front of Avon High School, something that the Booster Club was trying to do last year, Farmington High School has one and Canton is looking into electronic signs now; it might be time to think about that. The Town Manager commented that it would likely require a special permit. Mr. Pena noted that Planning and Zoning back in 2000 also looked at the issue regarding sign approval and not being able to address the content, first amendment right.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Stokesbury commented that at the intersection of Huckleberry Hill and the Landfill driveway, the stop sign coming out of the Landfill as of last week does not have a painted stop line and because of the geometry of that corner with cars coming north on Huckleberry Hill turning into the Landfill already cut the corner and if we can get that line painted bright white it will help avoid more near accidents.

XI. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

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

Attest:

Ann Dearstyne, Town Clerk