

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 25, 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, and Pena. Mr. Speich was absent. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Maguire.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council move item 18/19-79 Sanitary Sewer Easement: 147 Simsbury Road (Public Hearing) to 7:30 p.m., in accordance with the legal notice.

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

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

18/19-79 Sanitary Sewer Easement: 147 Simsbury Road

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Maguire. Chairperson Maguire waived the reading of the following legal notice:

"TOWN OF AVON
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectman's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, Avon, Connecticut for the following purposes:

To accept Sanitary Sewer Easement for 147 Simsbury Road located in the Town of Avon and shown on the map entitled "RESUBDIVISION PLAN Prepared For ONE FORTY-SEVEN ASSOCIATES, LLC 147 SIMSBURY ROAD, AVON, CONNECTICUT prepared by Denno Land Surveying and Consulting, LLC dated September 5, 2018, scale 1"=30' ".

Copy of said map is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and open to the public for inspection during normal business hours.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 7th day of June, 2019.

Brandon L. Robertson
Town Manager"

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, and Stokesbury 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 Sanitary Sewer Easement for 147 Simsbury Road located in the Town of Avon and shown on the map entitled “RESUBDIVISION PLAN Prepared For ONE FORTY-SEVEN ASSOCIATES, LLC 147 SIMSBURY ROAD, AVON, CONNECTICUT prepared by Denno Land Surveying and Consulting, LLC dated September 5, 2018, scale 1”=30’.”

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

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: June 6, 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 June 6, 2019 as submitted.

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

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Jamie DiPace, Town Council Representative for the AVFD, provided the following AVFD updates: all resources did an outstanding job for the recent, serious motor vehicle accident on Waterville Road; AVFD will be making a request to amend the ordinance and increase the tax abatement to \$1,500 and possibly extend to other members – Chairperson Maguire asked the Town Manager to work with Mr. DiPace and Chief Appell on this item; COST met with the group regarding the 2025 Program (fire service volunteerism). Mr. Stokesbury shared that he recently encouraged an Enfield firefighter to reach out to AVFD as they are interested in building a fire training facility.

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Bernetich suggested that when people are here from the community for an agenda item that Council amend the agenda if necessary so they are recognized near the beginning of the meeting. Chairperson Maguire responded that we can handle it on a case by case basis.

Mr. Pena commented on the continuing success with the Farmer’s Market. He inquired about the status regarding bus shelters along Route 44; the Town Manager will report back.

Mr. Stokesbury commented on three Courant articles: road work in Manchester with a paving program within their capital budget and they bond every other year – we should this as a tool as we start next year’s budget; fire suppression chemicals into the Farmington River and similar spills at Oxford Airport – he asked the AVFD to look at what they use and what is in the fire sprinkler systems in Town – Mr. DiPace responded that in general sprinkler systems have water and air with back flow preventers – a fire service sub-group will be looking at the need for containment collections – several types of fires put out in Town can be a hazmat incident; and ransomware attacks – the need to be vigilant and encouraged the Town to trade notes with the Board of Education (BOE). The Town Manager responded that the Library recently had a ransomware attack; the Town and BOE run two different systems; we can schedule IT personnel to come in and discuss under executive session. Ann Clark, Registrar of Voter, shared that their system with the State is being tightened for security reasons.

Chairperson Maguire reported that cooling centers were open this past weekend; high school graduation was held at the Farmington Polo Grounds this year and it went really well; and the turf field project is coming together.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

14/15-20 Old Farms Road and Old Farms Road Bridge and Intersection (State Project #04-116/118): Authorization to enter into Agreement regarding Artifacts

Chairperson Maguire noted that an archeological dig took place in December 2018 and several artifacts were found; several parties are involved. The Town Manager commented that we worked with the Avon Historical Society on this; the site dates back to 10,000 to 12,000 years ago; the bulk of artifacts will be kept at UConn and the Town can pick any artifacts to be on display at the Library or with the Historical Society; the archaeologist has offered to give presentations in Town as requested; CTDOT will install a story board on the site that the Town will maintain into the future; and at least one peer review journal article will be published talking about the importance of the artifacts. Terri Wilson, President, Avon Historical Society, along with Nora Howard, Town Historian, wish to be at the table when decisions are made on how and where the artifacts will be displayed; there is a good story to be told. Mr. Stokesbury commented that the discoveries appear to be random and can the Town encourage further exploration on Town land along the river?

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Highway Administration, the CT State Historic Preservation Office, CT Department of Transportation, and the Town of Avon regarding Replacement of Bridge No. 04470 and Reconstruction of Old Farms Road and Route 10 – Federal Aid Project Number 0010(127) – State Project Number 4-116/118, submitted pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(a).

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

18/19-61 Appointment: Building Code Board of Appeals (R – 12/31/2019)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint James Williams as a regular member to the Building Code Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

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

18/19-65 Approval of Fireworks for Fall Food Truck Festival and Carnival

Chairperson Maguire commented that the fireworks would last approximately 15 minutes at a cost of \$5,000. Grace Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager, provided a brief update on behalf of the Planning Committee; the fireworks vendor also does the Collinsville show and the Newington extravaganza; we will also have the same rides vendor and food truck vendor as last year; marketing material distribution has begun around Town. In response to a question from Mr. Bernetich, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that music will be provided by the same DJ used last year. Mr. Bernetich proposed local high school student bands; the Assistant to

the Town Manager will discuss with the Planning Committee. Chairperson Maguire thanked all involved with this; it is going to be a great weekend.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the request for fireworks for the Fall Food Truck Festival and Carnival on Saturday, September 14th pursuant to Section 36-3 of the Town of Avon Code of Ordinances.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

19/20-01 Proclamation: Garden Club of Avon 75th Anniversary

Chairperson Maguire read the following proclamation. Ann Clark and Ginny Boswell (45-year member) were present to receive this honorable recognition. Mr. Pena noted that we are very thankful for the great job that the Garden Club does. Ms. Clark commended Public Works staff who is always there to help us; we have a great Club membership with forty-five members. Terri Wilson recognized Ginny Boswell and the group that created today's History Room at the Library. Chairperson Maguire commented that this is a wonderful testament to volunteerism.

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

WHEREAS, the Garden Club of Avon was established in August 1944 by Mrs. Maud Gibbons to serve as, "*a civic-minded group which would work for the beautification of the town;*" and to offer a welcome respite to those who remained on the home front as the Second World War continued, and;

WHEREAS, by 1954, the Club had become a fixture of Avon society, and began establishing traditions that are still continued today, such as the first House and Garden Tour held in 1954 to benefit the Alsop Memorial Library Fund; and the first Holiday Greens Workshop, held in 1964 to create holiday wreaths and swags for Town of Avon buildings, and;

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the Club has been a generous donor for dozens of local organizations and charities including the Avon Special Needs Fund, which benefits from the Club's annual non-perishable good collection; Gifts of Love, which receives fresh produce each summer from the raised beds at Sycamore Hills; Apple Rehab, which is gifted with stunning Floral Valentines for its residents to enjoy each February; the Avon Free Public Library, which benefits from floral arrangements assembled by members each and every week of the year; and monetary donations to Avon Dollars for Scholars, the Avon Historical Society, and the Avon Land Trust, among others, and;

WHEREAS, perhaps the Club's most visible contribution to the Avon community is the gazebo featured on the Town Green which was dedicated in October 1994 in honor of the Club's 50th anniversary and today stands as a testament to the Club's steadfast dedication to beautifying the community. The stunning red metal roofed gazebo is the result of three years of dedicated fundraising efforts and generous donations from residents, contractors, and local businesses. The result is a structure that is quintessentially Avon, and;

WHEREAS, the Club has always been a cherished and valued partner to the Town of Avon in its mission to maintain and beautify its properties. In particular, the Club has provided essential leadership on a number of projects for the Town throughout its history, including the landscaping and ongoing maintenance of the Avon High School grounds in the 1960s; the establishment of

beautiful plantings at Countryside Park upon its acquisition by the Town in 1967; the completion of extensive landscaping projects on the grounds of the Avon Town Hall in 1960, 1974 and 2004; and;

WHEREAS, to this day the Club continues to bring color and life to Town Hall each summer with the vibrant window boxes and flowering annuals planted on site. The Town is immensely honored that the complex has been selected as the site of the Club's 75th Anniversary Garden, as it will be a beautiful addition to Town Hall's already beautiful surroundings, and;

WHEREAS, above all, for the last 75 years, the Garden Club of Avon has helped to forge countless friendships and connections between neighbors of all ages and backgrounds, bound by a shared interest in cultivating the earth and a desire to contribute to the Avon community in a highly visible and beautiful manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Avon Town Council, on behalf of the residents of Avon, Connecticut, does hereby proclaim August 24, 2019 as Garden Club of Avon Day in Avon, Connecticut in commemoration of the Club's inaugural meeting on August 24, 1944 and in honor of its 75 years of contributions and service to the Avon community.

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

19/20-02 Proclamation: Avon Congregational Church 200th Anniversary

Mr. Stokesbury read the following proclamation. Chairperson Maguire noted that we appreciate all of the charitable work that you have done. Nora Howard and Reverend Chris Solimene, as well as Ginny Boswell, were present to receive this honorable recognition. An invitation was distributed to their 200th Anniversary Celebration on September 29th.

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

WHEREAS, in 1819, construction of the new meetinghouse of the Avon Congregational Church was completed. Two centuries later, the striking white edifice and prominent steeple still stand in the center of town as a testament to the unparalleled generosity of the Church's founding members and their confidence in the future of their faith and their congregation's presence in Avon and;

WHEREAS, the meetinghouse remains a structure of both historical and architectural significance, as indicated by its place on the Connecticut Register of Historic Places, the National Register of Historic Places, and the storage of the building's architectural plans in the Library of Congress; as well as by the pride that the congregation takes in caring for its meetinghouse, which is exemplified by the careful refurbishment and repainting of the structure that occurred in July 2019, and;

WHEREAS, the meetinghouse's jubilant bell has served as a beacon of hope for the congregation and the Avon community for generations, tolling to mark the joy of weddings and holidays, the sorrow of loss, and the recognition of national and international events, both solemn and glorious, and;

WHEREAS, the Avon Congregational Church never fails to fill its beautiful meetinghouse with a diverse community of faith by joyfully and unconditionally welcoming all people, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, culture, ability, or social or economic status, and by affirming the humanity of all people as unique individuals with special gifts to offer, and;

WHEREAS, in pursuit of the Church's mission "*to enable people to know God's unconditional love and to be a community of faith helping one another to live as Jesus Christ loved and taught,*" members regularly give generously of their time, talents, and treasures in the form of

stewardship through programs facilitated by the Church’s ministries: the Welcoming Ministry, the Nurturing Ministry, the Worship Ministry, the Outreach Ministry and the Support Ministry, and;

WHEREAS, the Church has served as an invaluable partner to the Town of Avon in its mission to provide quality social services to the community through its support of Avon Social Services, Gifts of Love, and the preparation of monthly First Friday Dinners that are open to the entire community, and;

WHEREAS, the Avon Congregational Church has provided sanctuary, kinship, and community to thousands of members for the last two centuries, and has served as a generous, charitable, and irreplaceable member of the Avon community committed to welcoming all with open arms and generous hearts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Avon Town Council, on behalf of the residents of Avon, Connecticut, does hereby proclaim Sunday, September 29, 2019 as Avon Congregational Church Day in Avon, Connecticut to commemorate the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Avon Congregational Church and the Church’s contributions and service to the Avon community.

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

19/20-03 Approve Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Calendar

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Calendar as follows:

TOWN OF AVON FY 2020/2021 BUDGET CALENDAR

ACTIVITY	RECOMMENDED DATE	LATEST DATE PER TOWN CHARTER
Capital Budget Forms Prepared and sent to Departments	August 05, 2019	
Operating Budget Forms Prepared and sent to Departments	September 06, 2019	
Completed Capital Budget Forms returned to Town Manager	October 04, 2019	
(a) CIP Budgets presented at Town Council Meetings by Department Heads	Nov. – Dec. 2019	
Completed Operating Budget Forms returned to Town Manager	November 01, 2019	February 15, 2020
(a) Town Manager meets with Department Heads to review budget submissions.	Nov. – Dec. 2019	
(b) Town Manager makes recommended reductions.	Dec. 2019 – Jan. 2020	
Town Manager’s Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets submitted to Town Council	January 17, 2020	March 01, 2020

Board of Education Budget to Town Council	February 07, 2020	February 15, 2020
(a) Town Council holds Special Budget Workshop.	February 2020	
(b) Further reductions are made by Town Manager's Office if necessary.	February 2020	
Capital Improvement Program Submitted to Planning & Zoning Commission for Sec. 8-24 Review	March 17, 2020	
Budget Work by Town Council completed and Budget submitted to Board of Finance	March 23, 2020	April 01, 2020
Public Hearing on Budget held by Board of Finance not later than three (3) weeks before May 04, 2020 Town Meeting	April 06, 2020	April 13, 2020
(a) Board of Finance holds evening Budget Workshop(s) with Town Council and Board of Education after the Public Hearing.	April 07, 2020	
Board of Finance Completes Work on Budget	April 2020	
Copy of Budget approved by the Board of Finance printed in Newspaper at least five (5) days before the Annual Town Meeting	April 28, 2020	April 29, 2020
Annual Town and Budget Meeting First Monday in May	May 04, 2020	May 04, 2020
First Referendum	May 13, 2020	May 15, 2020
Second Referendum (if necessary)	June 03, 2020	June 05, 2020
Third Referendum (if necessary)	June 17, 2020	June 19, 2020

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

Chairperson Maguire suggested sending out the budget meeting dates as an e-blast in September/October, post at the Library, etc. to get the word out to residents.

19/20-04 Supplemental Appropriation: Avon Senior Center/Tai Ji Quan, \$1,500.00

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 18/19 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

Recreation Activities Fund, Other Local Revenues, Donations & Grants, Private Sources, Account #09-0360-43651, in the amount of \$1,500.00, and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

Recreation Activities Fund, Senior Citizens, Services-Other, Account #09-5301-52189, in the amount of \$1,500.00, for the purpose of funding the TJQMBB (Tai Ji Quan Moving for Better Balance) class. Avon Senior Center is part of a Senior Center Collaboration with CCC (CT Community Care) & the CT Healthy Living Collective (CT HLC) and received a NCAAA

(North Central Area Agency on Aging) Grant for the program titled Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance® (TJQMBB).

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

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager provided a brief update regarding current RFPs. Mr. Stokesbury asked us to avoid single source regarding the Library HVAC system. The Town Manager discussed the need to purchase a police vehicle from Fund 7 and Council gave him consensus to move forward.

The Town Manager noted that a police car was planned for purchase this year and a 2019 vehicle has been located. Council gave consensus to purchase the vehicle. A supplemental appropriation will be provided at Council's next meeting.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager provided a brief update. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury regarding Roaring Brook School Roof-Top Replacement Project - Phase I, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that there were not enough funds in the original capital request for design. Mr. Stokesbury also inquired about a State prohibition regarding roof-top project construction taking place while school is in session; the Assistant to the Town Manager will look into it. Mr. Stokesbury commented that he would like to formally recognize resident Dick Burkett for his many year effort and diligence with the School Street project. In response to a question from Mr. Stokesbury, the Assistant to the Town Manager responded that there should not be any restrictions about supplemental turf field project work once school starts. Mr. Stokesbury expressed concern about the transition between the height of the Tillotson culvert and the future intersection along Old Farms Road.

Misc. C: Farmington River Watershed Association, Inc.: The Town Manager reported that the Association is looking for Avon representatives and he will get back to Council with more details. Mr. Stokesbury will reach out to Terri Wilson and Nora Howard regarding potential nominations for the Lower Farmington River & Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Management Plan; nominations are due by September 30th.

Misc. D: ACEC Update: The Assistant to the Town Manager reported that the high school students who came before Council a few months ago did attend the Avon Clean Energy Commission's (ACEC) last meeting and they have chosen to conduct an anti-idling campaign; an article will be included in the October newsletter.

Misc. E: Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Community Fund Grant: The Town Manager reported that the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is launching a new grant program; we are reviewing the details. He will discuss it with the Farmington Valley Collaborative at their next meeting.

The Town Manager noted that today was our intern's last day; he worked with several departments who were very complimentary of him; it was a great experience.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Council did not enter Executive Session.)

XII. ADJOURN

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Pena, Bernetich, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk