

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2024**

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 as well as via GoToMeeting by Chairman Polhamus. Members present: Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber. A quorum was present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Polhamus.

III. PUBLIC HEARING:

23/24-73 Acquisition of Property Located at 65 Nod Road

On a motion made by Mrs. Barthel, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council open the public hearing.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

Chairman Polhamus waived the reading of the following 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, April 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Selectman's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, and virtually to consider and permit all interested persons to speak in connection with:

The acquisition by the Town of Avon of (the “Real Property”) consisting of approximately eighty-seven hundredths (0.87) of an acre from a parcel of land containing approximately 155.95 +/- acres, commonly known as 65 Nod Road in the Town of Avon, now or formerly owned by Blue Fox Run Golf Course LLC, a Connecticut limited liability company with an address of 21 Waterville Road, Avon, Connecticut 06001 for the purpose of providing unencumbered access to the sanitary sewer pump station located there, and the appropriation of \$50,000.00 from the Committed Fund Balance of the Sewer Fund for the payment in part of the costs related to the aforesaid acquisition

A copy of the proposed purchase and sale agreement and map are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and open to the public for inspection during normal business hours.

Dated at Avon, Connecticut this 8th day of March 2024.

Brandon L. Robertson, Town Manager”

The Town Manager noted that the potential acquisition of this property would give the Town more room to work especially given that we are increasing the size of the sanitary sewer pump station at that location; the price of \$50,000 was determined by the Assessor's Office based on the value of the property, and Town staff is recommending that subject to any comments received during the public hearing that the Town Council authorizes to move forward. Chairman Polhamus noted

that the \$50,000 will come from the Sewer Fund which is paid for by the sewer users. No comments were received from the public.

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council close the public hearing.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

Any related actions regarding this item appear later under Old Business on the agenda.

IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: March 7, 2024
March 19, 2024 Special Meeting
March 27, 2024 Special Meeting

The following corrections to the March 7, 2024 minutes were noted as follows:

On page two, 4th paragraph, 3rd line, to read “shout out to one *attendee*...” and “*our Town’s* 4-person women’s...” On page three, 2nd paragraph, 2nd and 3rd lines, to read “lot of the small, short-term projects *within the Plan* that...” On page three, 2nd paragraph, 28th line, to read “always have a *smaller in scope* version...” and in the 29th line, to read “in terms of the *Plan* options.” On page five, 2nd paragraph, 11th line, change to “who had a *large* increase in their assessment.”

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the March 7, 2024 Meeting as amended.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the March 19, 2024 Special Meeting as drafted.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

One correction to the March 27, 2024 Special Meeting minutes was noted as follows:

Under “Call to Order,” add “Ausiello” under members present.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the minutes of the March 27, 2024 Special Meeting as amended.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor. Mrs. Bratton abstained. Motion carried 4-0-1.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE - None

VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mrs. Bratton attended the grand opening ribbon cutting event for Hairlust Extensions Bar at 44-A West Main Street on March 10th, along with Ms. Ausiello and Mrs. Barthel. She noted that she was unable to attend the Recreation & Parks Master Plan Public Meeting #2 but would love to hear feedback from other Council members who attended.

Mr. Weber expressed gratitude towards the Board of Finance, Board of Education, the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Finance Director, and everybody who was responsible for our budget that the Board of Finance passed last night; it is a big lift every year and impressed by the level of detail and the process that goes into it. He shared some upcoming events: Earth Day Trail Clean-Up on Saturday, April 20th at 8:30 AM, meeting in front of the trailhead at Public Works and Pollinator Planting event on Sunday, April 28th in the same area of the trailhead at Public Works and is a family friendly event, and an annual Town Council Bike Ride is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 9th, meeting in the Town Hall parking lot; it is a fun, leisurely ride.

Ms. Ausiello echoed Mr. Weber's remarks regarding the budget, and she thinks we put forward a very responsible budget. She attended the Recreation & Parks Master Plan Public Meeting #2 – interesting data from public feedback and she noted public's interest to have more community events and is excited about the possibilities ahead for Recreation and Parks and the entire community. The Assistant Town Manager noted that consultants will now formulate preliminary recommendations and a draft plan that will be presented to Town Council for consideration; the Recreation and Parks Committee is being kept apprised of the process and will be provided with the draft as well.

Mrs. Barthel shared a big thank you to our bakeries in Town, including Small State Provisions, Bean's, Cake Gypsy, Pure Love, BouNom, Dom's, Bagel Chalet, Taste by Spellbound, Crumbl, and Luke's Donuts who are participating in our first Great Bakery Scavenger Hunt; we have 29 cars with 125 people attending; she thanked Mr. Weber for providing the riddles for the event; it shall be a fun event for the community. She shared a reminder about the Community Eclipse Viewing on April 8th at 99 Thompson Road – come out and picnic and bring your own glasses. She recognized Daniel Dacunha, an Eagle Scout, who installed a wheelchair accessible bridge in our nature classroom at Pine Grove School and he is also making a science table for the nature classroom as well.

Chairman Polhamus echoed the budget remarks; there are people who have moved around in the revaluation process into uncomfortable spots but that is outside the control of the Town; it is our responsibility to make sure that the budget that is passed is one that can sustain the Town for next year and into the future and he feels very comfortable that this budget can do that; looks forward to the next steps; it was a good discussion at last night's Budget Workshop and appreciates all who are involved. He expressed thanks to the Registrar of Voters Office for all their efforts and work during Early Voting as well as the Primary and thanks to everyone who came out and participated in Early Voting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

21/22-46 American Rescue Plan Act: Discussion re: Projects List

The Town Manager noted that there are two proposed appropriations on tonight's agenda; there is about \$900,000 in projects included in the FY 25 capital budget through the appropriations process, about \$156,000 identified for possible projects, and a balance remaining of approximately \$60,000 for appropriation. Regarding the Zoning Regulations Project, Mr. Weber requested that Town Council receive highlights of the Zoning Regulations changes by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Town Manager responded that he would ask Hiram Peck, Director of Planning

and Community Development, to put together a high level overview showing primary modifications between old and new. Ms. Ausiello again expressed interest in spending the remaining balance in ARPA funds on recreation, where possible, especially in terms of planning for items in the Recreation & Parks Master Plan. Mrs. Bratton noted the new pickleball court facility that will be going into the former HomeGoods location in Simsbury and its potential impact on what Avon may have been planning for. Mr. Weber noted the new facility will be a private club. Chairman Polhamus noted that the towns of Farmington and Canton are also installing pickleball courts; to some degree we need to balance regionally; Avon has painted pickleball lines on the Thompson Brook School courts now and people also play at Carriage Club.

23/24-32 FY 24/25 Budget Development

The Town Manager noted that the Annual Budget Meeting will be held on May 6th. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, the Town Manager responded that on May 6th there will be another round of presentations; historically the Annual Budget Meeting has been an opportunity for the public to come in, ask questions, and advocate for one side or the other; there is no action at the meeting; it adjourns to the Referendum. He noted that when the Charter revision was done in 1998, it called for a Referendum to vote on the budget; before that it was a hand vote at the Annual Budget Meeting.

23/24-66 Appointment: Amplify, Inc. (NCR Mental Health Board) (R – 12/31/2025)

Chairman Polhamus noted that Amplify is a regional mental health board, many of those who serve on it are town employees and towns have the opportunity to appoint citizen representatives as well. The Assistant Town Manager added that it is an advisory board that provides feedback to mental health service providers.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Lili Daoud to Amplify, Inc. to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-67 Appointment: Amplify, Inc. (NCR Mental Health Board) (D – 12/31/2025)

On a motion made by Mrs. Barthel, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table agenda item 23/24-67 Appointment: Amplify, Inc. (NCR Mental Health Board) (D – 12/31/2025) to the May 2, 2024 meeting.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-72 Affordable Housing Task Force

a) Review, Discuss, and Approval: Task Force Charge

Chairman Polhamus noted a change from the original draft shared with Council with an extension from five to seven members with three of the members being from the Planning and Zoning Commission along with four non-Planning and Zoning Commission members. Mrs. Barthel inquired about the “indefinite” term for these members. Chairman Polhamus suggested running the Task Force members’ terms to coincide with the current two-year terms that would end on December 31, 2025, and review at that time. Mr. Weber inquired if Council wishes to receive

regular updates from the Task Force. It was decided that was not necessary and minutes from their meetings will also be posted online for review. The Town Manager noted that Council could always request the Task Force to come in before the Council and provide an overview. Mrs. Barthel agreed that would be helpful.

On a motion made by Mr. Polhamus, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted to approve the following charge as amended:

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2022, the Town of Avon Planning & Zoning Commission adopted an Affordable Housing Plan (“the Plan”) in accordance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes 8-30j, and;

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Plan included a recommendation that the Town establish a Task Force on Housing to oversee the implementation of the Plan and to provide regular reporting and recommendations to the Planning & Zoning Commission as a whole on progress.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a Task Force, “The Affordable Housing Task Force” (AHTF), consisting of seven (7) members recommended to the Town Council by the Planning & Zoning Commission, the composition of which shall include no more than three (3) members of the Planning & Zoning Commission and be consistent with minority political party representation requirements as specified by CGS 9-167a, as amended, is hereby established for a two-year term to expire on December 31, 2025 to:

1. Organize in an appropriate manner to carry out the functions of the Task Force to include a Chair appointed by the Town Council and a vice chair/secretary to be selected by the Chair with the approval of the membership.
2. Familiarize itself with the **Town of Avon Affordable Housing Plan 2022-2027**, adopted by the Planning & Zoning Commission on April 26, 2022.
3. Using the goals identified in the Affordable Housing Plan as a baseline, research and develop recommendations for new policies, programs, regulations and initiatives to further the preservation and creation of affordable housing within the Town of Avon
4. Facilitate educational forums, panels, and opportunities on affordable housing for the Avon community.
5. Provide regular reports and make recommendations to the Planning & Zoning Commission based on the work effort outlined in item #3 above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. That the Task Force members shall submit a disclosure to the Town Clerk’s Office as required by Policy #19 of the Town Council titled “Standards of Conduct for Public Officials.”
2. That the Task Force members shall not receive compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Task Force shall be included in the Planning & Zoning Commission’s annual operating budget.
3. The records of the Task Force shall be filed with the Town Clerk and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

b) Appoint Task Force Members

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint the following members to the Affordable Housing Task Force: Christine Graesser (Chair), Peter Mahoney, Randall Bowers, Mardelle Pena, Chelsea Ross, Kiley Goslin, and Christopher Russo.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

Chairman Polhamus extended a big thanks to these members for filling these roles and taking on this task; affordable housing is a big need in Town, and he looks forward to what comes out of the work that will be done by the Task Force.

23/24-73 Acquisition of Property Located at 65 Nod Road

a) Approve Resolution for Property Acquisition

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

RESOLVED: that the Town of Avon hereby authorizes and approves the acquisition of approximately 0.87 +/- acre portion of the parcel of land known as 65 Nod Road in the Town of Avon, now or formerly owned by Blue Fox Run Golf Course LLC, and all improvements and appurtenances thereto (collectively, the “Property”), is hereby authorized and approved; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that, subject to the recommendation of the Board of Finance, the Town of Avon hereby authorizes and approves the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Committed Fund Balance of the Sewer Fund for the payment of the costs of the acquisition by the Town of Avon of the Property; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Town Manager be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered, in the name and on behalf of the Town of Avon, to execute and deliver all such other and further agreements, instruments, certificates and other documents and to take all such other and further actions, as he shall approve as being necessary or appropriate in order to consummate the acquisition of the Property and to carry out and perform each and every obligation of the Town of Avon under the documents, instruments, and agreements executed in connection therewith, the Town Manager’s approval thereof to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such documents and/or the taking of such actions; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Town Manager be, and hereby is, authorized and directed on behalf of the Town of Avon to take all such action and to do or cause to be done any and all other acts, necessary or convenient in carrying out the foregoing resolutions and performing the obligations undertaken by the Town of Avon in connection therewith; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: that all acts of the Town Manager which would have been authorized by the foregoing resolutions except that such acts were taken prior to adoption of these resolutions, be, and they hereby are, individually and collectively ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted as acts on behalf of the Town of Avon.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

b) Transfer of Appropriation, Fund Land Acquisition, \$50,000

[See motion approved under 23/24-73(a)]

RESOLVED: That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation in the amount of \$50,000.00 from Sewer Fund, Other Financing Sources, Committed Fund Balance, Account #05-0390-43913 and transfer from Sewer Fund, Other Financing Uses, Interfund Transfer Out, Account #05-8700-58000.

to

Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, Town CIP-Facil/Land Acquisition, Land Purchases, Account #03-4848-53440, and Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, Other Financing

Sources, Interfund Transfers In, Account #03-0390-43918 for the purpose of funding the acquisition of a parcel of land at 65 Nod Road, Avon, Connecticut.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

23/24-79 Lions Club Carnival Event – August 2024

a) Approval for Use of Town Property located at 99 Thompson Road

Heidi Zacchera, President, Avon Lions Club, highlighted a few changes from last year's carnival event: there will be 10-15 food trucks, fireworks on Friday, August 2nd at 9:15 p.m. (rain date of August 3rd), and a bigger tent. Council expressed their appreciation for putting this together. Ms. Zacchera also noted that the Lions Club will be participating in Earth Day activities and doing road clean-up along Tillotson Road, which they adopted several years ago, as well as clean-up at Fisher Meadows at the pond and river. She shared news of an event being held on April 23rd at 7:00 p.m., a gathering for non-profits to present at the Library and share what they do and how people can help; credit was given to Bruce Appell for the idea; and this will follow another presentation being given by the Lions Club at 6:00 p.m. called "Aging in Place." She concluded with thanks to Council for their support with the carnival. Chairman Polhamus noted that it is a great event, and it is what people want.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the use of the Town's property located at 99 Thompson Road by the Avon Lions Club for their carnival to be held on August 2, 3, and 4, 2024. Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

b) Approval of Fireworks

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the request by the Avon Lions Club for fireworks for their carnival on Friday, August 2, 2024 (rain date: Saturday, August 3, 2024), pursuant to Section 36-3 of the Town of Avon Code of Ordinances.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-80 Avon Clean Energy Commission's New Community Energy Plan

a) Presentation

Carrie Firestone, Avon Clean Energy Commission Chair, extended an enormous, heartfelt thank you, on behalf of the Avon Clean Energy Commission, to Grace Tiezzi, Assistant Town Manager for this enormous task; and Mark Scully and Bernie Pelletier with PACE were fantastic. She noted that other communities are catching wind of this and wanting to copy us. She added that on Saturday, April 13th at 11 a.m. at the Library, Dr. Baxer from United Nations Association of CT will be joining Mark Scully from PACE to launch the newly updated Avon Community Energy Plan as well as share things that have been happening in Town; all are invited to attend.

Grace Tiezzi, Assistant Town Manager, provided a brief presentation (which is attached and made part of these minutes). In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton regarding slide 7, the Assistant Town Manager responded that fossil fuel use includes oil heat, natural gas, and transportation, and in some scenarios, electricity. Ms. Firestone added that we looked at some outside organizations/businesses to do the work and putting together the Avon Community Energy Plan and we were quoted upwards of \$200,000. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, the

Assistant Town Manager responded that a microgrid is an isolated energy generation system (solar panels, fuel cell, hydro power, wind, etc.) and can operate with the grid from Eversource, for example, or in an event of a disaster resulting in a power outage it can operate independently of a grid; many places will run a grocery store, a gas station, a police station on a microgrid so it can generate its own power if it becomes isolated from the grid due to a power outage; we looked at it in 2017, there was some funding available, but we couldn't find a place that requires copious amounts of the heat it generates in order for it to be effective. Mrs. Bratton inquired about hybrid vehicles and that perhaps the car cannot just run by gasoline if the electric component fails; she suggested that this could be an educational tool for the public. The Town Manager noted that what Town staff and the Avon Clean Energy Commission have been able to put together with PACE is remarkable; the first full Plan of Conservation and Development was adopted in 2012 and we had a consultant working with us, we went through an RFP process and we hired Peregrin Energy; we had a grant but it was close to \$40,000 for their consulting services and that is where some of the DNA for the metrics you are seeing here came from as we spent a lot of time developing this fiscal year 2008 baselines because we wanted to make sure they were valid and a really solid basis from which to measure progress going forward; in 2016 we did a "check-in," that update was done by Titan Energy; the Town Council and the Avon Clean Energy Commission should take great pride in the progresses being made; we were going to achieve these goals just by virtue of being good stewards of our equipment and buildings and we will tighten things up and it is working.

Ms. Ausiello commented on page 31 of the Plan regarding the slower reduction in Total GWH in 2022. The Assistant Town Manager responded that we did a concentrated effort at the top and now it is more when components need to be replaced; 2022 did not take into account the solar panels we just put in; the 2015 numbers do assume the solar panels at Avon High School, Avon Middle School, and Public Works facility; when we do these numbers again, there shall be another increase. Ms. Ausiello thinks 20% is a great place to be and we should be proud of the work that we have done; this is an amazing Plan; we are committed as a Town to fighting climate change and using clean energy; and the Commission has done an amazing job. She recognized the potential new fire department building(s) as an opportunity for clean energy options. She inquired about covered parking with solar panels. Ms. Firestone responded that when the Commission started talking about it, it was at the peak of steel being very expensive; prices are evening out and this will be a topic of research. She noted that the Town has done an amazing job regarding clean energy; now it's time to talk with the community about being more conservative with their homes. Ms. Ausiello complimented the Commission regarding outreach and seminars. She suggested educating the community on feasibility and cost for home energy options. The Assistant Town Manager noted that regarding the home energy audits, the Commission formed a relationship with Aiello Home Services; we will circulate an updated flyer promoting the audits. Ms. Firestone noted that the AP Art Class at Avon High School made a 3D tree that will be on display in the Library and a leaf will be added for each house that completes an audit; this will be advertised as well. Mrs. Barthel requested information on what we should be asking for when businesses are moving into buildings in Town or building in Town or agencies are building affordable housing, in order for the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve them through some sort of checklist. The Town Manager added that we attempt to offer incentives through the development process to get a developer to go beyond, similar to what we did with the Avon Village Center; we can't always make it a condition of the approval, but you can strongly recommend that they consider these types of improvements. Ms. Firestone suggested a binder with related material to show the Town's commitment to these types of initiatives. The Town Manager noted that the Plan of

Conservation and Development includes the core principle of sustainability. Mr. Weber referred to slide 6 of the presentation regarding benchmarks; he assumes it would be challenging to come up with a dollar amount in savings to illustrate not only the cost but the long-term buy back during its life cycle. Mrs. Barthel inquired about savings with the solar panels on the school roofs. The Assistant Town Manager responded that the Board of Education has not yet implemented an electronic method of monitoring their data over time in terms of utilities; they have six buildings which would be an administrative lift to enter that data, so it is currently challenging to tell what the impact of the solar panels has been. She would look at the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Solar City and share accordingly. The Town Manager noted that PPAs had a guarantee where if they don't produce the amount projected, they would pay us the difference. Mr. Weber thanked the Assistant Town Manager and the Avon Clean Energy Commission for spearheading the Plan. Ms. Firestone noted that we are going to team up with neighboring communities regarding a solarizing campaign. Mr. Weber added that residents eventually reach an economic barrier where nothing is now feasible due to big ticket items that may be cost prohibitive. Ms. Firestone noted that there are federal and state incentives and rebates, and we need to unmask that first. Ms. Ausiello requested the use of native plantings where possible. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, electric heat usage is very rare in this community, less than 1% versus 20% of our energy use. Mrs. Barthel thanked Ms. Firestone and the Commission for caring about this. Ms. Firestone announced a sustainability event scheduled for May 4th in conjunction with the Town of Simsbury that the Commission will be participating in. Council thanked the Assistant Town Manager, Ms. Firestone, and the Commission for all their hard work.

b) Adopt Community Energy Plan

On a motion made by Mrs. Barthel, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adopt the Avon Community Energy Plan 2024-2026 as presented.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

c) Supplemental Appropriation: People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE), (ARPA), \$5,000

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 23/24 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$5,000 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Town Manager, PACE Support-ARPA, Account #50-1201-53519, in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE).

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-81 Approve Resolution: CT Water Agreement Site License Agreement

The Town Manager noted that there is a very old agreement that we had in place with Avon Water Company for use of the site off Ridgewood Road as a base station; we have to make some equipment modifications to that site including a new shelter, new transmitters on the water tank,

therefore it would be a good time to update the agreement with the property owner as they are now Connecticut Water Company; we have a draft site plan which does not raise the height of any towers or require Siting Council approval, it will all be on the ground; it will go before Planning and Zoning Commission for site plan approval. In response to a question from Chairman Polhamus, the Town Manager responded that this work would take place late spring into the summer; we are still backing into having the system up and running, at least with the Landfill location and Troop C location in Bloomfield, by September; the equipment for this site is on order.

On a motion made by Mrs. Barthel, seconded by Mrs. Bratton, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council of the Town of Avon hereby authorizes the Town Manager to execute a License Agreement between the Town and the Connecticut Water Company for the use of portions of the parcel located at 24 Ridgewood Road, Avon, CT, 06001 for the purpose of installing and operating a public service communication facility.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-82 Classification & Compensation Study for the Town of Avon

The Town Manager noted that the firm being recommended is in the process of conducting a similar study in Simsbury; they had a successful engagement in Windsor, Bloomfield, as well as CROG for their own internal administrative structure. He noted that the base price is \$33,300, but the \$50,000 appropriation being requested would include contingency for their assistance in rewriting job descriptions and meetings with affected employees, employee groups, and before Town Council. Mrs. Barthel inquired about the use of funds as it relates to ARPA. The Town Manager responded that this study shall be complete by early fall and any remaining contingency balance would be transferred to pavement management.

a) Contract Recommendation

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council award a contract to GovHR of Tampa, Florida, in an amount not to exceed \$33,300 to conduct a classification and compensation study for the Town of Avon's unaffiliated employees.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

b) Supplemental Appropriation (ARPA), \$50,000

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 23/24 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act Grant Revenue, Account #50-0330-44037 in the amount of \$50,000 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

American Rescue Plan Act Grant, Human Resources, Class. & Comp. Study-ARPA, Account #50-1801-53517, in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of allocating funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act towards the completion of a classification and compensation study.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-83 Temporary Waiver of Permit Requirement and Disposal Fee for Brush at Landfill/Transfer Station

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council temporarily waive the fee for residential brush disposal at the Landfill/Transfer Station on the following Saturdays: April 20, 2024, April 27, 2024, May 4, 2024, and May 11, 2024.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-84 Approve Resolution: Explanatory Text for Annual Budget Meeting, May 6, 2024

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk or his designee be, and s/he hereby is, authorized and directed to prepare and distribute an explanatory text with respect to the proposed budget for the Town for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as recommended to the Town by the Board of Finance, in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of the Town and Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-85 Set Poll Hours: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Town Meeting Referenda May 15, 2024, June 5, 2024 (if necessary), June 26, 2024 (if necessary)

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the extension of the polling hours of the Town Meeting Referendum from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on May 15, 2024, June 5, 2024 (if necessary), and June 26, 2024 (if necessary).

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-86 Supplemental Appropriation: Senior Center Management Software & Monday Meals and Minds Program, \$55,365

Jennifer Bennett, Senior Center Coordinator, shared that the funds in this appropriation request would be used for MySeniorCenter software which includes robocalls for outreach to our seniors. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, Ms. Bennett responded that robocalls can reach home or cell phone numbers. She noted that the Monday Meals and Minds Program is attended by approximately 40 seniors at our senior center; Farmington is the only other senior center in the Farmington Valley that participates in this program. Chairman Polhamus acknowledged that the Avon Senior Center serves meals on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Ms. Bennett noted that our lunch program on Tuesdays and Thursdays is funded by the federal government to the state to North Central Area Agency on Aging (NCAAA) to CRT, our elderly nutrition provider, we will not turn seniors away from outside of Avon. She noted that they are higher than their pre-COVID numbers. In response to a question from Mrs. Bratton, the Assistant Town Manager responded that the software cost is approximately \$26,000 with the balance going towards kitchen appliances. Mrs. Barthel asked if volunteers are needed to teach programs at the Monday Meals and Minds Program; as an example, Farmington Valley Health District just ran a CHIP program which included seniors. Ms. Bennett noted that they are also getting free programs and paying for the

food and utilizing our awesome restaurants in Town to do the catering when there is no time to cook.

Ms. Bennett shared that she and the Town Manager have had many conversations recently stemming from communication a few weeks ago from CRT stating there would no longer be funding, and we would have to cap our meals at 24 meals each on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She has been networking with various organizations regarding this news. For Avon, we will see what we can do budget wise to keep the program at its current level. She noted that for some seniors it is the only meal they are eating during and the best meal they are eating and the socialization for our seniors is very important. She added that CRT was given permission to serve 48 meals on Tuesdays and then will need to figure out what to do on Thursdays. She noted that the charge is \$14.85 per meal. Ms. Ausiello asked if people are allowed to give directly to the Senior Center or pay for meals through an “adopt” program. Ms. Bennett noted that the grant is funded through the Older Americans Act; seniors only have to contribute a suggested \$3 donation. The Town Manager noted that Ms. Bennett is trying to get creative about this situation while holding seniors harmless; we may come back with a request for funding. Ms. Ausiello asked if we could find a way to publicize and promote to residents with the opportunity to donate directly to the Senior Center. Ms. Bennett noted that news regarding the reduction in meals would begin on April 8th; the goal is no interruption in services for our seniors. She noted that the Canton Senior Center will be closed for the next two months for renovations and those seniors have been invited to eat their grab and go meal and dine with our seniors at Avon’s senior center. Council thanked Ms. Bennett for her continued hard work with the seniors at the Avon Senior Center.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 23/24 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, Intergovernmental, American Rescue Plan Act (DADS), Account #03-0330-43407 in the amount of \$55,365.00 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, ARPA Senior Center Funding (DADS), Senior Center Software, Account #03-4826-53341 in the amount of \$26,130; Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, ARPA Senior Center Funding (DADS), Supply Items-General, Account #03-4826-52230 in the amount of \$23,082; Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, ARPA Senior Center Funding (DADS), Temporary Part Time, Account #03-4826-51014 in the amount of \$5,716; and Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund, ARPA Senior Center Funding (DADS), FICA, Account #03-4826-51031 in the amount of \$437 to fund software and program expenditures at the Avon Senior Center.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-87 Supplemental Appropriation: LoCIP Funds, \$61,501.10

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 23/24 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

Local Capital Improvement Program Fund, Intergovernmental, Local C.I.P., Account # 11-0330-43365 in the amount of \$61,501.10 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

Local Capital Improvement Program Fund, Capital Improvement Proj. Facilities, Services - Other, Account # 11-8501-52189 in the amount of \$61,501.10 for the purpose of recording the revenue and expenditure appropriations up to the level of actual State grant funding.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-88 Approval of Real Estate Tax Refunds, \$9,895.21

On a motion made by Mrs. Bratton, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve real estate tax refunds to Wells Fargo \$5,378.74, Claudette Munson \$2,036.34, and Homeowners Finance Co. \$2,480.13.

Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

IX. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Misc. A: Purchasing Update: The Town Manager noted that regarding the RFP Legal Services, we are in the process of going through proposals received and will interview in the coming weeks; regarding the RFP Senior Center HVAC Improvements, a firm has completed design work and the plan is to get the project started late spring/early summer and leads into the upgrade of the audio system; and there is an RFP out for Landscape Architecture Services for the east/west section of Old Farms Road and the proposed funding source for the work is the interest income that the LOTCIP grant is earning.

Misc. B: Construction Update: The Town Manager noted that regarding the Public Safety Communication System Project, there are standing weekly meetings with Town staff; Old Farms Road Project – North/South is moving along; road closures are anticipated over the summer; notifications are key far in advance. Mrs. Barthel suggested a detour map as well. The Town Manager noted that regarding the Old Farms Road Project – East/West, we are finalizing plans for a public information meeting, tentatively on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Free Public Library; we need a more traditional option that meets our design criteria versus the option of everything being contracted. In response to a question from Mrs. Barthel, the Town Manager responded that both options include bike pathways. He noted that the consultant is working on a virtual tour to show both scenarios. The Assistant Town Manager provided an overview regarding the AVFD Fire Station Design Process; the architect, Tecton, is finalizing the project programming process and developing “test fits,” building footprints that could fit on a site; the Committee has selected a test fit for Company #4 and still need to select one for Companies #1 and #3, and hope to have a conceptual design and cost estimate ready for Town Council by the fall; Fire Chief Bruce Appell organized a field trip to the Boston area and the group visited several fire stations and then feedback was shared with the Committee.

Misc. C: OPIOID Funding: The Town Manager noted that to date we have received approximately \$67,000 and we expect to receive an additional \$42,000; all communities in the Farmington Valley have received some level of funding and are trying to find a systematic way to use the money in the most thoughtful way possible; the Farmington Valley Health District has been a convener; they have a few ideas; the one issue is that we could potentially setup a successful

program with one-time funding. Chairman Polhamus inquired about Narcan distribution. The Town Manager responded that our police officers carry and are trained to use Narcan, it is also available at the Library, and the School Resource Officer would carry it.

The Town Manager shared that we are publishing an announcement on the web site asking residents to send us photos showcasing the best of Avon. The Assistant Town Manager noted that a release form will need to be completed when submitting photos and photos can be used on the web site, social media, annual report, etc.

X. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Real Estate
Pending Claim/Litigation

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council enter into Executive Session at 9:42 p.m.
Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.
The Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and the Clerk attended the session.

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mrs. Barthel, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council come out of Executive Session at 10:19 p.m.
Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

23/24-89 **Possible Action on Item Discussed in Executive Session – Real Estate**

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a Letter of Intent with APN Associates regarding the potential purchase of property located at 200 Fisher Drive.
Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

XII. **ADJOURN**

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.
Mmes: Ausiello, Barthel, Bratton, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk